

1

H.927

2

Introduced by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

3

Date:

4

Subject: Government operations; Vermont Statutes Annotated; 2026 technical

5

corrections

6

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make

7

technical corrections to the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

8

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2026 legislative session

9

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

10

Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 601(a) is amended to read:

(a) There is created a the Joint Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee whose membership shall be appointed each biennial session of the General Assembly. The Committee shall consist of five Representatives *not all from the same political party*, at least one from the Committees on Appropriations, on Commerce and Economic Development, on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, on Environment, and on Transportation, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and five members of the Senate *not all from the same political party*, at least one from the Committees on Appropriations, on

Finance, on Natural Resources and Energy, and on Transportation, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

1 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 14 is amended to read:

2 § 14. FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT; POWERS OF GOVERNOR  
3 AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) The Governor shall provide for the receipt, allocation, and  
6 disbursement of federal monies received pursuant to this section, in accordance  
7 with such State and federal laws ~~and~~, regulations, and rules as may be  
8 applicable.

9 (c) Towns, cities, emergency medical services districts, municipalities, and  
10 other political subdivisions are authorized to administer local highway safety  
11 programs approved by the Governor as part of the State's Highway Safety  
12 Program, and to receive funds available for the foregoing purposes subject to  
13 applicable laws ~~and~~, regulations, and rules and the approval of the Governor.

14 Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 18 is amended to read:

15 § 18. SPOUSE ABUSE PROGRAMS; ELIGIBILITY

16 \* \* \*

17 (e) ~~Duties and functions of the Center.~~





1 § 343. PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS; PROCEDURE

2 \* \* \*

3 (c)(1) Before an agency may renew a privatization contract for the first  
4 time, the Auditor of Accounts shall review the privatization contract analyzing  
5 whether it is achieving:

6 (A) the 10 percent cost-savings requirement set forth in subdivision  
7 (a)(2) of this section; and

8 (B) the performance measures incorporated into the contract as  
9 required under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

10 (2) If the Auditor of Accounts finds that a privatization contract has not  
11 achieved the cost savings required under subdivision (a)(2) of this section or  
12 complied with performance measures required under subdivision (b)(1) of this  
13 section, the Auditor of Accounts shall file a report with the agency and, the  
14 House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the  
15 Senate ~~Committees~~ Committee on Government Operations, and the agency  
16 shall review whether to renew the privatization contract or perform the work  
17 with State employees.

18 Sec. 8. 3 V.S.A. § 459 is amended to read:

19 § 459. NORMAL AND EARLY RETIREMENT

20 (a) Normal retirement.

21 \* \* \*



1 by the ratio that the number of the member's years of creditable service at  
2 retirement, or such earlier date, bears to 20.

3 \* \* \*

4 (5)(A) Until January 1, 1995, upon normal retirement, a Group F  
5 member shall receive a normal retirement allowance that shall be equal to ~~1~~/~~4~~  
6 one and one-fourth of a percent of his or her the member's average final  
7 compensation times years of creditable service. On and after January 1, 1995,  
8 upon normal retirement, a Group F member shall receive a normal retirement  
9 allowance equal to ~~1~~/~~4~~ one and one-fourth of a percent of the member's  
10 average final compensation times years of membership service prior to January  
11 1, 1991, plus a pension that when added to an annuity shall be equal to ~~1~~/~~3~~ one  
12 and two-thirds of a percent of the member's average final compensation times  
13 years of membership service on and after January 1, 1991. The maximum  
14 retirement allowance shall be 50 percent of average final compensation.

15 (B) A Group F member first included in the membership of the  
16 system on or after July 1, 2008, upon normal retirement, shall receive a normal  
17 retirement allowance equal to ~~1~~/~~3~~ one and two-thirds of a percent of the  
18 member's average final compensation times years of membership service. The  
19 maximum retirement allowance shall be 60 percent of average final  
20 compensation.

21 \* \* \*

1 (d) Early retirement allowance.

2 \* \* \*

3 (4)(A) Upon early retirement, a Group G member who was previously a  
4 Group F member first included in the membership of the System on or before  
5 June 30, 2008, and who elected to transfer into Group G pursuant to the terms  
6 set by the Board, shall receive an early retirement allowance that shall be equal  
7 to the normal retirement allowance reduced by the lesser of (i) one-half of one  
8 percent for each month equal to the difference between the 240 months and the  
9 member's months of creditable service, or (ii) an amount that shall be the  
10 actuarial equivalent of the normal retirement allowance computed under  
11 subsection (b) of this section.

12 (B) Upon early retirement, a Group G member who was previously a  
13 Group F member first included in the membership of the System on or after  
14 July 1, 2008, and who elected to transfer into Group G pursuant to the terms  
15 set by the Board, shall receive an early retirement allowance that shall be equal  
16 to the normal retirement allowance reduced by the lesser of five-ninths of one  
17 percent for each month equal to the difference between the 240 months and the  
18 member's months of creditable service; ~~or,~~

19 (C) Upon early retirement, all Group G members other than those  
20 specified in ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (d)(4)  
21 shall receive an early retirement allowance that shall be equal to the normal

1 retirement allowance reduced by an amount that shall be the actuarial  
2 equivalent of the normal retirement allowance computed under subsection (b)  
3 of this section.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 468 is amended to read:

6 § 468. OPTIONAL BENEFITS

7 (a) Until the first payment on account of a retirement allowance becomes  
8 normally due, any member may elect to convert the retirement allowance  
9 otherwise payable to the member after retirement into a retirement allowance  
10 that is its actuarial equivalent, in accordance with one of the optional forms  
11 described in this section.

12 (1) Option 1. A reduced retirement allowance payable during the  
13 member's life, with the provision that at the member's death a lump sum equal  
14 in amount to the difference between the member's accumulated contributions  
15 at the time of retirement and the sum of the annuity payments actually made to  
16 the member during ~~his or her~~ the member's lifetime shall be paid to such  
17 person, if any, as the member has nominated by written designation duly  
18 acknowledged and filed with the Retirement Board; or, in the absence of a  
19 written designation of beneficiary or when the designated beneficiary is  
20 deceased, the residual amount payable as a result of the death of the member  
21 after retirement shall be payable as follows:



1 the retired member survives the member's nominated beneficiary, the  
2 retirement allowance that would have been payable during the member's life  
3 computed pursuant to section 459, 460, or 461 of this title, whichever is  
4 applicable, shall be paid to the retired member during the remainder of the  
5 member's lifetime. If a member does not make an election as to the form of  
6 ~~his or her~~ the member's retirement allowance, the member shall receive ~~his or~~  
7 ~~her~~ the member's retirement allowance computed pursuant to section 459, 460,  
8 or 461 of this title, whichever is applicable.

9 Sec. 10. 3 V.S.A. § 531 is amended to read:

10 § 531. DEFINITIONS

11 As used in this chapter:

12 \* \* \*

13 (3) "Covered employer" means a person, entity, or subsidiary engaged  
14 in a business, industry, profession, trade, or other enterprise in the State,  
15 whether for profit or not for profit, that does not currently offer to an  
16 employee, or is within a control group that maintains or contributes to, a  
17 specified tax-favored retirement plan. If an employer does not maintain a  
18 specified tax-favored retirement plan for a portion of a calendar year ending ~~on~~  
19 in or after ~~the effective date of this chapter~~ 2023 but does adopt such a plan for  
20 the remainder of that calendar year, the employer is not a covered employer  
21 for the remainder of ~~the~~ that year. A covered employer does not include:



1 person acting in a like capacity and familiar with those matters would use in  
2 the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.

3 Sec. 12. 3 V.S.A. chapter 19 is amended to read:

4 CHAPTER 19. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL  
5 EMPLOYEES

6 \* \* \*

7 § 572. DEFINITIONS

8 For the purposes of this chapter:

9 \* \* \*

10 (2) “Employment” means any service performed by any employee in the  
11 employ of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, for such employer,  
12 except:

13 ~~(1)(A) service~~ Service that in the absence of an agreement entered into  
14 under this chapter would constitute “employment” as defined in the Social  
15 Security Act; ~~or,~~

16 ~~(2)(B) service~~ Service that under the Social Security Act may not be  
17 included in an agreement between the State and the Secretary of Health and  
18 Human Services entered into under this chapter. Service that under the Social  
19 Security Act may be included in an agreement only upon certification by the  
20 Governor in accordance with Section 218(d)(3) or 218(d)(7) of that Act shall  
21 be included in the term “employment” if and when the Governor issues, with

1 respect to such service, a certificate to the Secretary of Health and Human  
2 Services pursuant to subsection 578(b) of this title.

