TO THE HONORABLE SENATE	_
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- The Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to
 which was referred House Bill No. 55 entitled "An act relating to
 miscellaneous unemployment insurance amendments" respectfully reports that
 it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the
 House that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
 inserting in lieu thereof the following:
- 8 *** Unemployment Insurance * * *
- 9 Sec. __. 21 V.S.A. § 1325 is amended to read:
- 10 § 1325. EMPLOYERS' EXPERIENCE-RATING RECORDS;

DISCLOSURE TO SUCCESSOR ENTITY

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall maintain an experience-rating record for each employer. Benefits paid shall be charged against the experience-rating record of each subject employer who provided base-period wages to the eligible individual. Each subject employer's experience-rating charge shall bear the same ratio to total benefits paid as the total base-period wages paid by that employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to the individual by all base-period employers. The experience-rating record of an individual subject base-period employer shall not be charged for benefits paid to an individual under any of the following conditions:

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1	(2) If an individual's unemployment is directly caused by a major
2	disaster declared by the President of the United States pursuant to 42 U.S.C.
3	§ 5122 and the individual would have been eligible for federal disaster
4	unemployment assistance benefits but for the receipt of regular benefits, an
5	employer shall be relieved of charges for benefits paid to the individual with
6	respect to any week of unemployment occurring due to the natural disaster up
7	to a maximum amount of four 10 weeks.
8	* * *
9	[Waiver of Overpayment: Option 1]
10	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1347 is amended to read:
11	§ 1347. NONDISCLOSURE OR MISREPRESENTATION
12	* * *
13	(f)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a), (b), or (d) of this
14	section to the contrary, the Commissioner shall waive the full amount of any
15	overpayment that is not a result of the person's intentional misrepresentation of
16	or failure to disclose a material fact if:
17	(A) the overpayment occurs through no fault of the person; and
18	(B) recovery of the overpayment would be against equity and good
19	conscience.
20	(2) Upon making a determination that an overpayment occurred
21	pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the Commissioner shall, to the

1	extent possible and in consideration of the information available to the
2	Department, determine whether waiver of the amount of overpaid benefits is
3	appropriate.
4	(3) The Commissioner shall provide notice of the right to request a
5	waiver of an overpayment with each determination that an overpayment has
6	occurred. The notice shall include clear instructions regarding how a person
7	may apply for a waiver.
8	(4) If the Commissioner denies an application for a waiver, the
9	Commissioner shall provide written notice of the person's right to appeal the
10	determination pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.
11	(g) The provisions of subsection (f) of this section shall, to the extent
12	permitted by federal law, apply to overpayments made in relation to any
13	federal unemployment insurance benefits or similar federal benefits, including
14	Disaster Unemployment Assistance and federal extended or supplemental
15	unemployment insurance benefits.
16	(h) Interested parties shall have the right to appeal from any determination
17	under this section and the same procedure shall be followed as provided for in
18	subsection 1348(a) and section 1349 of this title.
19	(i) The Commissioner shall not attempt to recover an overpayment or
20	withhold any amount of unemployment insurance benefits from a person until
21	after the Commissioner has made a final determination regarding whether an

1	overpayment of benefits to the person occurred and the person's right to appeal
2	the determination has been exhausted.
3	[Waiver of Overpayment: Option 2]
4	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1301 is amended to read:
5	§ 1301. DEFINITIONS
6	As used in this chapter:
7	* * *
8	(27) "Ordinary living expenses" means costs associated with ordinary
9	and necessary living expenses of a person and any other person for whom the
10	person is financially responsible. "Ordinary living expenses" include:
11	(A) the cost of food and clothing;
12	(B) payments for rent or a mortgage;
13	(C) the cost of utilities, including electricity, heating fuel, water,
14	sewer, internet, and telephone or cellphone;
15	(D) payments for loans or credit cards;
16	(E) child care expenses;
17	(F) insurance costs, including accident, automobile, health,
18	homeowners, property, and renters' insurance;
19	(G) medical expenses;
20	(H) taxes; and
21	(I) transportation costs.

