

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 4  
3 entitled “An act relating to reducing crimes of violence associated with  
4 juveniles and dangerous weapons” respectfully reports that it has considered  
5 the same and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be  
6 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu  
7 thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5204 is amended to read:

9 § 5204. TRANSFER FROM FAMILY DIVISION OF THE SUPERIOR  
10 COURT

11 (a) After a petition has been filed alleging delinquency, upon motion of the  
12 State’s Attorney and after hearing, the Family Division of the Superior Court  
13 may transfer jurisdiction of the proceeding to the Criminal Division of the  
14 Superior Court if the child had attained 16 years of age but not 19 years of age  
15 at the time the act was alleged to have occurred and the delinquent act set forth  
16 in the petition is a felony not specified in subdivisions (1)-(12) of this  
17 subsection or if the child had attained 12 years of age but not 14 years of age at  
18 the time the act was alleged to have occurred, and if the delinquent act set forth  
19 in the petition was any of the following:

20 (1) arson causing death as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 501;

- 1 (2) assault and robbery with a dangerous weapon as defined in
- 2 13 V.S.A. § 608(b);
- 3 (3) assault and robbery causing bodily injury as defined in 13 V.S.A.
- 4 § 608(c);
- 5 (4) aggravated assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1024;
- 6 (5) murder as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2301 and aggravated murder as
- 7 defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2311;
- 8 (6) manslaughter as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2304;
- 9 (7) kidnapping as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2405;
- 10 (8) unlawful restraint as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2406 or 2407;
- 11 (9) maiming as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2701;
- 12 (10) sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3252(a)(1) or (a)(2);
- 13 (11) aggravated sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3253 and
- 14 aggravated sexual assault of a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3253a; or
- 15 (12) burglary into an occupied dwelling as defined in 13 V.S.A.
- 16 § 1201(c).
- 17 ~~(13) carrying a firearm while committing a felony in violation of~~
- 18 ~~13 V.S.A. § 4005;~~
- 19 ~~(14) trafficking a regulated drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. chapter 84,~~
- 20 ~~subchapter 1;~~

- 1           ~~(15) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of~~  
2           ~~13 V.S.A. § 2652 or 2653;~~
- 3           ~~(16) aggravated stalking as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1063(a)(3);~~
- 4           ~~(17) an attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection.~~
- 5           ~~(18) a violation of a condition of release as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 7559~~  
6           ~~imposed by the Criminal Division for any of the offenses listed in this~~  
7           ~~subsection or for any other offense that was transferred from the Family~~  
8           ~~Division pursuant to this section, unless the proceeding is the subject of a final~~  
9           ~~order accepting the case for youthful offender treatment pursuant to subsection~~  
10          ~~5281(d) of this title.~~

11           (b) The State’s Attorney of the county where the juvenile petition is  
12           pending may move in the Family Division of the Superior Court for an order  
13           transferring jurisdiction under subsection (a) of this section at any time prior to  
14           adjudication on the merits. The filing of the motion to transfer jurisdiction  
15           shall automatically stay the time for the hearing provided for in section 5225 of  
16           this title, which stay shall remain in effect until such time as the Family  
17           Division of the Superior Court may deny the motion to transfer jurisdiction.

18           (c) Upon the filing of a motion to transfer jurisdiction under subsection (b)  
19           of this section, the Family Division of the Superior Court shall conduct a  
20           hearing in accordance with procedures specified in subchapter 2 of this chapter  
21           to determine whether:

1           (1) there is probable cause to believe that the child committed the  
2 charged offense; and

3           (2) public safety and the interests of the community would not be served  
4 by treatment of the child under the provisions of law relating to the Family  
5 Division of the Superior Court and delinquent children.

6           (d) In making its determination as required under subsection (c) of this  
7 section, the court may consider, among other matters:

8           (1) the maturity of the child as determined by consideration of the  
9 child's age, home, and environment; emotional, psychological, and physical  
10 maturity; and relationship with and adjustment to school and the community;

11           (2) the extent and nature of the child's prior record of delinquency;

12           (3) the nature of past treatment efforts and the nature of the child's  
13 response to them, including the child's mental health treatment and substance  
14 abuse treatment and needs;

15           (4) the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense, including  
16 whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive, violent,  
17 premeditated, or willful manner;

18           (5) the nature of any personal injuries resulting from or intended to be  
19 caused by the alleged act;

20           (6) the prospects for rehabilitation of the child by use of procedures,  
21 services, and facilities available through juvenile proceedings;

1 (7) whether the protection of the community would be better served by  
2 transferring jurisdiction from the Family Division to the Criminal Division of  
3 the Superior Court;

4 (8) the youth’s residential housing status;

5 (9) the youth’s employment and educational situation;

6 (10) whether the youth has complied with conditions of release;

7 (11) the youth’s criminal record and whether the youth has engaged in  
8 subsequent criminal or delinquent behavior since the original charge;

9 (12) whether the youth has connections to the community; and

10 (13) the youth’s history of violence and history of illegal or violent  
11 conduct involving firearms.

