

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 189 entitled “An act relating to mental health response service protocols”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 7260 is added to read:

8 § 7260. MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE SERVICE GUIDELINES

9 (a) The Department shall develop guidelines for use by municipalities,
10 including use by emergency medical technicians and public safety personnel,
11 such as law enforcement officers as defined by 20 V.S.A. § 2351a and
12 firefighters as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 3151, who are employed, volunteer, or
13 are under contract with a municipality. The guidelines shall recommend best
14 practices for de-escalation and for mental health response services, including
15 crisis response services. The Department shall make the guidelines available
16 to municipalities and publish the guidelines on the Department’s website.

17 (b) In developing the guidelines required pursuant to subsection (a) of this
18 section, the Department shall consult with the following entities:

19 (1) the Department of Health;

20 (2) the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living;

21 (3) the Department of Public Safety;

- 1 (4) the Vermont Care Partners;
- 2 (5) the Vermont Psychiatric Survivors;
- 3 (6) the Vermont chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness;
- 4 (7) the Vermont League of Cities and Towns; and
- 5 (8) any other entity the Department deems appropriate.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

8 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
9 to mental health response service guidelines”

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE