

1 H.380

2 Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott and Yacovone of Morristown

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Crimes; criminal procedure; conditions of release; violations

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to enhance the  
7 penalty for a violation of conditions of release to a felony and to fully staff the  
8 Department of Corrections' pretrial supervision program.

9 An act relating to creating a felony penalty for a violation of conditions of  
10 release and to staff the pretrial supervision program

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

12 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 7559 is amended to read:

13 § 7559. VIOLATIONS OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE; FAILURE TO  
14 APPEAR; WARRANTLESS ARREST

15 (a) The State's Attorney may commence a prosecution for criminal  
16 contempt under Rule 42 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure against a  
17 person who violates a condition of release imposed under section 7554 of this  
18 title. The maximum penalty that may be imposed under this section shall be a  
19 fine of \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for ~~six months~~ not more than three years, or  
20 both.

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(c) A person who has been released pursuant to section 7554 of this title with or without bail on condition that the person appear at a specified time and place in connection with a prosecution for an offense and who without just cause fails to appear shall be imprisoned not more than ~~two~~ three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; POSITIONS;  
APPROPRIATION

(a) To the extent funds are available, 12 new, permanent, classified Pretrial Supervision Officers are created in fiscal year 2026 within the Department of Corrections. In addition to any other duties deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Corrections, the Pretrial Supervision Officers shall supervise Pretrial Supervision Program participants in accordance with 13 V.S.A. § 7555.

(b) To the extent funds are available, two new, permanent, classified administrative support positions are created in fiscal year 2026 within the Department of Corrections. In addition to any other duties deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Corrections, the administrative support positions shall assist in the administration and operation of the Pretrial Supervision Program in accordance with 13 V.S.A. § 7555.

1       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.