3 \* \* \*

4 (5) “Secretary of Health and Human Services” includes any individual  
5 to whom the Secretary of Health and Human Services has delegated any of his  
6 ~~or her~~ the Secretary’s functions under the Social Security Act with respect to  
7 coverage under such act Act of employees of states and their political  
8 subdivisions, and with respect to any action taken prior to April 11, 1953,  
9 includes the Federal Security Administrator and any individual to whom such  
10 Administrator had delegated any such function.

11 \* \* \*

12 § 573. FEDERAL-STATE AGREEMENT; INTERSTATE  
13 INSTRUMENTALITIES

14 (a) The State agency, with the approval of the Governor, is hereby  
15 authorized to enter on behalf of the State into an agreement with the Secretary  
16 of Health and Human Services, consistent with the terms and provisions of this  
17 chapter, for the purpose of extending the benefits of the federal Old Age and  
18 Survivors Insurance System to employees of the State or any political  
19 subdivision thereof with respect to services specified in such agreement that  
20 constitute “employment” as defined in section 572 of this title. Such  
21 agreement may contain such provisions relating to coverage, benefits,

1 contributions, effective date, modification, and termination of the agreement,  
2 administration, and other appropriate provisions as the State agency and  
3 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall agree upon, but, except as may  
4 be otherwise required by or under the Social Security Act as to the services to  
5 be covered, such agreement shall provide in effect that:

6 \* \* \*

7 (5) All services that ~~(A)~~ constitute employment as defined in section  
8 572 of this title; ~~(B)~~, are performed in the employ of a political subdivision of  
9 the State; ~~(C)~~ and ~~(C)~~ are covered by a plan that is in conformity with the terms of  
10 the agreement and has been approved by the State agency under section 575 of  
11 this title, shall be covered by the agreement;

12 (6) As modified, the agreement shall include all services described in  
13 either subdivision (4) or subdivision (5) of this subsection and performed by  
14 individuals to whom Section 218(c)(3)(C) of the Social Security Act is  
15 applicable, and shall provide that the service of any such individual shall not  
16 continue to be covered by the agreement in case ~~he or she~~ the individual  
17 thereafter becomes eligible to be a member of a Retirement System except as  
18 provided by subdivision (7) ~~hereof~~ of this subsection; and

19 \* \* \*

1           (b)(1) Any instrumentality jointly created by this State and any other state  
2           or states is hereby authorized, upon the granting of like authority by such other  
3           state or states;

4           (1)(A) to enter an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human  
5           Services whereby the benefits of the federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance  
6           System shall be extended to employees of such instrumentality;

7           (2)(B) to require its employees to pay (and for that purpose to deduct  
8           from their wages), contributions equal to the amounts that they would be  
9           required to pay under subsection 574(a) of this title if they were covered by an  
10          agreement made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and

11          (3)(C) to make payments to the Secretary of the Treasury in accordance  
12          with such agreement, including payments from its own funds, and otherwise to  
13          comply with such agreements.

14          (2) Such agreement shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with  
15          the terms and provisions of subsection (a) of this section and other provisions  
16          of this chapter.

17       § 574. CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE EMPLOYEES

18          (a) Every employee of the State whose services are covered by an  
19          agreement entered into under section 573 of this title shall be required to pay  
20          for the period of such coverage, into the Contribution Fund established by  
21          section 576 of this title, contributions, with respect to wages as defined in

1 section 572 of this title, equal to the amount of the employee tax that would be  
2 imposed by the federal Insurance Contributions Act if such services  
3 constituted employment within the meaning of that Act. Such liability shall  
4 arise in consideration of the employee's retention in the service of the State, or  
5 ~~his or her~~ the employee's entry upon such service, after April 26, 1951.

6 \* \* \*

7 § 575. PLANS FOR COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF POLITICAL  
8 SUBDIVISIONS

9 \* \* \*

10 (c)(1) Each political subdivision as to which a plan has been approved  
11 under this section is authorized to and shall pay into the Contribution Fund,  
12 with respect to wages, at such time or times as the State agency may by rule  
13 prescribe, contributions in the amounts and at the rates specified in the  
14 applicable agreement entered into by the State agency under section 573 of this  
15 title.

16 (2) Each political subdivision required to make payments under  
17 subdivision (1) of this subsection is authorized, in consideration of the  
18 employee's retention in, or entry upon, employment after April 26, 1951, to  
19 impose upon each of its employees, as to services that are covered by an  
20 approved plan, a contribution with respect to ~~his or her~~ the employee's wages  
21 as defined in section 572 of this title, not exceeding the amount of the

1 employee tax that would be imposed by the federal Insurance Contributions  
2 Act if such services constituted employment within the meaning of that Act,  
3 and to deduct the amount of such contribution from ~~his or her~~ the employee's  
4 wages as and when paid. Contributions so collected shall be paid into the  
5 Contribution Fund in partial discharge of the liability of such political  
6 subdivision or instrumentality under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Failure  
7 to deduct such contribution shall not relieve the employee or employer of  
8 liability therefor.

9 \* \* \*

10 § 576. CONTRIBUTION FUND

11 (a) There is hereby established a special fund to be known as the  
12 Contribution Fund.

13 (b) ~~Such~~ The Fund shall consist of and there shall be deposited in ~~such~~ the  
14 Fund:

15 (1) all contributions, interest, and penalties collected under sections 574  
16 and 575 of this title;

17 (2) all monies appropriated thereto under this chapter;

18 (3) any property or securities and earnings thereof acquired through the  
19 use of monies belonging to the Fund;

20 (4) interest earned upon any monies in the Fund; and

1           (5) all sums recovered upon the bond of the custodian or otherwise for  
2 losses sustained by the Fund and all other monies received for the Fund from  
3 any other source.

4           (c) All monies in the Fund shall be mingled and undivided. Subject to the  
5 provisions of this chapter, the State agency is vested with full power, authority,  
6 and jurisdiction over the Fund, including all monies and property or securities  
7 belonging thereto, and may perform any and all acts, whether or not  
8 specifically designated, that are necessary to the administration thereof and are  
9 consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

10          ~~(b)~~(d) The Contribution Fund shall be ~~established and~~ held separate and  
11 apart from any other funds or monies of the State and shall be used and  
12 administered exclusively for the purpose of this chapter. Withdrawals from  
13 ~~such~~ the Fund shall be made ~~for, and~~ solely for:

14           (1) payment of amounts required to be paid to the Secretary of the  
15 Treasury pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 573 of this title;

16           (2) payment of refunds provided for in subsection 574(c) of this title;  
17 and

18           (3) refunds of overpayments, not otherwise adjustable, made by a  
19 political subdivision or instrumentality.

20          ~~(e)~~(e) From the Contribution Fund the custodian of the Fund shall pay to  
21 the Secretary of the Treasury such amounts and at such time or times as is

1 provided under the terms of the agreement entered into under section 573 of  
2 this title and the Social Security Act.

3 ~~(d)~~(f) The ~~Treasurer of the State~~ Treasurer shall be ex officio treasurer and  
4 custodian of the Contribution Fund and shall administer such fund in  
5 accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The State Treasurer may  
6 appoint a director and other assistants as ~~he or she~~ the Treasurer may deem  
7 necessary to administer this chapter and fix their salaries, under the provisions  
8 of section 310 of this title, with the approval of the Governor.

9 ~~(e)~~(g) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually to the  
10 Contribution Fund, in addition to the contributions collected and paid into the  
11 Contribution Fund under sections 574 and 575 of this title, to be available for  
12 the purposes of subsections ~~(b)~~(d) and ~~(e)~~(e) of this section until expended,  
13 such additional sums as are found to be necessary in order to make the  
14 payments to the Secretary of the Treasury that the State is obligated to make  
15 pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 573 of this title.