1	(28) "Public assistance benefits" means the State or federal Earned
2	Income Tax Credit and any economic assistance a person receives from a State
3	program or a State-administered federal program. "Public assistance benefits"
4	include economic assistance that a person receives through:
5	(A) the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
6	(B) Medicaid;
7	(C) public or subsidized housing, or a housing voucher provided
8	through a State or State-administered federal program;
9	(D) Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security
10	Income;
11	(E) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; or
12	(F) Reach Up or another Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
13	program.
14	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1347 is amended to read:
15	§ 1347. NONDISCLOSURE OR MISREPRESENTATION;
16	OVERPAYMENTS; WAIVER
17	* * *
18	(d)(1) In any case in which under this section a person is liable to repay any
19	amount to the Commissioner for the Fund, the Commissioner may withhold, in
20	whole or in part, any future benefits payable to such the person, and credit such

I	the withheld benefits against the amount due from such the person until it is
2	repaid in full, less any penalties assessed under subsection (c) of this section.
3	(2)(A) When determining the amount of benefits to withhold, the
4	Commissioner shall ensure that the person is able to afford ordinary living
5	expenses with the reduced benefit amount.
6	(B) The Commissioner shall permit a person to request an increase or
7	decrease in the withholding amount if the person's ability to afford ordinary
8	living expenses with the reduced benefit amount changes.
9	* * *
10	(f)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a), (b), or (d) of this
11	section to the contrary, the Commissioner shall waive the full amount of any
12	overpayment that is not a result of the person's intentional misrepresentation of
13	or failure to disclose a material fact if:
14	(A) the overpayment occurs through no fault of the person; and
15	(B) recovery of the overpayment would be against equity and good
16	conscience.
17	(2) A person may request a waiver of an overpayment at any time after
18	receiving notice of a determination pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this
19	section.
20	(3)(A) An overpayment shall be deemed to occur through no fault of a
21	person if the person provided, or attempted to provide, correct information and

1	the overpayment was caused by the action or delay of the Department or the
2	person's employer, including:
3	(i) the Department's failure to take appropriate action following
4	the submission of information by the person;
5	(ii) the Department's delay in determining or redetermining the
6	person's eligibility following the submission of correct information;
7	(iii) the Department's provision of conflicting, changing, or
8	unclear information or instruction regarding the person's claim resulting in the
9	person submitting incorrect information;
10	(iv) the submission by the person of incorrect information,
11	provided the person made a good faith effort to contact the Department to
12	clarify what information was needed and was unable to reach the Department;
13	(v) the submission by the person of incorrect information,
14	provided the error was due to a barrier created by the person's primary
15	language, disability, education, literacy, or other similar characteristic or
16	circumstances;
17	(vi) a delay, error, or mistake of the Department;
18	(vii) a delay, error, or mistake of the person's employer; or
19	(viii) a good faith mistake of fact by the person.

1	(B) Requiring repayment of the amount of an overpayment shall be
2	against equity and good conscience if any of the following circumstances
3	occur:
4	(i) The person or a member of the person's household is currently
5	receiving public assistance or has received public assistance during the 12-
6	month period preceding the determination that an overpayment occurred.
7	(ii) The person's household income, not including any public
8	assistance that the person or a member of the person's household may be
9	receiving, is not more than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.
10	(iii) The person has already spent the overpaid benefits to pay for
11	ordinary living expenses.
12	(iv) The person needs most of their current income to pay for the
13	person's ordinary living expenses.
14	(v) The person, because of the notice that the benefit would be
15	paid or the receipt of the overpayment, either relinquished a valuable right or
16	changed the person's financial position for the worse because the person:
17	(I) incurred a financial obligation, such as a lease;
18	(II) took out a loan in reliance on the benefit payment and spent
19	the benefit amount in making a related down payment or payment on the loan
20	balance or accrued interest, or both; or