12 (e) A transfer under this section shall terminate the jurisdiction of the  
13 Family Division of the Superior Court over the child only with respect to those  
14 delinquent acts alleged in the petition with respect to which transfer was  
15 sought.

16 (f)(1) The Family Division, following completion of the transfer hearing,  
17 shall make findings and, if the court orders transfer of jurisdiction from the  
18 Family Division, shall state the reasons for that order. If the Family Division  
19 orders transfer of jurisdiction, the child shall be treated as an adult. The State’s  
20 Attorney shall commence criminal proceedings as in cases commenced against  
21 adults.



1       (c)(1) Any proceeding concerning a child who is alleged to have committed  
2       an act specified in subsection 5204(a) of this title after attaining 14 years of  
3       age, but not 22 years of age, shall originate in the Criminal Division of the  
4       Superior Court, provided that jurisdiction may be transferred in accordance  
5       with this chapter and chapter 52A of this title, unless the State’s Attorney files  
6       the charge directly as a youthful offender petition in the Family Division.

7       (2)(A) Any proceeding concerning a child who is alleged to have  
8       committed one of the following acts after attaining 14 years of age, but not 22  
9       years of age, shall originate in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court,  
10      provided that jurisdiction may be transferred in accordance with this chapter  
11      and chapter 52A of this title, unless the State’s Attorney files the charge  
12      directly as a youthful offender petition in the Family Division:

13           (i) a violation of a condition of release as defined in 13 V.S.A.  
14      § 7559 imposed by the Criminal Division for any of the offenses listed in  
15      subsection 5204(a) of this title; or

16           (ii) a violation of a condition of release as defined in 13 V.S.A.  
17      § 7559 imposed by the Criminal Division for an offense that was transferred  
18      from the Family Division pursuant to section 5204 of this title.

19       (B) This subdivision (2) shall not apply to a proceeding that is the  
20      subject of a final order accepting the case for youthful offender treatment  
21      pursuant to subsection 5281(d) of this title.

1 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4252 is amended to read:

2 § 4252. ~~PENALTIES FOR DISPENSING OR SELLING KNOWINGLY~~  
3 ~~OR RECKLESSLY PERMITTING SALE OR DISPENSING OF~~  
4 REGULATED DRUGS IN A DWELLING

5 (a) No person shall knowingly ~~or recklessly~~ permit a dwelling, building, or  
6 structure owned by or under the control of the person to be used for the  
7 purpose of illegally ~~dispensing or~~ selling a regulated drug.

8 (b) ~~A landlord shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section only if~~  
9 ~~the landlord knew at the time he or she signed the lease agreement that the~~  
10 ~~tenant intended to use the dwelling, building, or structure for the purpose of~~  
11 ~~illegally dispensing or selling a regulated drug. [Repealed.]~~

12 (c) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than  
13 ~~two~~ ~~five~~ years or fined not more than ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$15,000.00, or both.

14 (d) It shall not be a violation of this section if the person who owns or  
15 controls the dwelling, building, or structure takes action to address the  
16 unlawful activity, including reporting the unlawful activity to law enforcement  
17 or initiating eviction proceedings.

18 (e) ~~As used in this section, “recklessly” means consciously disregarding a~~  
19 ~~substantial and unjustifiable risk.~~

20 Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. chapter 60, subchapter 1, is amended to read:

21 Subchapter 1. Criminal Acts

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§ 2659. KNOWINGLY ~~OR RECKLESSLY~~ PERMITTING HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING IN A DWELLING

(a) No person shall knowingly ~~or recklessly~~ permit a dwelling, building, or structure owned by or under the control of the person to be used for the purpose of human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of section 2652 or 2653 of this title.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than ~~two~~ ~~five~~ years or fined not more than \$15,000.00, or both.

(c) It shall not be a violation of this section if the person who owns or controls the dwelling, building, or structure takes action to address the unlawful activity, including reporting the unlawful activity to law enforcement or initiating eviction proceedings.

~~(d) As used in this section, “recklessly” means consciously disregarding a substantial and unjustifiable risk.~~

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 4024 is added to read:

§ 4024. DEFACING OF FIREARM’S SERIAL NUMBER

(a) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm that has had the importer’s or manufacturer’s serial number removed, obliterated, or altered.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$50,000.00, or both.

1        (c) As used in this section:

2            (1) “Firearm” has the same meaning as in section 4017 of this title.

3            (2) “Importer” means any person engaged in the business of importing  
4            or bringing firearms or ammunition into the United States for purposes of sale  
5            or distribution.

6            (3) “Manufacturer” means any person engaged in the business of  
7            manufacturing firearms or ammunition for purposes of sale or distribution.

8            ~~(d) Conduct constituting the offense of defacing a firearm’s serial number~~  
9            ~~may be considered a violent act for the purposes of determining whether a~~  
10           ~~person is eligible for bail under section 7553a of this title.~~

11        Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 4025 is added to read:

12        § 4025. STRAW PURCHASING OF FIREARMS

13           (a) A person shall not purchase a firearm for, on behalf of, or at the request  
14           of another person if the purchaser knows or reasonably should know that the  
15           other person:

16            (1) is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm;

17            (2) intends to carry the firearm while committing a felony; or

18            (3) intends to transfer the firearm to another person who:

19            (A) is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm; or

20            (B) intends to carry the firearm while committing a felony.

1        (b) It shall not be a violation of this section if the person purchased the  
2        firearm as a result of threats or coercion by another person.

3        (c) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than  
4        five years or fined not more than \$50,000.00, or both.

5        (d) As used in this section, “firearm” has the same meaning as in section  
6        4017 of this title.

7        ~~(e) Conduct constituting the offense of straw purchasing of firearms may~~  
8        ~~be considered a violent act for the purposes of determining whether a person is~~  
9        ~~eligible for bail under section 7553a of this title.~~

10       Sec. 7. 13 V.S.A. § 4017a is added to read:

11       § 4017a. FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE; PERSONS SUBJECT TO FINAL  
12       RELIEF FROM ABUSE OR STALKING ORDER; PERSONS  
13       CHARGED WITH CERTAIN OFFENSES; PROHIBITION ON  
14       POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

15       (a) A person shall not possess a firearm if the person:

16            (1) is a fugitive from justice;

17            (2) is the subject of a final relief from abuse order issued pursuant to  
18        15 V.S.A. § 1104;

19            (3) is the subject of a final order against stalking issued pursuant to  
20        12 V.S.A. § 5133 if the order prohibits the person from possessing a firearm;

21        or

1           (4) against whom charges are pending for:

2                   (A) carrying a dangerous weapon while committing a felony in  
3 violation of section 4005 of this title;

4                   (B) trafficking a regulated drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. chapter 84,  
5 subchapter 1; or

6                   (C) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of  
7 section 2652 or 2653 of this title.

8           (b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than  
9 two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

10           (c) As used in this section:

11                   (1) “Firearm” has the same meaning as in section 4017 of this title.

12                   (2) “Fugitive from justice” means a person who has fled to avoid  
13 prosecution for a crime or to avoid giving testimony in a criminal proceeding.

14           Sec. 8. 13 V.S.A. § 4005 is amended to read:

15           § 4005. WHILE COMMITTING A ~~CRIME~~ FELONY

16           (a) Except as otherwise provided in 18 V.S.A. § 4253, a person who carries  
17 a dangerous or deadly weapon, openly or concealed, while committing a felony  
18 shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$500.00,  
19 or both.



1 (d) Such records and files shall be available to:

2 (1) State’s Attorneys and all other law enforcement officers in  
3 connection with record checks and other legal purposes; and

4 (2) the National Instant Criminal Background Check System in  
5 connection with a background check conducted on a person under ~~21~~ 22 years  
6 of age pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(t)(1)(C) and 34 U.S.C. § 40901(l).

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8 Sec. 10. 18 V.S.A. § 13 is added to read:

9 § 13. COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

10 (a) There is established the Community Violence Prevention Program to be  
11 administered by the Department of Health in consultation and collaboration  
12 with the Chief Prevention Officer, the Department of Public Safety, the  
13 Director of Violence Prevention, ~~and~~ the Executive Director of Racial Equity,  
14 and the Council for Equitable Youth Justice. The Program shall work with  
15 communities to implement innovative, evidence-based, and evidence-informed  
16 programs addressing causes of youth and community violence. Grants  
17 awarded pursuant to this section shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner  
18 of Health and shall build on and complement existing programs addressing the  
19 causes of youth and community violence.

