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H.887

An act relating to crime victim status under the Fair Employment Practices Act

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

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 495d is amended to read:

§ 495d. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(15) “Crime victim” means any of the following:

(A) a person who has obtained a relief from abuse order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103;

(B) a person who has obtained an order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. chapter 178;

(C) a person who has obtained an order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. chapter 69; ~~or~~

(D)(i) a victim as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301, provided that the victim is identified as a crime victim in an affidavit filed by a law enforcement official with a prosecuting attorney of competent state or federal jurisdiction; and

(ii) shall include the victim’s child, foster child, parent, spouse, stepchild or ward of the victim who lives with the victim, or a parent of the

1 victim's spouse, provided that the individual is not identified in the affidavit as
2 the defendant; or

3 (E) a person who is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault,
4 or stalking and who has supporting documentation from any one of the
5 following sources:

6 (i) a court or law enforcement or other government agency;

7 (ii) a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking assistance
8 program;

9 (iii) a legal, clerical, medical, or other professional from whom the
10 person has received counseling or other assistance concerning domestic
11 violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

12 (iv) a self-attestation by the person describing the circumstances
13 supporting the person's status as a survivor of domestic violence, sexual
14 assault, and stalking for which no further corroboration shall be required unless
15 otherwise mandated by law.

16 * * *

17 (18) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as in 15 V.S.A. § 1151
18 and includes the definition of "abuse" in 15 V.S.A. § 1101.

19 (19) "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

20 (20) "Stalking" has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.