1	(III) did not apply for, declined, or was deemed ineligible for
2	other financial assistance because of the receipt of the benefit.
3	(vi) The overpayment was caused, at least in part, by an error of
4	the Department or by erroneous public information or guidance provided by
5	the Department.
6	(vii) The repayment of the overpaid benefits would defeat the
7	purpose for which the payment of benefits was authorized.
8	(viii) The Commissioner determines for any other reason that
9	requiring repayment of the benefits would be unconscionable.
10	(4) Upon making a determination that an overpayment occurred
11	pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the Commissioner shall, to the
12	extent possible and in consideration of the information available to the
13	Department, determine whether waiver of the amount of overpaid benefits is
14	appropriate.
15	(5) The Commissioner shall provide notice of the right to request a
16	waiver of an overpayment with each determination that an overpayment has
17	occurred. The notice shall include clear instructions regarding the
18	circumstances under which a waiver may be granted and how a person may
19	apply for a waiver.
20	(6) If the Commissioner denies an application for a waiver, the
21	Commissioner shall provide written notice of the reason for the denial and the

1	person's right to appeal the determination pursuant to subsection (h) of this
2	section
3	(g) The provisions of subsection (f) of this section shall, to the extent
4	permitted by federal law, apply to overpayments made in relation to any
5	federal unemployment insurance benefits or similar federal benefits.
6	(h) Interested parties shall have the right to appeal from any determination
7	under this section and the same procedure shall be followed as provided for in
8	subsection 1348(a) and section 1349 of this title.
9	(i) The Commissioner shall not attempt to recover an overpayment or
10	withhold any amounts of unemployment insurance benefits from a person:
11	(1) until after the Commissioner has made a final determination
12	regarding whether an overpayment of benefits to the person occurred and the
13	person's right to appeal the determination has been exhausted; or
14	(2) if the person filed an application for a waiver, until after the
15	Commissioner has made a final determination regarding the application and
16	the person's right to appeal the determination has been exhausted.
17	(j)(1) The Commissioner shall provide any person who received an
18	overpayment of benefits and is not currently receiving benefits pursuant to this
19	chapter with the option of entering into a plan to repay the amount of the
20	overpayment. The plan shall provide for reasonable weekly, biweekly, or

1	monthly payments in an amount that permits the person to continue to afford
2	the person's ordinary living expenses.
3	(2) The Commissioner shall permit a person to request a modification to a
4	repayment plan created pursuant to this subsection if the person's ability to
5	afford ordinary living expenses changes.
6	[Fraud Prevention]
7	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1368 is amended to read:
8	§ 1368. FALSE STATEMENTS TO INCREASE PAYMENTS
9	(a) A person shall not willfully and who intentionally make makes a false
10	statement or representation to obtain of, increase, or initiate any benefit or
11	other payment under this chapter, either for himself, herself, whether for
12	themselves or any other person, shall, after notice and an opportunity for a
13	hearing, be:
14	(1) liable to repay the amount of overpaid benefits and any applicable
15	penalty imposed pursuant to section 1347 of this chapter;
16	(2) assessed a further administrative penalty of up to \$5,000.00; and
17	(3) ineligible to receive benefits pursuant to this chapter for a period of
18	five years from the date on which the false statement or representation was
19	discovered.

1	(b) Interested parties shall have the right to appeal from any determination
2	under this section and the same procedure shall be followed as provided for in
3	subsection 1348(a) and section 1349 of this chapter.
4	(c) The Commissioner may collect an unpaid administrative penalty by
5	filing a civil action in the Superior Court.
6	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1347 is amended to read:
7	§ 1347. NONDISCLOSURE OR MISREPRESENTATION
8	* * *
9	(e) In addition to the foregoing, when it is found by the Commissioner
10	finds that a person intentionally misrepresented or failed to disclose a material
11	fact with respect to his or her the person's claim for benefits and in the event
12	the person is not prosecuted, the Commissioner shall prosecute the person
13	under section 1368 of this title and penalty provided in section 1373 of this
14	title is not imposed, the person shall be disqualified and shall not be entitled to
15	receive benefits to which he or she would otherwise be entitled after the
16	determination for such number of weeks not exceeding 26 as the
17	Commissioner shall deem just. The notice of determination shall also specify
18	the period of disqualification imposed hereunder.
19	* * *

1	* * * Unemployment Insurance Technical Corrections * * *
2	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1301 is amended to read:
3	As used in this chapter:
4	* * *
5	(3) "Contributions" means the money payments to the State
6	Unemployment Compensation <u>Trust</u> Fund required by this chapter.
7	* * *
8	(25) "Son," "daughter," and "child" include "Child" includes an
9	individual's biological child, foster child, adoptive child, stepchild, a child for
10	whom the individual is listed as a parent on the child's birth certificate, a legal
11	ward of the individual, a child of the individual's spouse, or a child that the
12	individual has day-to-day responsibilities to care for and financially support.
13	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1321(d) is amended to read:
14	(d) Financing benefits paid to employees of State. In lieu of contributions
15	required of employers subject to this chapter, the State of Vermont, including
16	State hospitals but excluding any State institution of higher education, shall
17	pay to the Commissioner, for the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, an
18	amount equal to the amount of benefits paid, including the full amount of
19	extended benefits paid, attributable to service by individuals in the employ of
20	the State. At the end of each calendar quarter, or at the end of any other period
21	as determined by the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall bill the State for

1	the amount of benefits paid during such the quarter of other prescribed period
2	that is attributable to service in the employ of the State. Subdivisions (c)(3)(C)
3	through (3)(F), inclusive, and subdivisions (c)(5) and (6) of this section as they
4	apply to nonprofit organizations shall also apply to the State of Vermont,
5	except that the State shall be liable for all benefits paid, including the full
6	amount of extended benefits paid, attributable to service in the employ of the
7	State.
8	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1361 is amended to read:
9	§ 1361. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS UPON DISCONTINUANCE OF
10	UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND
11	The provisions of sections 1358–1360 of this title subchapter to the extent
12	that they relate to the federal Unemployment Trust Fund, shall be operative
13	only so long as such the federal Unemployment Trust Fund continues to exist
14	and so long as the <u>U.S.</u> Secretary of the Treasury continues to maintain for this
15	State a separate book account of all Funds deposited therein in the federal
16	<u>Unemployment Trust Fund</u> by this State for benefit purposes, together with
17	this State's proportionate share of the earnings of such the Unemployment
18	Trust Fund, from which only the Commissioner of Labor is permitted to make
19	withdrawals. If and when such Unemployment Trust Fund shall federal law no
20	longer be required by the laws of the United States requires the federal
21	<u>Unemployment Trust Fund</u> to be maintained as aforesaid as a condition of

1	approval of this chapter as provided in Title III of the Social Security Act, then
2	all monies, properties, or securities therein in the federal Unemployment Trust
3	Fund, belonging to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund of this State,
4	shall be transferred to the treasurer of the Unemployment Compensation <u>Trust</u>
5	Fund, who shall hold, invest, transfer, sell, deposit, and release such the
6	monies, properties, or securities in a manner approved by the Commissioner
7	and appropriate for trust funds, subject to all claims for benefits under this
8	chapter.
9	Sec. 205. 21 V.S.A. § 1362 is amended to read:
10	§ 1362. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION
11	FUND
12	There is hereby created the The Unemployment Compensation
13	Administration Fund is created to consist of all monies received by the State or
14	by the Commissioner for the administration of this chapter. This special The
15	fund Unemployment Compensation Administration Fund shall be a special
16	fund managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. The
17	<u>Unemployment Compensation Administration Fund shall be</u> handled through
18	the State Treasurer as other State monies are handled, but it shall be expended
19	solely for the purposes and in the amounts found necessary by the Secretary of
20	Labor for the proper and efficient administration of such this chapter and its
21	balance shall not lapse at any time but shall remain continuously available to