16 \* \* \*

17 § 578. REFERENDA AND CERTIFICATION

18 (a) The Governor is empowered to authorize a referendum in accordance  
19 with the requirements of Section 218(d)(3) of the Social Security Act or to  
20 authorize a vote to be held according to Section 218(d)(6)(C) and Section  
21 218(d)(7) of the Social Security Act on the question of whether service in

1 positions covered by a retirement system established by the State or by a  
2 political subdivision thereof should be excluded from or included under an  
3 agreement under this chapter, and to designate an agency or individual to  
4 supervise the conduct of such referendum or vote. Where a vote is held  
5 according to Sections 218(d)(6)(C) and 218(d)(7) of the Social Security Act,  
6 the Retirement System shall be divided into two parts. One part, Part A, shall  
7 be composed of the positions of members who in such vote have expressed a  
8 desire to have their services in such positions included under the agreement  
9 and of the positions of all individuals who become members of such System  
10 after the agreement is extended to include the service of those members who  
11 have expressed a desire to be covered under the Social Security Act, ~~and the~~  
12 The other part, Part B, shall be composed of the positions of members who  
13 have not expressed a desire in such vote to have their services included under  
14 the agreement and the positions of any individual who was ineligible to be a  
15 member of such retirement system on August 1, 1956, or, if later, on the day  
16 ~~he or she~~ the individual first occupied such position. The notice of referendum  
17 required by Section 218(d)(3)(C) of the Social Security Act or the notice of  
18 the vote required by Section 218(d)(7)(B) of the Social Security Act shall  
19 contain or shall be accompanied by a statement, in such form and such detail  
20 as the agency or individual designated to supervise the conduct of the  
21 referendum or the vote shall deem necessary and sufficient to inform

1 individuals to whom such notice is given of the rights that will accrue to them  
2 and their dependents and survivors, and the liabilities to which they will be  
3 subject, if their services are included under an agreement under this chapter.

4 (b) Upon receiving evidence satisfactory to ~~him or her~~ the Governor that  
5 with respect to any such referendum or any such vote the conditions specified  
6 in Section 218(d)(3) or in Section 218(d)(7), respectively, of the Social  
7 Security Act have been met, the Governor shall so certify to the Secretary of  
8 Health and Human Services.

9 \* \* \*

10 § 579. WARRANT FOR STATE'S SHARE OF CONTRIBUTION

11 (a) Employees not members of a retirement system. The Commissioner of  
12 Finance and Management is hereby directed to issue ~~his or her~~ a warrant in  
13 favor of the Vermont State Treasurer, agent, for the amounts necessary to pay  
14 the State's share of the contribution due the federal government as the result of  
15 such agreement being made applicable to the services of employees of the  
16 State who are not members of a State retirement system. The contribution of  
17 the State to cover members whose salaries are paid from other than the  
18 General Fund appropriation shall be paid from the department appropriation  
19 from which such members' salaries are paid. It is further directed that after  
20 July 1, 1957, these amounts be charged back to the individual departmental  
21 appropriations.

1           (b) Members of Vermont Employees' Retirement System. The  
2           Commissioner of Finance and Management is hereby directed to issue ~~his or~~  
3           ~~her~~ a warrant in favor of the Vermont State Treasurer, agent, for the amounts  
4           necessary to pay the employer's share of the old age and survivors insurance  
5           tax due the federal government as the result of the coverage agreement  
6           authorized by this chapter being extended to employees of the State who are  
7           members of the Vermont Employees' Retirement System. It is further directed  
8           that after July 1, 1957<sub>2</sub> this tax be charged back to the individual departmental  
9           appropriations.

10          (c) Members of Vermont State Retirement System. The Commissioner of  
11          Finance and Management is hereby directed to issue ~~his or her~~ a warrant in  
12          favor of the Vermont State Treasurer, agent, for the amounts necessary to pay  
13          the employer's share of the old age and survivors insurance tax due the federal  
14          government as the result of the coverage agreement authorized by this chapter  
15          being extended to employees of the State who are members of the Vermont  
16          State Retirement System and who were not subject to the provisions of  
17          subsection (b) of this section as in effect on June 30, 1972. It is further  
18          directed that after July 1, 1972<sub>2</sub> this tax be charged back to the individual  
19          departmental appropriations.

20          Sec. 13. 3 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

21          § 941. UNIT DETERMINATION, CERTIFICATION, AND

1 REPRESENTATION

2 \* \* \*

3 (e)(1) Whenever, on the basis of a petition pursuant to subdivision (d)(1) of  
4 this section or a hearing pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of this section, the  
5 Board finds substantial interest among employees in forming a bargaining unit  
6 or being represented for purposes of collective bargaining, a secret ballot  
7 election shall be conducted by the Board not more than 23 business days after  
8 the petition is filed with the Board except as otherwise provided pursuant to  
9 subdivision (4) of this subsection and subdivision (g)(4) of this section.

10 \* \* \*

11 (3)(A) The employer shall file with the Board and the other parties a list  
12 of the employees in the bargaining unit within two business days after the  
13 Board determines that a secret ballot election shall be conducted.

14 \* \* \*

15 (D) The list shall be:

16 (i) kept confidential by the Board and all of the parties; and

17 (ii) shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public  
18 Records Act.

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 2222 is amended to read:

21 § 2222. POWERS AND DUTIES; BUDGET AND REPORT

1 (a) In addition to the duties expressly set forth elsewhere by law, the  
2 Secretary shall:

3 \* \* \*

4 (2) With the approval of the Governor, issue general policy statements  
5 and general rules ~~and regulations~~ applicable to the Executive Branch of the  
6 State government to implement executive orders or legislative mandate.

7 \* \* \*

8 (5) Have access to and the right to inspect all lands, buildings, and  
9 installations owned or leased by the State, under such ~~regulations~~ rules as the  
10 Governor may approve.

11 \* \* \*

12 Sec. 15. 3 V.S.A. § 2253 is amended to read:

13 § 2253. PERMISSIVE DUTIES; APPROVAL OF SECRETARY

14 Each commissioner may, with the approval of the Secretary:

15 (1) Transfer classified positions within or between divisions subject  
16 only to State laws and ~~regulations~~ rules.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 16. 3 V.S.A. § 2453 is amended to read:

19 § 2453. PERMISSIVE DUTIES; APPROVAL OF SECRETARY

20 \* \* \*



1 prescribed in subdivisions (j)(1), (7), (8), ~~(14)~~, and (15) of this section for  
2 which a municipality may recover its costs by charging a user fee to those who  
3 use the permitted services. Municipalities shall pay fees prescribed in  
4 subdivisions (j)(2), (10), (11), (12), and (26), except that a municipality shall  
5 also be exempt from those fees for stormwater systems prescribed in  
6 subdivisions (j)(2)(A)(iii)(I), (II), or (IV) and (j)(2)(B)(iv)(I), (II), or (V) of  
7 this section for which a municipality has assumed full legal responsibility  
8 under 10 V.S.A. § 1264.

9 Sec. 20. 3 V.S.A. § 2854(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) A director shall administer each division within the Agency. The  
11 commissioners, with the approval of the Secretary, shall appoint the directors  
12 for divisions that are part of a department, and the Secretary shall appoint any  
13 other directors. All directors shall be appointed subject to the ~~provisions of~~  
14 ~~section 15 of this act~~ requirements of chapter 13 of this title.

15 Sec. 21. 3 V.S.A. § 3002 is amended to read:

16 § 3002. CREATION OF AGENCY

17 \* \* \*

18 (c) Units attached to the Agency for administrative support shall receive,  
19 and shall use, the services provided by the ~~Administrative Services Operations~~  
20 Division of the Agency under section 3086 of this title.

21 Sec. 22. 3 V.S.A. § 3053 is amended to read:

1 § 3053. PERMISSIVE DUTIES; APPROVAL OF SECRETARY

2 The commissioner may, with the approval of the Secretary:

3 \* \* \*

4 (2) Transfer classified positions within or between divisions subject  
5 only to State personnel laws and ~~regulations~~ rules.

6 \* \* \*

7 (5) Make ~~regulations~~ rules consistent with law for the internal  
8 administration of the department and its programs.

