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H.20

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representative Yacovone of Morristown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Firearms; voluntary storage program

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a voluntary program in which persons in crisis would have the opportunity to temporarily relinquish their firearms to federally licensed firearms dealers.

The program would include the following elements:

(1) Federally licensed firearms dealers in Vermont would have the option to choose to participate in a temporary firearms storage program for persons in crisis.

(2) A person experiencing a mental health or other relevant crisis could bring their firearms to a participating firearms dealer for temporary safekeeping.

(3) The program would authorize participating dealers to temporarily store the person's firearms until the person is no longer in crisis. The program would provide criminal and civil immunity from liability to participating dealers for any harm resulting from the dealer's acceptance, storage, return, or

1 refusal to return the firearm, provided the dealer acts in good faith to follow
2 program rules and procedures.

3 (4) Persons who relinquish firearms to participating dealers through the
4 program would also receive immunity from liability for actions they take in
5 good faith reliance on program rules and procedures. Confidentiality
6 provisions in the program would allow persons to relinquish their firearms
7 without being stigmatized for being in crisis.

8 (5) Training would be provided to participating dealers in order to
9 provide them with sufficient relevant knowledge to exercise discretion when
10 determining whether to return a firearm that a person had stored with the dealer
11 pursuant to the program.

12 (6) The program would be designed to offer support to persons in crisis
13 by allowing them to safely and temporarily relinquish their firearms, thereby
14 reducing accessibility to firearms in moments of crisis and helping to lower
15 suicide rates in Vermont.

16 An act relating to establishing a voluntary firearms storage program for
17 persons in crisis

18 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

19 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)