1	the Commissioner for expenditures consistent nerewith with the provisions of
2	this section. All federal monies allotted or apportioned to the State by the
3	Secretary of Labor, or other agency, for the administration of this chapter shall
4	be paid into the Unemployment Compensation Administration Fund and are
5	hereby appropriated to such the Unemployment Compensation Administration
6	Fund.
7	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1365 is amended to read:
8	§ 1365. CONTINGENT FUND
9	(a) There is hereby created a special fund to be known as the Contingent
10	Fund. All interest, fines, and penalties collected under the provisions of the
11	unemployment compensation law after April 1, 1947 this chapter, together
12	with any voluntary contributions tendered as a contribution to this the
13	Contingent Fund, shall be paid into this the Contingent Fund. Such The
14	monies shall not be expended or available for expenditures in any manner
15	which that would permit their substitution for, or a corresponding reduction in,
16	federal funds which that would in the absence of such the monies be available
17	to finance expenditures for the administration of the unemployment
18	compensation law.
19	(b) But nothing Nothing in this chapter shall prevent such the monies from
20	being used as a revolving fund to cover expenditures, necessary and proper
21	under the law for which federal funds have been duly requested but not yet

1	received, subject to the charging of such the expenditures against such the
2	funds when received.
3	(c) The monies in this the Contingent Fund shall be used by the
4	Commissioner for the payment of costs of administration which that are found
5	not to have been properly and validly chargeable against federal grants, or
6	other funds, received for or in the Unemployment Compensation
7	Administration Fund on or after January 1, 1947. No expenditure of the
8	Contingent Fund shall be made unless and until the Commissioner finds that
9	no other funds are available or can properly be used to finance such the
10	expenditures.
11	(d) The State Treasurer shall co-sign all expenditures from this the
12	Contingent Fund authorized by the Commissioner.
13	(e) The monies in this the Contingent Fund are hereby specifically made
14	available to replace, within a reasonable time, any monies received by this
15	State pursuant to section 302 of the federal Social Security Act, as amended,
16	which 42 U.S.C. § 502 that because of any action or contingency, have been
17	lost or have been expended for purposes other than, or in amounts in excess of
18	those necessary for the proper administration of the unemployment
19	compensation law.
20	(f) The monies in this the Contingent Fund shall be continuously available
21	to the Commissioner for expenditure in accordance with the provisions of this

1	section and snall not lapse at any time or be transferred to any other fund
2	except as herein provided pursuant to this section.
3	(g) Provided, however, that on On December 31 of each year, all monies in
4	excess of \$10,000.00 in this the Contingent Fund shall be transferred to the
5	Unemployment Compensation <u>Trust</u> Fund. On or before March 31 of each
6	year, an audit of this the Contingent Fund will shall be completed and a report
7	of that audit will shall be made public.
8	(h) In the event that a refund of interest, a fine, or a penalty is found
9	necessary, and such the interest, fine, or penalty has been deposited in the
10	Contingent Fund, such the refund shall be made from the Contingent Fund.
11	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 1368 is amended to read:
12	§ 1368. FALSE STATEMENTS TO INCREASE PAYMENTS
13	A person shall not willfully and intentionally make a false statement or
14	representation to obtain or increase any benefit or other payment under this
15	chapter, either for himself, herself, the person or any other person.
16	* * * Workers' Compensation * * *
17	Sec 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 76, Sec. 38 is amended to read:
18	Sec. 38. ADOPTION OF RULES
19	The Commissioner of Labor shall, on or before July 1, 2024, adopt rules as
20	necessary to implement the provisions of Secs. <u>29</u> , 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 , <u>36</u> ,
21	and 37, and 38 of this act.

21

1	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:
2	§ 601. DEFINITIONS
3	As used in this chapter:
4	* * *
5	(11) "Personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of
6	employment" includes an injury caused by the willful act of a third person
7	directed against an employee because of that employment.
8	* * *
9	(I)(i) In the case of police officers, rescue or ambulance workers, Θ
10	firefighters, or State employees, as that term is defined pursuant to subdivision
11	(iii)(VI) of this subdivision (11)(I), post-traumatic stress disorder that is
12	diagnosed by a mental health professional shall be presumed to have been
13	incurred during service in the line of duty and shall be compensable, unless it
14	is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the post-traumatic stress
15	disorder was caused by nonservice-connected risk factors or nonservice-
16	connected exposure.
17	(ii) A police officer, rescue or ambulance worker, or firefighter, or
18	State employee who is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder within
19	three years of following the last active date of employment as a police officer,
20	rescue or ambulance worker, or firefighter, <u>or State employee</u> shall be eligible

for benefits under this subdivision (11).

1	(iii) As used in this subdivision (11)(I):
2	(I) "Classified employee" means an employee in the classified
3	service, as defined pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 311.
4	(II) "Firefighter" means a firefighter as defined in 20 V.S.A.
5	§ 3151(3) and (4).
6	(II)(III) "Mental health professional" means a person with
7	professional training, experience, and demonstrated competence in the
8	treatment and diagnosis of mental conditions, who is certified or licensed to
9	provide mental health care services and for whom diagnoses of mental
10	conditions are within his or her the person's scope of practice, including a
11	physician, nurse with recognized psychiatric specialties, psychologist, clinical
12	social worker, mental health counselor, or alcohol or drug abuse counselor.
13	(III)(IV) "Police officer" means a law enforcement officer who
14	has been certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to
15	20 V.S.A. chapter 151.
16	(IV)(V) "Rescue or ambulance worker" means ambulance
17	service, emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer
18	personnel as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651.
19	(VI) "State employees" means:
20	(aa) facility employees of the Department of Corrections;

1	(bb) employees of the Department of Corrections who
2	provide direct security or treatment services to offenders under supervision in
3	the community;
4	(cc) classified employees of State-operated therapeutic
5	community residences or inpatient psychiatric hospital units;
6	(dd) classified employees of public safety answering points;
7	(ee) classified employees of the Family Services Division of
8	the Department for Children and Families;
9	(ff) classified employees of the Vermont Veterans' Home;
10	<u>and</u>
11	(gg) classified employees of the Department of State's
12	Attorneys and Sheriffs, State's Attorneys, and employees of the Department of
13	State's Attorneys and Sheriffs who are assigned to a State's Attorney's field
14	office.
15	* * *
16	Sec SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS; REPORT
17	(a) The Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety shall survey
18	Vermont municipal fire departments and private volunteer fire departments
19	regarding the following information:
20	(1) the number of firefighters in the department;
21	(2) the age of each firefighter in the department;

1	(3) the number of firefighters in the department that use tobacco;
2	(4) for professional firefighters, the annual salary or hourly wage of
3	each firefighter; and
4	(5) for volunteer firefighters, the annual salary or hourly wage of each
5	volunteer firefighter in the volunteer firefighter's regular employment.
6	(b) All information requested pursuant subsection (a) of this section shall
7	be requested in an anonymized form.
8	(c) On or before December 15, 2024, the Executive Director shall report to
9	the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, the Senate Committee on
10	Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House
11	Committee on Commerce and Economic Development regarding the results of
12	the survey.
13	Sec FIREFIGHTERS' WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR
14	CANCER; ANNUAL REPORT
15	(a) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall, on or before
16	December 15 of 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028, report to the Senate
17	Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the
18	House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development regarding:
19	(1) the number of workers' compensation claims for cancer that were
20	submitted by Vermont firefighters in the previous 12 months;
21	(2) the number and percentage of those claims that were approved;