20 (b)(1) A Vermont municipality or nonprofit organization may submit an  
21 application for a Community Violence Prevention Program grant to the

1 Commissioner of Health. Grants awarded under this section shall be for the  
2 purpose of funding innovative, evidence-based, or evidence-informed  
3 approaches to reducing violence and associated community harm.

4 (2) The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Department of  
5 Public Safety and the Executive Director of Racial Equity, shall develop and  
6 publish guidelines, for the award of Community Violence Prevention grants.  
7 The guidelines shall include a focus on increasing community capacity to  
8 implement approaches for human services, public health, and public safety  
9 collaboration to address root causes of community violence and substance use  
10 through data-driven projects.

11 (c) The Community Violence Prevention Program shall collect data to  
12 monitor youth and community violence and its related risk and protective  
13 factors and to evaluate the impact of prevention efforts and shall use the data to  
14 plan and implement programs. The Program shall use monitoring and  
15 evaluation data to track the impact of interventions.

16 Sec. 11. APPROPRIATION

17 (a) Grants awarded from State funds to the Community Violence  
18 Prevention Program established by 18 V.S.A. § 13 shall be dependent upon the  
19 amount of the appropriation.



1       Sec. 14. PLAN FOR SECURE PLACEMENTS

2           On or before September 1, 2023 and December 1, 2023, the Department for  
3       Children and Families shall file a status report to the Joint Legislative Justice  
4       Oversight Committee, ~~and~~ the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, ~~the~~  
5       House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the House Committee on  
6       Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare describing  
7       the progress made toward implementing the requirement of Secs. 11 and 12 of  
8       this act that the Raise the Age initiative take effect on July 1, 2024.

9       Sec. 15. SENTENCING COMMISSION REPORT

10          On or before December 15, 2023, the Vermont Sentencing Commission  
11       shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and the  
12       Senate and House Committees on Judiciary on whether the offenses for which  
13       transfer from the Family Division to the Criminal Division is permitted under  
14       33 V.S.A. § 5204(a) should be expanded to include:

15            (1) first degree arson as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 502 or second degree

16       arson as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 503;

17            (2) stalking as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1062;

18            (3) domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1042, first degree  
19       aggravated domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1043, and second degree  
20       aggravated domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1044;

1           (4) selling or dispensing a regulated drug with death resulting as defined  
2           in 18 V.S.A. § 4250;

3           (5) using a firearm while selling or dispensing a drug as defined in  
4           18 V.S.A. § 4253;

5           (6) carrying a dangerous or deadly weapon while committing a felony as  
6           defined in 13 V.S.A. § 4005;

7           (7) lewd or lascivious conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2601 or lewd or  
8           lascivious conduct with a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2602;

9           (8) eluding a police officer with serious bodily injury or death resulting  
10          as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1133(b);

11          (9) willful and malicious injuries caused by explosives as defined in  
12          13 V.S.A. § 1601, injuries caused by destructive devices as defined in  
13          13 V.S.A. § 1605, or injuries caused by explosives as defined in 13 V.S.A.  
14          § 1608;

15          (10) grand larceny as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2501 or larceny from the  
16          person as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2503;

17          (11) operating vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance  
18          with either death or serious bodily injury resulting as defined in 23 V.S.A.  
19          § 1210(f) and (g);

20          (12) careless or negligent operation resulting in serious bodily injury or  
21          death as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1091(b);

1           (13) leaving the scene of an accident with serious bodily injury or death  
2           as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1128(b) or (c);

3           (14) a hate-motivated crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1455;

4           (15) conspiracy as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1404; ~~or~~

5           (16) a violation of an abuse prevention order as defined in 13 V.S.A.  
6           § 1030 or violation of an order against stalking or sexual assault as defined in  
7           12 V.S.A. § 5138;

8           (17) carrying a firearm while committing a felony in violation of  
9           13 V.S.A. § 4005;

10           (18) trafficking a regulated drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. chapter 84,  
11           subchapter 1;

12           (19) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of  
13           13 V.S.A. § 2652 or 2653;

14           (20) aggravated stalking as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1063(a)(3); or

15           (21) an attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in this section.

16           Sec. 16. SEVERABILITY

17           As set forth in 1 V.S.A. § 215, the provisions of this act are severable, and if  
18           a court finds any provision of this act to be invalid, or if any application of this  
19           act to any person or circumstance is invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other  
20           provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision  
21           or application.

1       Sec. 17. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on passage.

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9           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE