1	TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:
2	The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3	Bill No. 870 entitled "An act relating to professions and occupations regulated
4	by the Office of Professional Regulation" respectfully reports that it has
5	considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that
6	the bill be amended as follows:
7	First: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.
8	1a to read as follows:
9	* * * Office of Professional Regulation Funding Structure Study * * *
10	Sec. 1a. 3 V.S.A. § 123 be amended to read:
11	§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE
12	* * *
13	(j)(1) The Office may inquire into the criminal background histories of
14	applicants for initial licensure and for license renewal of any Office-issued
15	credential, including a license, certification, registration, or specialty
16	designation for the following professions:
17	* * *
18	(I) speech-language pathologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter
19	87; and
20	(J) individuals registered on the roster of psychotherapists who are
21	nonlicensed and noncertified; and

1	(K) psychologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 55.
2	* * *
3	Second: By adding a reader assistance heading and three new sections to be
4	Secs. 2a–2c to read as follows:
5	* * * Naturopathic Physicians * * *
6	Sec. 2a. 18 V.S.A. § 4999 is amended to read:
7	§ 4999. DEFINITIONS
8	As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise:
9	* * *
10	(2) "Licensed health care professional"," as used in 18 V.S.A. Ch. 107,
11	means a physician, a physician assistant, a naturopathic physician, or an
12	advanced practice registered nurse.
13	* * *
14	Sec 2b. 18 V.S.A. § 5071 is amended to read:
15	§ 5071. BIRTH CERTIFICATES; WHO TO MAKE; RETURN
16	(a) On or before the fifth business day of each live birth that occurs in this
17	State, the attending physician or designee, naturopathic physician or designee,
18	or midwife or, if no attending physician or designee, naturopathic physician or
19	designee, or midwife is present, a parent of the child or a legal guardian of a
20	mother under 18 years of age shall file with the State Registrar a report of birth
21	in the form and manner prescribed by the State Registrar. The State Registrar

1	shall register the report in the Statewide Registration System if it has been
2	completed properly and filed in accordance with this chapter. The portion of
3	the registered birth report that is not confidential under section 5014 of this
4	title is the birth certificate.
5	* * *
6	Sec 2c. NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS TECHNICAL ADVISORY
7	GROUP
8	(a) On or before September 1, 2024, the Commissioner of the Vermont
9	Department of Health or designee shall convene the first meeting of the
10	Naturopathic Physicians Technical Advisory Group. The Technical Advisory
11	Group shall discuss the potential integration of naturopathic physicians into
12	statewide policies regarding Vermont's Patient Choice at End of Life laws (18
13	V.S.A. chapter 113), do not resuscitate (DNR) orders and advanced directives,
14	and the creation of clinician orders for life-sustaining treatment (COLST). The
15	Technical Advisory Group shall also consider the requirements of integrating
16	naturopathic physicians into statewide policies.
17	(b) The Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health or designee
18	shall chair any meeting or meetings described in this section.
19	(c) The following individuals and entities shall be invited to participate in
20	the meeting or meetings described in this section:
21	(1) the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges;

1	(2) the Office of Professional Regulation;
2	(3) Patient Choices Vermont;
3	(4) the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians;
4	(5) the Vermont Ethics Network;
5	(6) the Vermont Medical Society; and
6	(7) other entities as needed related to naturopathic medical education.
7	(c) The Commissioner of the Department of Health shall provide
8	recommendations based on the work of the Technical Advisory Group on or
9	before December 1, 2024, to the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate
10	Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Government
11	Operations and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Government
12	Operations.
13	(d) The Technical Advisory Group shall cease to exist on December 31,
14	<u>2024.</u>
15	<u>Third</u> : By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.
16	18a to read as follows:
17	* * * Office of Professional Regulation Funding Structure Study * * *
18	Sec. 18a. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; FUNDING
19	STRUCTURE STUDY
20	The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal
21	Office, shall conduct a study reviewing the funding structure of the Office of

1	Professional Regulation. The Office of Professional Regulation shall report to
2	the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the
3	Senate Committee on Government Operations by January 1, 2025 with an
4	assessment of the benefits and challenges of the current funding model for the
5	Office of Professional Regulation, as established in 3 V.S.A. § 124, and with
6	any recommendations for alternative models for funding the Office of
7	Professional Regulation.
8	
9	(Committee vote:)
10	
11	Senator
12	FOR THE COMMITTEE