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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:

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

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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)(1) 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	(2)(A) The Family Division of the Superior Court shall hold a hearing
19	under subsection (c) of this section to determine whether jurisdiction should be
20	transferred to the Criminal Division under subsection (a) of this section if:

1	(i) the delinquent act set forth in the petition is carrying a firearm
2	while committing a felony in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 4005;
3	(ii) the petition alleges that the child carried a dangerous weapon
4	while committing a felony violation of chapter 84 of Title 18 for selling or
5	trafficking a regulated drug; and
6	(iii) the child had attained 16 years of age but not 19 years of age
7	at the time the act was alleged to have occurred.
8	(B) A transfer hearing required by this subdivision (2) shall occur as
9	soon as practicable. The court decision to hold the transfer hearing shall
10	automatically stay the time for the hearing provided for in section 5225 of this
11	title, which stay shall remain in effect until such time as the Family Division of
12	the Superior Court may deny the motion to transfer jurisdiction.
13	(c) Upon the filing of a motion to transfer jurisdiction under subsection (b)
14	subdivision (b)(1) of this section, or in cases where a hearing is required under
15	subdivision (b)(2) of this section, the Family Division of the Superior Court
16	shall conduct a hearing in accordance with procedures specified in subchapter
17	2 of this chapter to determine whether:
18	(1) there is probable cause to believe that the child committed the
19	charged offense; and

1	(2) public safety and the interests of the community would not be served
2	by treatment of the child under the provisions of law relating to the Family
3	Division of the Superior Court and delinquent children.
4	(d) In making its determination as required under subsection (c) of this
5	section, the court may consider, among other matters:
6	(1) the maturity of the child as determined by consideration of the
7	child's age, home, and environment; emotional, psychological, and physical
8	maturity; and relationship with and adjustment to school and the community;
9	(2) the extent and nature of the child's prior record of delinquency;
10	(3) the nature of past treatment efforts and the nature of the child's
11	response to them, including the child's mental health treatment and substance
12	abuse treatment and needs;
13	(4) the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense, including
14	whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive, violent,
15	premeditated, or willful manner;
16	(5) the nature of any personal injuries resulting from or intended to be
17	caused by the alleged act;
18	(6) the prospects for rehabilitation of the child by use of procedures,
19	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.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the parties may
stipulate to a transfer of jurisdiction from the Family Division at any time after
a motion to transfer is made pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The
court shall not be required to make findings if the parties stipulate to a transfer
pursuant to this subdivision. Upon acceptance of the stipulation to transfer
jurisdiction, the court shall transfer the proceedings to the Criminal Division
and the child shall be treated as an adult. The State's Attorney shall commence
criminal proceedings as in cases commenced against adults.
(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the parties may
stipulate to convert the juvenile proceeding to a youthful offender proceeding
under chapter 52A of this title. If the parties stipulate to convert the
proceeding pursuant to this subdivision, the court may proceed immediately to
a youthful offender consideration hearing under section 5283 of this title. The
Court shall request that the Department complete a youthful offender
consideration report under section 5282 of this title before accepting a case for
youthful offender treatment pursuant to this subdivision.
* * *
Sec. 2. Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5201 is amended to read:
§ 5201. COMMENCEMENT OF DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS
* * *

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 \$1,000.00, 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

1	* * *
2	§ 2659. KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY PERMITTING HUMAN
3	TRAFFICKING IN A DWELLING
4	(a) No person shall knowingly or recklessly permit a dwelling, building, or
5	structure owned by or under the control of the person to be used for the
6	purpose of 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 five years or fined not more than \$15,000.00 \$1,000.00, or both.
10	(c) It shall not be a violation of this section if the person who owns or
11	controls the dwelling, building, or structure takes action to address the
12	unlawful activity, including reporting the unlawful activity to law enforcement
13	or initiating eviction proceedings.
14	(d) As used in this section, "recklessly" means consciously disregarding a
15	substantial and unjustifiable risk.
16	Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 4024 is added to read:
17	§ 4024. DEFACING OF FIREARM'S SERIAL NUMBER
18	(a) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm that has had the
19	importer's or manufacturer's serial number removed, obliterated, or altered.
20	(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than
21	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	<u>or</u>

