

1 H.538

2 Introduced by Representative Harrison of Chittenden

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: General provisions; standard time

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to place

7 Vermont on U.S. Eastern Standard Time on a year-round basis.

8 An act relating to the establishment of year-round U.S. Eastern Standard
9 Time

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

11 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

12 The General Assembly finds:

13 (1) Standard time approximates natural solar time.

14 (2) Changing clocks twice a year is personally disruptive and neither a
15 healthy nor safe activity.

16 (3) Many biologists, endocrinology immunologists, psychologists, and
17 scientists in other disciplines; child advocates; and teachers believe that standard
18 time provides the best conditions for individual learning, mental and physical
19 well-being, personal safety, and productivity.

1 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 431 is amended to read:

2 § 431. STANDARD TIME;~~DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME~~

3 (a) The standard time within the State of Vermont shall be based on the
4 mean astronomical time of 75° of longitude west from Greenwich, known and
5 designated as “U.S. Eastern Standard Time;” ~~except as provided in 15 U.S.C.~~
6 ~~§ 260a, when standard time shall be advanced one hour. The period of time so~~
7 ~~advanced may be called “daylight saving time.”~~

8 (b) ~~The Governor is authorized to shorten or lengthen the period specified~~
9 ~~in subsection (a) of this section by proclamation, if necessary to make the time~~
10 ~~accord with the time in effect in any of the states whose boundaries adjoin~~
11 ~~Vermont. This proclamation shall be issued at least 10 days before it takes~~
12 ~~effect.~~ [Repealed.]

13 Sec. 3. TRANSITION TO YEAR-ROUND U.S. EASTERN STANDARD
14 TIME

15 The transition to the observance of year-round U.S. Eastern Standard Time
16 shall occur on January 1 in the year following the enactment of year-round
17 U.S. Eastern Standard Time in the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
18 and New York in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 260a.

1 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES AND TRANSITION

2 This section and Secs. 1 (findings) and 3 (transition to year-round U.S.
3 Eastern Standard Time) shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and Sec. 2 (standard
4 time) shall take effect in accordance with the provisions set forth in Sec. 3.