1	(3) the number and percentage of those claims that were for a type of
2	cancer that is not listed in 21 V.S.A. § 601(11)(E)(iii); and
3	(4) the number of those claims that were reported to the National
4	Firefighter Registry for Cancer.
5	(b) All workers' compensation insurers doing business in Vermont shall
6	report to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, in a time and manner
7	specified by the Commissioner:
8	(1) the number of workers' compensation claims for cancer that were
9	received by the insurer from Vermont firefighters;
10	(2) the number of those claims that were approved; and
11	(3) the types of cancer for which the claims were submitted.
12	(c) The December 15, 2028 report required pursuant to subsection (a) of
13	this section shall, in addition to setting forth the information required pursuant
14	to subsection (a):
15	(1) aggregate and summarize the data required pursuant to subsection
16	(a) for the preceding five years;
17	(2) compare the incidence of cancer among firefighters in Vermont to
18	the incidence of cancer among firefighters nationally; and
19	(3) include a recommendation regarding any legislative action needed to
20	better address the occurrence of cancer among firefighters in Vermont.

1	* * * Unpaid Medical Leave * * *
2	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:
3	§ 471. DEFINITIONS
4	As used in this subchapter:
5	* * *
6	(3) "Family leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an
7	employee who works for an employer which that employs 15 or more
8	individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week
9	during the year for one of the following reasons:
10	(A) the serious illness health condition of the employee; or
11	(B) the serious illness health condition of the employee's child,
12	stepchild or ward who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or
13	parent of the employee's spouse.
14	(4) "Health care provider" means a licensed health care provider or a
15	health care provider as defined pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 825.125.
16	(5) "Parental leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an
17	employee who works for an employer which that employs 10 or more
18	individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week
19	during the year for one of the following reasons:
20	* * *
21	(5)(6) "Serious illness health condition" means:

1	(A) an accident, illness, injury, disease, or physical or mental
2	condition that:
3	(A)(i) poses imminent danger of death;
4	(B)(ii) requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential
5	medical care facility; or
6	(C)(iii) requires continuing in home care under the direction of
7	treatment by a physician health care provider; or
8	(B) rehabilitation from an accident, illness, injury, disease, or
9	physical or mental condition described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision
10	(6), including treatment for substance use disorder.
11	Sec 21 V.S.A. § 472 is amended to read:
12	§ 472. LEAVE
13	(a) During any 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to take
14	unpaid leave for a period not to exceed 12 weeks:
15	* * *
16	(2) for family leave, for the serious illness health condition of the
17	employee or the employee's child, stepchild or ward of the employee who lives
18	with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee's
19	spouse.
20	* * *

21

leave or vacation leave.

1	(e)(1) An employee shall give reasonable written notice of intent to take
2	leave under this subchapter. Notice shall include the date the leave is expected
3	to commence and the estimated duration of the leave.
4	(2) In the case of the adoption or birth of a child, an employer shall not
5	require that notice be given more than six weeks prior to the anticipated
6	commencement of the leave.
7	(3) In the case of \underline{a} serious illness <u>health condition</u> of the employee or a
8	member of the employee's family, an employer may require certification from
9	a physician health care provider to verify the condition and the amount and
10	necessity for the leave requested.
11	(4) An employee may return from leave earlier than estimated upon
12	approval of the employer.
13	(5) An employee shall provide reasonable notice to the employer of his
14	or her the need to extend leave to the extent provided by this chapter
15	subchapter.
16	* * *
17	(h) Except for serious illness health condition of the employee, an
18	employee who does not return to employment with the employer who provided
19	the leave shall return to the employer the value of any compensation paid to or
20	on behalf of the employee during the leave, except payments for accrued sick

1	and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating
2	to miscellaneous unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and
3	employment practices amendments"
4	Sec EFFECTIVE DATE
5	This act shall take effect on
6	
7	
8	(Committee vote:)
9	
10	Senator
11	FOR THE COMMITTEE