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	(b)(1) Carrying a firearm while committing a felony in violation of this
2	section may be considered a violent act for the purposes of determining
3	whether a person is eligible for bail under section 7553a of this title.
4	(2) An offense that is a felony rather than a misdemeanor solely because
5	of the monetary value of the property involved shall not be considered a
6	violent act under this subsection.
7	Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 5117 is amended to read:
8	§ 5117. RECORDS OF JUVENILE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS
9	(a) Except as otherwise provided, court and law enforcement reports and
10	files concerning a person subject to the jurisdiction of the court shall be
11	maintained separate from the records and files of other persons. Unless a
12	charge of delinquency is transferred for criminal prosecution under chapter 52
13	of this title or the court otherwise orders in the interests of the child, such
14	records and files shall not be open to public inspection nor their contents
15	disclosed to the public by any person. However, upon a finding that a child is
16	a delinquent child by reason of commission of a delinquent act that would have
17	been a felony if committed by an adult, the court, upon request of the victim,
18	shall make the child's name available to the victim of the delinquent act. If the
19	victim is incompetent or deceased, the child's name shall be released, upon
20	request, to the victim's guardian or next of kin.

* * *

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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(1).
7	* * *
8	Sec. 10. 18 V.S.A. § 13 is added to read:
9	§ 13. COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
10	(a)(1) There is established the Community Violence Prevention Program to
11	be 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, the Executive Director of Racial Equity, and
14	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.
17	(2) Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be at the discretion of
18	the Commissioner of Health and shall:
19	(A) build on and complement existing programs addressing the
20	causes of youth and community violence; and

1	(B) be for the purpose of funding efforts that address violence and
2	associated community harm using approaches that may include the following:
3	(i) best available research evidence;
4	(ii) experiential evidence;
5	(iii) contextual evidence;
6	(iv) lived experience of impacted communities;
7	(v) trauma-responsive programming; and
8	(vi) other qualitative or quantitative factors that may inform the
9	decision-making of the Commissioner.
10	(b)(1) A Vermont municipality or nonprofit organization may submit an
11	application for a Community Violence Prevention Program grant to the
12	Commissioner of Health. Grants awarded under this section shall be for the
13	purpose of funding innovative, evidence-based, or evidence-informed
14	approaches to reducing violence and associated community harm.
15	(2) The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Department of
16	Public Safety and the Executive Director of Racial Equity, shall develop and
17	publish guidelines, for the award of Community Violence Prevention grants.
18	The guidelines shall include a focus on increasing community capacity to
19	implement approaches for human services, public health, and public safety
20	collaboration to address root causes of community violence and substance use
21	through data-driven projects.

1	(c) The Community Violence Prevention Program shall collect data to
2	monitor youth and community violence and its related risk and protective
3	factors and to evaluate the impact of prevention efforts and shall use the data to
4	plan and implement programs. The Program shall use monitoring and
5	evaluation data to track the impact of interventions.
6	Sec. 11. APPROPRIATION
7	(a) Grants awarded from State funds to the Community Violence
8	Prevention Program established by 18 V.S.A. § 13 shall be dependent upon the
9	amount of the appropriation.
10	(b) The Department of Health is authorized to seek and accept grant
11	funding for the purpose of supporting the Community Violence Prevention
12	Program to supplement State appropriations.
13	(c) If funding is available for the Community Violence Prevention Program
14	from federal grants or legal settlements related to drug use or criminal activity:
15	(1) such federal or settlement funds shall be utilized first for the
16	Program; and
17	(2) an amount of the General Fund appropriation made under subsection
18	(a) of this section equal to the total amount of federal grants or legal
19	settlements received by the Program shall be reverted to the General Fund.
20	Sec. 12. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 201, Sec. 21, as amended by 2022 Acts
21	and Resolves No. 160, Sec. 1, is further amended to read:

1	Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES
2	* * *
3	(d) Secs. 17–19 shall take effect on July 1, 2023 <u>2024</u> .
4	Sec. 13. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 124, Sec. 12, as amended by 2022 Acts
5	and Resolves No. 160, Sec. 2, is further amended to read:
6	Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATES
7	(a) Secs. 3 (33 V.S.A. § 5103(c)) and 7 (33 V.S.A. § 5206) shall take effect
8	on July 1, 2023 <u>2024</u> .
9	* * *
10	Sec. 14. PLAN FOR SECURE PLACEMENTS
11	On or before September 1, 2023 and December 1, 2023, the Department for
12	Children and Families shall file a status report to the Joint Legislative Justice
13	Oversight Committee, and the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, the
14	House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the House Committee on
15	Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare describing
16	the progress made toward implementing the requirement of Secs. 11 and 12 of
17	this act that the Raise the Age initiative take effect on July 1, 2024.
18	Sec. 15. SENTENCING COMMISSION REPORT
19	On or before December 15, 2023, the Vermont Sentencing Commission
20	shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and the
21	Senate and House Committees on Judiciary on whether the offenses for which

1	transfer from the Family Division to the Criminal Division is permitted under
2	33 V.S.A. § 5204(a) should be expanded to include:
3	(1) first degree arson as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 502 or second degree
4	arson as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 503;
5	(2) stalking as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1062;
6	(3) domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1042, first degree
7	aggravated domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1043, and second degree
8	aggravated domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1044;
9	(4) selling or dispensing a regulated drug with death resulting as defined
10	in 18 V.S.A. § 4250;
11	(5) using a firearm while selling or dispensing a drug as defined in
12	18 V.S.A. § 4253;
13	(6) carrying a dangerous or deadly weapon while committing a felony as
14	defined in 13 V.S.A. § 4005;
15	(7) lewd or lascivious conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2601 or lewd or
16	lascivious conduct with a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2602;
17	(8) eluding a police officer with serious bodily injury or death resulting
18	as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1133(b);
19	(9) willful and malicious injuries caused by explosives as defined in
20	13 V.S.A. § 1601, injuries caused by destructive devices as defined in

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1	13 V.S.A. § 1605, or injuries caused by explosives as defined in 13 V.S.A.
2	<u>§ 1608;</u>
3	(10) grand larceny as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2501 or larceny from the
4	person as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2503;
5	(11) operating vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance
6	with either death or serious bodily injury resulting as defined in 23 V.S.A.
7	§ 1210(f) and (g);
8	(12) careless or negligent operation resulting in serious bodily injury or
9	death as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1091(b);
10	(13) leaving the scene of an accident with serious bodily injury or death
11	as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1128(b) or (c);
12	(14) a hate-motivated crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1455;
13	(15) conspiracy as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1404; or
14	(16) a violation of an abuse prevention order as defined in 13 V.S.A.
15	§ 1030 or violation of an order against stalking or sexual assault as defined in
16	12 V.S.A. § 5138;
17	(17) carrying a firearm while committing a felony in violation of
18	13 V.S.A. § 4005;
19	(18) trafficking a regulated drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. chapter 84,
20	subchapter 1;

1	(19) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of	
2	13 V.S.A. § 2652 or 2653;	
3	(20) aggravated stalking as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1063(a)(3); or	
4	(21) an attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in this section.	
5	Sec. 16. SEVERABILITY	
6	As set forth in 1 V.S.A. § 215, the provisions of this act are severable, and	if
7	a court finds any provision of this act to be invalid, or if any application of the	<u>is</u>
8	act to any person or circumstance is invalid, the invalidity shall not affect oth	<u>er</u>
9	provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision	<u>on</u>
10	or application.	
11	Sec. 17. EFFECTIVE DATE	
12	This act shall take effect on passage.	
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18	(Committee vote:)	
19		_
20	Representative	
21	FOR THE COMMITTEE	