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 23. 3 V.S.A. § 3054(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) A director shall administer each division within the Agency. The  
12 commissioners, with the approval of the Secretary, shall appoint the directors  
13 for divisions that are part of a department, and the Secretary shall appoint any  
14 other directors. ~~All directors shall be appointed subject to the provisions of~~  
15 ~~section 14 of this act.~~

16 Sec. 24. 3 V.S.A. § 5022 is amended to read:

17 § 5022. DIVISION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

18 \* \* \*

19 (b) Powers and duties. The Division shall review artificial intelligence  
20 systems developed, employed, or procured in State government, including the  
21 following:

1 \* \* \*

2 (2) make recommendations to the General Assembly on policies, laws,  
3 and ~~regulations~~ rules for artificial intelligence systems in State government;  
4 and

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 25. 3 V.S.A. § 6006 is amended to read:

7 § 6006. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND

8 INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

9 (a) Advisory Council and Interagency Committee.

10 (1) There is created:

11 (A) the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (~~Advisory Council~~)

12 to provide independent advice and recommendations to State agencies and the

13 General Assembly on matters relating to environmental justice, including the

14 integration of environmental justice principles into State programs, policies,

15 ~~regulations~~ rules, legislation, and activities; and

16 \* \* \*

17 (c) Duties.

18 \* \* \*

19 (3) The Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee shall jointly:

20 \* \* \*

1 (B) examine existing data and studies on environmental justice and  
2 consult with State, federal, and local agencies and affected communities  
3 regarding the impact of current statutes, ~~regulations~~ rules, and policies on the  
4 achievement of environmental justice.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 26. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

7 § 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

8 \* \* \*

9 (b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

10 \* \* \*

11 (9) Violations of 7 V.S.A. § 656, relating to illegal possession of  
12 alcoholic beverages and cannabis.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 27. 5 V.S.A. § 202 is amended to read:

15 § 202. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this part of this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

17 \* \* \*

18 (2) “Aeronautics instructor” means an individual engaged in giving  
19 instruction, or offering to give instruction, in aeronautics, either in flying or  
20 ground subjects, or both, for hire or reward, without advertising ~~his or her~~ the  
21 individual’s occupation; without calling ~~his or her~~ the individual’s facilities an

1 “air school” or anything equivalent; and without employing or using other  
2 instructors. ~~But it~~ “Aeronautics instructor” does not include an instructor in a  
3 public school or university of this State, or an institution of higher learning  
4 accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate work, while engaged in his  
5 ~~or her~~ the instructor’s duties as instructor.

6 \* \* \*

7 (26) “Structure” means any object constructed or installed by ~~man~~ a  
8 person, including buildings, towers, smokestacks, and overhead transmission  
9 lines.

10 Sec. 28. 6 V.S.A. § 4871(g) is amended to read:

11 (g) Identification; ranking of water quality needs.

12 (1) ~~Identification; ranking of water quality needs.~~ During an inspection  
13 of a small farm under this section, the Secretary shall identify areas where the  
14 farm could benefit from capital, structural, or technical assistance in order to  
15 improve or come into compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices and  
16 any applicable State water quality permit or certification required under this  
17 chapter.

18 (2) Notwithstanding the priority system established under section 4823  
19 of this title, the Secretary annually shall establish a priority ranking system for  
20 small farms according to the water quality benefit associated with the capital,

1 structural, or technical improvements identified as needed by the Secretary  
2 during an inspection of the farm.

3 (3) Notwithstanding the priority system established by subdivision (2)  
4 of this subsection, the Secretary may provide financial assistance to a small  
5 farm at any time, regardless of the priority ranking system, if the Secretary  
6 determines that the farm needs assistance to address a water quality issue that  
7 requires immediate abatement.

8 Sec. 29. 7 V.S.A. § 656 is amended to read:

9 § 656. PERSON 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND UNDER 21 YEARS  
10 OF AGE MISREPRESENTING AGE, PROCURING, POSSESSING,  
11 OR CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; IMPAIRED  
12 DRIVING; POSSESSION OF CANNABIS; CIVIL VIOLATION

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) Prohibited conduct; offenses.

15 \* \* \*

16 (3) Impaired driver penalties.

17 \* \* \*

18 (C) During a suspension issued pursuant to subdivision (A) or (B) of  
19 this subdivision (3), a person may operate a motor vehicle if issued an ignition  
20 interlock restricted driver's license or certificate in accordance with 23 V.S.A.  
21 § 1213.

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\* \* \*

(ii) A person subject to penalties under subdivision ~~(A)(i)~~(A)(ii) of this subdivision (b)(3) and who elects to operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate shall be reinstated only if the person operates with an ignition interlock RDL or certificate for a period of one year or until the person reaches 21 years of age, whichever is longer, in addition to any extension of this period arising from a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1213.

\* \* \*

Sec. 30. 8 V.S.A. § 3461 is amended to read:

§ 3461. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(13) “Equity interest” means any of the following that are not rated credit instruments:

\* \* \*

(K) instruments that would be rated credit instruments except for the provisions of subdivision ~~(39)(B)~~(38)(B) of this section.

\* \* \*

Sec. 31. 8 V.S.A. § 4064(b) is amended to read:

(b) ~~Definitions.~~ As used in this section:

\* \* \*

1 Sec. 32. 8 V.S.A. § 4071(c) is amended to read:

2 (c) ~~Cost sharing.~~ A health insurance plan shall not impose greater  
3 coinsurance, co-payment, deductible, or other cost-sharing requirements for  
4 coverage of gender-affirming health care services than apply to the diagnosis  
5 and treatment of any other physical or mental condition under the plan.

6 Sec. 33. 8 V.S.A. § 4072 is amended to read:

7 § 4072. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER  
8 SERVICES

9 \* \* \*

10 (d)(1)(A) A health insurance plan that does not otherwise provide for  
11 management of care under the plan, or that does not provide for the same  
12 degree of management of care for all health conditions, may provide coverage  
13 for treatment of mental conditions through a managed care organization,  
14 provided that the managed care organization is in compliance with rules  
15 adopted by the Commissioner that ensure that the system for delivery of  
16 treatment for mental conditions does not diminish or negate the purpose of this  
17 section. In reviewing policy rates and forms pursuant to section 4026 of this  
18 title, the Commissioner or the Green Mountain Care Board established in 18  
19 V.S.A. chapter 220, as appropriate, shall consider the compliance of the policy  
20 with the provisions of this section.

21 \* \* \*

1 (C) Prior to the adoption of rules pursuant to this subdivision (d)(1),  
2 the Commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Mental Health ~~and~~  
3 ~~the task force established pursuant to subsection (h) of this section~~ concerning:

4 \* \* \*

5 (e) To be eligible for coverage under this section, the service shall be  
6 rendered:

7 \* \* \*

8 (2) For treatment of substance ~~abuse~~ use disorder, either:

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 34. 8 V.S.A. § 4082(a)(3)(A) is amended to read:

11 (A) necessary to develop skills and abilities for the maximum  
12 reduction of physical or mental disability and for restoration of an individual  
13 to the individual's best functional level, or to ensure that an individual under  
14 21 years of age achieves proper growth and development; and

15 Sec. 35. 9 V.S.A. § 2287(b) is amended to read:

16 (b) For the purposes of subdivision 2288(a)(2) and section 2289 of this  
17 title, a person gives a reasonably equivalent value if the person acquires an  
18 interest of the debtor in an asset pursuant to a regularly conducted,  
19 ~~noneclusive~~ noncollusive foreclosure sale or execution of a power of sale for  
20 the acquisition or disposition of the interest of the debtor upon default under a  
21 mortgage, deed of trust, or security agreement.

1 Sec. 36. 9 V.S.A. § 2491 is amended to read:

2 § 2491. FINDINGS; ~~LEGISLATIVE INTENT~~

3 The General Assembly finds that:

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 37. 9 V.S.A. § 2494s is amended to read:

6 § 2494s. ~~SALE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT~~

7 ~~CONTAINING PFAS~~ PROHIBITED SALE OF PERSONAL

8 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CONTAINING PFAS

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 38. 9A V.S.A. § 1—301(c)(2) is amended to read:

11 (2) Sections 2A—105 and 2A—106. Applicability of ~~this~~ the Article on  
12 Leases;

13 Sec. 39. 9A V.S.A. § 5—109(b)(3) is amended to read:

14 (3) all of the conditions to entitle a person to the relief under the law of  
15 ~~this state~~ State have been met; and

16 Sec. 40. 9A V.S.A. § 8—110(d) is amended to read:

17 (d) “Issuer’s jurisdiction” means the jurisdiction under which the issuer of  
18 the security is organized or, if permitted by the law of that jurisdiction, the law  
19 of another jurisdiction specified by the issuer. An issuer organized under the  
20 law of ~~this state~~ State may specify the law of another jurisdiction as the law

1 governing the matters specified in subdivisions (a)(2) through (5) of this  
2 section.

3 Sec. 41. 9A V.S.A. § 9—316(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (e) of this section, a  
5 security interest in goods covered by a certificate of title which is perfected by  
6 any method under the law of another jurisdiction when the goods become  
7 covered by a certificate of title from this state State remains perfected until the  
8 security interest would have become unperfected under the law of the other  
9 jurisdiction had the goods not become so covered.

10 Sec. 42. 9A V.S.A. § 9—503(a)(4) is amended to read:

11 (4) subject to subsection (g) of this section, if the debtor is an individual  
12 to whom this state State has issued a driver's license that has not expired, only  
13 if the financing statement provides the name of the individual ~~which~~ that is  
14 indicated on the driver's license;

15 Sec. 43. 9A V.S.A. § 9—503(g) is amended to read:

16 (g) If this state State has issued to an individual more than one driver's  
17 license of a kind described in subdivision (a)(4) of this section, the one that  
18 was issued most recently is the one to which subdivision (a)(4) of this section  
19 refers.

20 Sec. 44. 9A V.S.A. § 9—514(c) is amended to read:

1 (c) An assignment of record of a security interest in a fixture covered by a  
2 record of a mortgage ~~which~~ that is effective as a financing statement filed as a  
3 fixture filing under subsection 9—502(c) of this title may be made only by an  
4 assignment of record of the mortgage in the manner provided by law of this  
5 ~~state~~ State other than this title.

6 Sec. 45. 9A V.S.A. § 9—706(a)(2) is amended to read:

7 (2) the preeffective-date financing statement was filed in an office in  
8 another state or another office in this ~~state~~ State; and

9 Sec. 46. 9A V.S.A. § 9—707(d) is amended to read:

10 (d) If the law of this ~~state~~ State governs perfection of a security interest, the  
11 effectiveness of a preeffective-date financing statement may be continued only  
12 under subsections 9—705(d) and (f) or section 9—706 of this title.

13 Sec. 47. 9A V.S.A. § 9—807 is amended to read:

14 § 9—807. AMENDMENT OF PRE-EFFECTIVE-DATE FINANCING

15 STATEMENT

16 \* \* \*

17 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, if the law  
18 of this State governs perfection of a security interest, the information in a ~~pre~~  
19 ~~effective-date~~ pre-effective-date financing statement may be amended after the  
20 Act takes effect only if:

21 \* \* \*

1 (e) Whether or not the law of this ~~state~~ State governs perfection of a  
2 security interest, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement  
3 filed in this State may be terminated after the Act takes effect by filing a  
4 termination statement in the office in which the pre-effective-date financing  
5 statement is filed, unless an initial financing statement that satisfies subsection  
6 9—806(c) of this title has been filed in the office specified by the law of the  
7 jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Article 9 of this title, as  
8 amended by the Act, as the office in which to file a financing statement.

9 Sec. 48. 10 V.S.A. § 577(b) is amended to read:

10 (b) As used in this section:

11 \* \* \*

12 (5) “Race” means a race or contest on an oval track ~~permitted under 26~~  
13 ~~V.S.A. § 4802~~ involving a motor vehicle at which prizes or other consideration  
14 is awarded to participants or admission is charged to spectators. However, this  
15 subdivision shall not apply to sports car events ~~as that term is defined in 26~~  
16 ~~V.S.A. § 4801~~.

17 (6) “Sports car event” means an event in which one motor vehicle at a  
18 time competes over a defined course against a set standard, including standards  
19 as to time, distance, and performance. Sports car events include rallies,  
20 gymkhanas, hill climbs, and performance trials.

21 Sec. 49. 10 V.S.A. § 1266b(a)(2) is amended to read:

1           (2) “Fertilizer” ~~shall have~~ has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. ~~§ 363(5)~~  
2           § 363(7).

3           Sec. 50. 10 V.S.A. § 4255(c)(8) is amended to read:

4           (8) A person with developmental disabilities who is a Vermont resident  
5           may receive a free permanent fishing license upon submission to the  
6           Commissioner of a statement signed by the person’s treating health care  
7           provider, as that term is defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402, certifying that the person  
8           meets the definition of a person with ~~development~~ developmental disabilities.  
9           “A person with developmental disabilities” has the same meaning as in 18  
10          V.S.A. § 9302.

11          Sec. 51. 10 V.S.A. § 6085(e) is amended to read:

12          (e) The Land Use Review Board and any District Commission, acting  
13          through one or more duly authorized representatives at any prehearing  
14          conference or at any other times deemed appropriate by the ~~Natural Resources~~  
15          Board or by the District Commission, shall promote expeditious, informal, and  
16          nonadversarial resolution of issues, require the timely exchange of information  
17          concerning the application, and encourage participants to settle differences.  
18          No District Commissioner who is participating as a ~~decisionmaker~~ decision-  
19          maker in a particular case may act as a duly authorized representative for the  
20          purposes of this subsection. These efforts at dispute resolution shall not affect  
21          the burden of proof on issues before a Commission or the Environmental

1 Division, nor shall they affect the requirement that a permit may be issued  
2 only after the issuance of affirmative findings under the criteria established in  
3 section 6086 of this title.

4 Sec. 52. 10 V.S.A. §7184(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) Stewardship organization fees. A stewardship organization is  
6 authorized to charge its members reasonable fees for the organization,  
7 administration, and implementation of the programs required by this chapter.

8 Sec. 53. 10 V.S.A. § 8004 is amended to read:

9 § 8004. ENFORCEMENT OF ACT 250

10 In addition to the enforcement of chapter 151 of this title on the Secretary's  
11 initiative, the Secretary shall institute enforcement proceedings under chapter  
12 151 when requested by the ~~Natural Resources~~ Land Use Review Board. The  
13 Secretary and the Land Use Review Board shall develop procedures for the  
14 cooperative enforcement of chapter 151 of this title.

15 Sec. 54. 10 V.S.A. § 8007 is amended to read:

16 § 8007. ASSURANCES OF DISCONTINUANCE

17 (a) As an alternative to administrative or judicial proceedings, the  
18 Secretary, or the ~~Natural Resources~~ Land Use Review Board, may accept from  
19 a respondent an assurance of discontinuance of a violation. An assurance of  
20 discontinuance shall include:

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 55. 11 V.S.A. § 1639 is amended to read:

2 § 1639. FORMS; PROCEDURES; RULES

3 The Secretary of State may adopt forms, procedures, and rules to  
4 implement the processes and provisions of governing business registration in  
5 this State.

6 Sec. 56. 16 V.S.A. § 1388 is amended to read:

7 § 1388. STOCK SUPPLY AND EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF  
8 EPINEPHRINE

9 (a) As used in this section:

10 \* \* \*

11 (6) “School nurse” means a school nurse or associate school nurse  
12 endorsed by the Agency of Education pursuant to the Agency of Education,  
13 Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals rule  
14 (CVR 22-000-010) or ~~registered nurses~~ a registered nurse certified through the  
15 Office of Professional Regulation and contracted to perform the duties of a  
16 school nurse.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 57. 16 V.S.A. § 1480(d) is amended to read:

19 (d) The template maintained by the Vermont School Safety Center shall  
20 include, at a minimum, hazard-specific provisions for:

1 (1) Acute cardiac events in schools, including protocols that address:

2 (A) the use and maintenance of automated external defibrillator

3 (AED) devices;

4 (B) the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest during

5 school activities or within school or district facilities, which shall be consistent

6 with nationally recognized, evidence-based standards;

7 (C) the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents

8 involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-

9 threatening emergency while on school grounds;

10 (D) implementation of AED placement and routine maintenance

11 within each school or district facility, which shall be consistent with applicable

12 nationally recognized, evidence-based standards, and which shall include a

13 requirement for clearly marked and easily accessible AEDs at each athletic

14 venue where practices or competitions are held; and

15 (E) required staff training in CPR and AED use and practice drills

16 regarding the cardiac response plan; and

17 (2) An athletic emergency action plan (AEAP) for all public or

18 approved and recognized independent schools with an athletic department or

19 organized athletic program. The AEAP shall detail the steps to be taken in

20 response to a serious or life-threatening injury of a student participating in

21 sports or other athletic activities. The AEAP established by public and

1 independent schools pursuant to this subdivision shall be consistent with the  
2 athletic emergency action plans policy established by the Vermont Principals'  
3 Association.

4 Sec. 58. 17 V.S.A. chapter 31 is amended to read:

5 CHAPTER 31. CONVENTIONS TO AMEND U.S. CONSTITUTION

6 § 1811. GOVERNOR TO CALL

7 Whenever the Congress of the United States shall submit to the several  
8 states an amendment to the U.S. Constitution of the United States, and  
9 pursuant to Article V of ~~such~~ the U.S. Constitution shall provide that ~~such~~ the  
10 amendment be acted upon by conventions in the several states, the Governor,  
11 within 60 days after ~~such~~ the amendment has been officially transmitted from  
12 the United States to this State, shall issue a call for the election of delegates to  
13 a convention to act upon ~~such~~ the amendment. ~~He or she~~ The Governor shall  
14 set the date for the election of delegates and the date and hour for the holding  
15 of ~~such~~ the convention.

16 § 1812. COMPOSITION OF CONVENTION

17 The convention shall be composed of 14 delegates elected at large by the  
18 qualified voters of Vermont. It shall meet in the Senate chamber of the ~~capitol~~  
19 at State House in Montpelier. The date for the holding of ~~such~~ the convention  
20 shall be not less than 20 nor more than 30 days after the election of delegates.

1 § 1813. ELECTION OF DELEGATES

2 The election of delegates shall take place not less than three nor more than  
3 12 months after the call, but in no case shall it occur within 40 days of before  
4 the date fixed by law for a general or primary election.

5 § 1814. APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATES

6 Not less than 30 days before the date of the election of delegates, the  
7 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives, or in case of incapacity of any one of them, the Secretary of  
9 State in ~~his or her~~ that person's stead, shall appoint and forthwith announce the  
10 names of 28 candidates for delegates, ~~such~~ the candidates being in their  
11 opinion representative citizens of Vermont. Fourteen of these candidates shall  
12 be persons who assent to the placing of their names on the ballots as "For  
13 Ratification," and 14 shall be persons who assent to the placing of their names  
14 on the ballot as "Against Ratification." One candidate for ratification and one  
15 candidate against ratification shall be appointed from each county in the State.

16 § 1815. ACCEPTANCE OF CANDIDACY

17 On accepting ~~such~~ the designation each candidate shall file ~~his or her~~ the  
18 candidate's acceptance as follows:

19 "I do hereby accept this appointment as candidate for delegate to the  
20 convention to be held on the ..... day of .....; and assent

1 to the placing of my name on the ballot as For Ratification or Against  
2 Ratification.

3 Signed .....

4 \* \* \*

5 § 1818. CHECKLIST TO BE USED

6 The ~~check list~~ checklist used in the last preceding general election shall  
7 apply, but may be revised as now provided by law for ~~check lists~~ checklists  
8 used at general elections. The polls for this election shall open at ~~10~~ 10:00  
9 a.m. and close at ~~8~~ 8:00 p.m.

10 § 1819. CANVASSING BOARD

11 The Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
12 the Secretary of State shall canvass the ballots, declaring elected the 14  
13 candidates who have received the greatest number of votes, and the Secretary  
14 of State shall publish the results. The Secretary of State, upon the completion  
15 of the canvass, shall mail or deliver in person to each delegate so elected a  
16 notice ~~thereof~~ of election, and ~~such~~ the delegates so elected shall be members  
17 of the convention.

18 § 1820. GENERAL ELECTION LAW TO APPLY; EXPENSE OF  
19 ELECTION

20 Expenses of ~~such~~ the election shall be paid by the State or town as in the  
21 case of general elections. The statutory provisions as to holding general

1 elections, furnishing ballots, instructions and forms, appointment and payment  
2 of election officers, filling of vacancies, solicitation of voters at the polls,  
3 challenging of voters, manner of conducting elections, counting and preserving  
4 the ballots and making ballot returns ~~thereof~~, and all other kindred subjects  
5 shall apply to ~~such~~ the elections insofar as they are consistent with this chapter,  
6 it being the intent of this chapter to place ~~such~~ the elections under the  
7 regulation and protection of the laws relating to general elections.

8 § 1821. CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER

9 The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed so that the real  
10 will of the voters shall not be defeated and so that the voters shall not be  
11 deprived of their right because of informality or failure to comply with  
12 provisions of law as to notice or conduct of the election or of certifying the  
13 results ~~thereof~~ of the election.

14 \* \* \*

15 § 1823. QUORUM; SECRETARY

16 A majority of the delegates shall constitute a quorum to do business, when  
17 convened according to the provisions of this chapter. The Secretary of State  
18 shall be ex officio Secretary of the convention and, with the Chair of the  
19 convention, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall certify the vote of the convention to  
20 the Secretary of State of the United States.

21 \* \* \*

1 § 1825. EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESCRIPTION OF THE  
2 MANNER OF HOLDING CONVENTIONS

3 If, on or about the time of submitting any such amendment, Congress, in  
4 the resolution submitting the ~~same~~ amendment, or by statute, shall prescribe  
5 the manner in which the conventions shall be constituted, the preceding  
6 provisions of this chapter shall be inoperative. The convention shall be  
7 constituted and shall operate as the resolution or act of Congress shall direct,  
8 and all officers of the State who may by the resolution or statute be authorized  
9 or directed to take any action to constitute such a convention for this State are  
10 hereby authorized and directed to act ~~thereunder~~ under and in conformity  
11 ~~thereto~~ with the resolution or statute, with the same force and effect as if acting  
12 under a statute of this State.

13 Sec. 59. 17 V.S.A. § 1891 is amended to read:

14 § 1891. STATEMENT OF POLICY

15 The order of the U.S. District Court for the district of Vermont entered  
16 August 3, 1964, modified and affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United  
17 States, January 12, 1965 (*Parsons v. Buckley*, 85 S.Ct. 503, 379 U.S. 359  
18 (1965), 13 L.Ed.2d 352), requires that both houses of the Vermont General  
19 Assembly ~~of Vermont~~ be apportioned and districted on a basis other than the  
20 manner provided for in the Constitution of this State. ~~Such~~ The order further  
21 provides that if reapportionment legislation is not enacted by July 1, 1965, the

1 district court shall reapportion the General Assembly so as to comply with the  
2 Equal Protection Clause of the ~~Fourteenth~~ 14th Amendment to the U.S.  
3 Constitution. In the light of this order, the Vermont General Assembly of  
4 ~~Vermont~~ declares that apportioning and districting is primarily a responsibility  
5 of the ~~Legislature~~ General Assembly at this time to be accomplished by this  
6 chapter, and in such a manner as to achieve substantial equality in the choice  
7 of members of the General Assembly as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution  
8 ~~of the United States of America~~. It is further declared to be the policy of the  
9 State of Vermont that the constitutional basis of apportionment of the House of  
10 Representatives can best be measured in this State by population.

11 Sec. 60. 17 V.S.A. chapter 34A is amended to read:

12 CHAPTER 34A. PERIODIC REAPPORTIONMENT

13 § 1901. PURPOSE

14 \* \* \*

15 (b) To comply with ~~such~~ that requirement it will be necessary to  
16 reapportion the House of Representatives and the Senate at periodic intervals,  
17 so that changes may be recognized in legislative apportionment.

18 (c) It is the purpose of this chapter to achieve ~~such~~ reapportionment in an  
19 orderly and impartial manner.

20 \* \* \*

1 § 1903. PERIODIC REAPPORTIONMENT; STANDARDS

2 (a) The House of Representatives and the Senate shall be reapportioned  
3 and redistricted on the basis of population during the biennial session after the  
4 taking of each decennial census of the United States, or after a census taken for  
5 the purpose of ~~such~~ reapportionment under the authority of this State.

6 \* \* \*

7 § 1904. LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT BOARD

8 (a) There is hereby created the Legislative Apportionment Board,  
9 consisting of: a special master designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
10 Court; one resident of the State of Vermont for five years immediately  
11 preceding the appointment, appointed by the Governor from each political  
12 party that has had more than three members serve as members of the General  
13 Assembly, who are not all from the same county, for at least three of the five  
14 biennial legislative sessions since the taking of the previous decennial census  
15 of the United States; and one resident of the State of Vermont for the five years  
16 immediately preceding the appointment, elected by the State committee of  
17 each of those political parties, a quorum of each committee being present and  
18 voting. No member of the Board shall serve as a member or employee of the  
19 General Assembly, or of either house thereof. The special master so  
20 designated shall be Chair of the Board, and shall call such meetings as may be  
21 necessary for the accomplishment of the duties of the Board ~~hereafter set forth~~

1 pursuant to this chapter. The Vermont Secretary of State of ~~Vermont~~ shall be  
2 secretary of the Board, but shall have no vote. For the purpose of determining  
3 representation of a political party under this section, if a candidate for election  
4 to the General Assembly accepted a nomination from more than one political  
5 party, that candidate's party affiliation shall be only that political party to  
6 which ~~he or she~~ the candidate filed a petition for nomination.

7 \* \* \*

8 (c) For administrative purposes, the Board shall be part of the office of the  
9 Secretary of State, and funds for the Board's operation shall be appropriated  
10 for the Secretary of State, provided, however, that expenditures of ~~such~~ the  
11 appropriation shall be directed by the Board.

12 \* \* \*

13 (e) The Board may employ or contract for ~~such~~ expert assistants or  
14 services, or both, as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

15 \* \* \*

16 § 1906. INITIAL DISTRICTS; FINAL PROPOSAL; FINAL PLAN

17 Upon receiving recommendations made under section 1905 of this title, the  
18 Board shall consider the same, and shall, not later than August 15, prepare a  
19 final proposal for dividing the State into initial districts for the election of 150  
20 Representatives. The Chair of the Board shall, on or before August 15,  
21 transmit ~~such~~ the proposal to the Clerk of the House, and the proposal shall

1 then be referred to the appropriate committee. The General Assembly shall  
2 then accept the proposal and enact it into law or substitute another plan for  
3 reapportionment; provided, however, that:

4 \* \* \*

5 § 1906a. FINAL DIVISION INTO REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS

6 \* \* \*

7 (b) Each initial district listed in section 1893 of this title that is entitled to  
8 elect two Representatives shall constitute a representative district and may  
9 elect two Representatives at elections for Representatives until the next  
10 reapportionment, unless ~~such~~ the district is divided into two single-member  
11 representative districts as provided in section 1906b of this title, in which case  
12 the resulting single-member representative districts shall each be entitled to  
13 elect one Representative at elections for Representatives until the next  
14 reapportionment.

15 \* \* \*

16 § 1907. SENATE APPORTIONMENT

17 (a)(1) On or before July 1 of each year following the taking of a decennial  
18 census under the authority of Congress, the Board shall prepare a proposal for  
19 reapportionment of the Senate, apportioning the 30 senatorial seats among the  
20 counties or combinations of counties with a maximum of three members in  
21 each proposed district, and in such manner as to achieve substantial equality in

1 the choice of members as guaranteed by the Equal Protection Clause of the  
2 ~~Fourteenth~~ 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

3 (2) The Chair of the Board shall transmit ~~such~~ the proposal to the  
4 Secretary of the Senate and it shall be referred to the appropriate committee.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 61. 17 V.S.A. § 2145 is amended to read:

7 § 2145. APPLICATION FORMS

8 (a) The voter registration application shall be in the form approved by the  
9 Federal Election Commission or by the Secretary of State. The application  
10 form approved by the Secretary shall include:

11 (1) A place for the applicant to swear or affirm, by checking the  
12 appropriate box, that ~~he or she~~ the applicant meets all voter eligibility  
13 requirements set forth in section 2121 of this title and a place for the signature  
14 of the applicant affirming, under penalty of perjury, that all information  
15 submitted by the applicant is accurate and truthful. The affirmation shall  
16 include the following information:

17 \* \* \*

18 (D)(i) If the applicant has been issued a current and valid driver's  
19 license or nondriver's identification, the applicant's driver's license number or  
20 nondriver's identification number;



1 the town clerk, but who has not returned the voter's voted ballot to the clerk,  
2 may vote in person at the polling place on election day.

3 \* \* \*

4 (3) If the voter brings the marked ballot, but it is not enclosed in the  
5 certificate envelope, the voter shall be marked off the checklist and be allowed  
6 to cast that ballot into the secure ballot box or tabulator in the same manner as  
7 other voters who are voting in the polling place. The clerk shall record ~~any~~  
8 ~~such~~ the voter as having voted in person on election day in the online election  
9 management system.

10 (4) If the voter brings the unmarked ballot, the voter shall be marked off  
11 the checklist and allowed to proceed to a voting booth to mark that ballot and  
12 cast it into the ballot box or tabulator in the same manner as other voters who  
13 are voting in the polling place. The presiding officer may choose to provide  
14 ~~any such~~ the voter with a new ballot in exchange for the unvoted ballot that the  
15 voter brought to the polls. The clerk shall record ~~any such~~ the voter as having  
16 voted in person on election day in the online election management system.

17 (5) If the voter does not bring a marked or an unmarked ballot with  
18 ~~them~~ to the polls, the voter shall be required to sign an affidavit that the voter  
19 has not previously cast a ballot in the election and only then shall ~~they~~ the  
20 voter be checked off the checklist and allowed to vote in the same manner as  
21 all other voters who are voting at the polling place. The clerk shall record ~~any~~



1 (a)(1)(A) Each organized political party, each candidate on the ballot not  
2 representing an organized political party, and each committee supporting or  
3 opposing any public question on the ballot shall have the right to have not  
4 more than two representatives for each voting district, in a polling place but  
5 outside the guardrail, for the purpose of observing the voting process and  
6 challenging the right of any person to vote.

7 (B) In no event shall ~~sueh~~ the representatives be permitted to  
8 interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, and the presiding officer  
9 shall have authority to impose reasonable rules for the preservation of order.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 66. 17 V.S.A. § 2586 is amended to read:

12 § 2586. TALLY SHEETS; SUMMARY SHEETS; RETURNS

13 The Secretary of State shall design, prepare, and distribute a sufficient  
14 supply of the following forms, which may be used in each polling place during  
15 the counting process:

16 \* \* \*

17 (2) Summary sheets. These sheets shall be used to record the totals  
18 shown on all tally sheets in the polling place for each office or public question,  
19 and the sum of ~~sueh~~ the totals. They shall provide a place to identify the office  
20 or public question, the candidates, and the signatures of the presiding officer  
21 and at least one other election official.

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\* \* \*

Sec. 67. 17 V.S.A. § 2590 is amended to read:

§ 2590. SECURING AND STORING BALLOTS, TALLY SHEETS, AND  
CHECKLISTS

\* \* \*

(b) The Secretary of State shall furnish to all town clerks sufficient quantities of uniform-style containers. The Secretary shall establish a method by which the outside of each container shall indicate the contents of the container, the town to which it belongs, and ~~such~~ any other pertinent information as may be required.

\* \* \*

(d) Except as otherwise provided by federal law, all ballots and tally sheets shall be retained for a period of 90 days ~~from~~ following the date of the election, after which time they may be destroyed; provided, however, that if a court order is entered prior to the expiration of the 90-day period, ordering some different disposition of the ballots, the town clerk shall abide by ~~such~~ the order.

\* \* \*

Sec. 68. 17 V.S.A. § 2592 is amended to read:

§ 2592. CANVASSING COMMITTEES; CANVASS OF VOTES IN  
GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTIONS

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\* \* \*

(j) The certificate shall be a sufficient credential of ~~such~~ the person's election, unless superseded by a court order as provided by subchapter 9 of this chapter.

\* \* \*

Sec. 69. 17 V.S.A. § 2602c is amended to read:

§ 2602c. PREPARATION FOR RECOUNT; GENERAL RULES

\* \* \*

(b) Preliminary requirements. Before the recount begins and any containers are opened:

(1) Explaining procedures. The county clerk shall explain the recount procedures that are to be followed and shall answer questions relating to ~~such~~ the procedures.

(2) Blank ballots; vote tabulator test.

(A) The county clerk shall obtain blank ballots from the town clerks of the towns subject to the recount. These blank ballots shall be used as test ballots to perform the vote tabulator test described in this subdivision (2).

(B)(i) The vote tabulator team shall perform a test of the vote tabulators that will be used by marking and feeding into each tabulator a minimum of 10 test ballots. The test ballots shall be marked with various votes for each candidate for the office subject to the recount.



1 (f) After ~~such~~ the hearings or arguments as may be indicated under the  
2 circumstances and after it has made a final decision on any questionable votes  
3 or defective ballots, the Superior Court, within five working days, shall:

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 72. 17 V.S.A. § 2603 is amended to read:

6 § 2603. CONTEST OF ELECTIONS

7 \* \* \*

8 (d) The Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply to contests of  
9 elections, except that ~~such~~ the cases shall be placed upon a special calendar,  
10 and hearings shall be scheduled on a priority basis, as public policy demands  
11 that ~~such~~ the questions be resolved promptly.

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 73. 17 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:

14 § 2605. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

15 \* \* \*

16 (b)(1) The Secretary of State shall notify the Attorney General, who shall  
17 investigate the facts, take ~~such~~ depositions as may be necessary, prepare an  
18 opinion on the law and facts, and send ~~his or her~~ a report and opinion to the  
19 Clerk of the House at least 10 days before the General Assembly convenes.

20 (2) If the Attorney General needs additional time to conduct the  
21 investigation or prepare the report and opinion required by this subsection, ~~he~~

1 ~~or she~~ the Attorney General shall alert the Clerk of the House of that need and  
2 the date by which ~~he or she~~ the Attorney General plans to submit the report  
3 and opinion.

4 Sec. 74. 17 V.S.A. § 2606 is amended to read:

5 § 2606. SENATE

6 \* \* \*

7 (b)(1) The Secretary of State shall notify the Attorney General, who shall  
8 investigate the facts, take ~~such~~ depositions as may be necessary, prepare an  
9 opinion on the law and facts, and send ~~his or her~~ a report and opinion to the  
10 Secretary of the Senate at least 10 days before the General Assembly  
11 convenes.

12 (2) If the Attorney General needs additional time to conduct the  
13 investigation or prepare the report and opinion required by this subsection, ~~he~~  
14 ~~or she~~ the Attorney General shall alert the Secretary of the Senate of that need  
15 and the date by which ~~he or she~~ the Attorney General plans to submit the  
16 report and opinion.

17 Sec. 75. 17 V.S.A. § 2616 is amended to read:

18 § 2616. JURISDICTION TO PROSECUTE CRIMINAL OFFENSES

19 The State's Attorney in any county in which all or a part of any violation of  
20 this title was committed shall have authority to prosecute ~~such~~ any violations.

1 The prosecution shall be conducted before the Vermont Criminal Division of  
2 the Superior Court.

3 Sec. 76. 17 V.S.A. § 2630 is amended to read:

4 § 2630. APPLICABILITY

5 Except as otherwise provided, and to the extent that ~~such~~ a construction  
6 would be reasonable, the provisions of this title shall apply to this chapter.

7 Sec. 77. 17 V.S.A. § 2631 is amended to read:

8 § 2631. MUNICIPAL CHARTERS

9 (a) Unless otherwise provided by law, when the charter of a municipality  
10 provides for procedures other than those established by law, the provisions of  
11 that charter shall prevail.

12 (b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, all provisions of  
13 law relating to a municipality shall apply to ~~such~~ a municipality with a charter.

14 Sec. 78. 17 V.S.A. § 2640 is amended to read:

15 § 2640. ANNUAL MEETINGS

16 (a) A meeting of the legal voters of each town shall be held annually on the  
17 first Tuesday of March for the election of officers and the transaction of other  
18 business, and it may be adjourned to another date. When a municipality fails  
19 to hold an annual meeting, a warning for a subsequent meeting shall be issued  
20 immediately, and at that meeting all the officers required by law may be  
21 elected and its business transacted.

1 (b)(1) When a town so votes, it may thereafter start its annual meeting on  
2 any of the three days immediately preceding the first Tuesday in March at such  
3 a time as it elects and may transact at that time any business not involving  
4 voting by Australian ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot and to be  
5 held on the first Tuesday in March. A meeting so started shall be adjourned  
6 until the first Tuesday in March.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 79. 17 V.S.A. § 2640a is amended to read:

9 § 2640a. REPRESENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETINGS

10 \* \* \*

11 (b)(1) A representative form of annual or special meeting is a meeting of  
12 members elected by district to exercise the powers vested in the voters of the  
13 town to act upon articles. However, the election of officers, public questions,  
14 and all articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot as required by law or as  
15 voted under section 2680 of this title at a prior annual or special meeting, and  
16 reconsideration of articles under section 2661 of this title, shall remain vested  
17 in the voters of the town.

18 (2) An organizational resolution to adopt a representative form of  
19 annual or special meeting may be made by the legislative body of the  
20 municipality or by petition of five percent of the voters of the municipality.  
21 An official copy of the organizational resolution shall be filed in the office of

1 the clerk of the municipality at least 10 days before the annual or special  
2 meeting at which the vote whether to adopt the organizational resolution shall  
3 take place, and copies ~~thereof~~ of the organizational resolution shall be made  
4 available to members of the public upon request.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 80. 17 V.S.A. § 2641 is amended to read:

7 § 2641. WARNING AND NOTICE REQUIRED; PUBLICATION OF  
8 WARNINGS

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) In addition, the warning shall be published in a newspaper of general  
11 circulation in the municipality at least five days before the meeting, unless the  
12 warning is published in the town report and distributed as provided in  
13 24 V.S.A. § 1682. The legislative body annually shall designate the paper in  
14 which ~~such a~~ the warning may be published. The warning shall also be posted  
15 on the municipality's website, if the municipality actively updates its website  
16 on a regular basis.

17 (c) No ~~such~~ warning shall be required for municipal informational  
18 meetings at which no voting is to take place.

19 Sec. 81. 17 V.S.A. § 2645 is amended to read:

20 § 2645. CHARTERS; ADOPTION, REPEAL, OR AMENDMENT;  
21 PROCEDURE

1 (a) A municipality may propose to the General Assembly to adopt, repeal,  
2 or amend its charter by majority vote of the legal voters of the municipality  
3 present and voting at any annual or special meeting warned for that purpose in  
4 accordance with the following procedure:

5 \* \* \*

6 (2) An official copy of the charter proposal shall be filed as a public  
7 record in the office of the clerk of the municipality at least 10 days before the  
8 first public hearing. The clerk shall certify the date on which ~~he or she~~ the  
9 clerk received the official copy, and the dated copies ~~thereof~~ of the charter  
10 proposal shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

11 \* \* \*

12 (4)(A) If the charter proposal is made by the legislative body, the  
13 legislative body may revise the proposal as a result of suggestions and  
14 recommendations made at a public hearing, but in no event shall ~~such~~ any  
15 revisions be made less than 20 days before the date of the meeting to vote on  
16 the charter proposal.

17 (B) If revisions are made, the legislative body shall post a notice of  
18 these revisions in the same places as the warning for the meeting not less than  
19 20 days before the date of the meeting and shall attach ~~such~~ the revisions to the  
20 official copy kept on file for public inspection in the office of the clerk of the  
21 municipality.

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\* \* \*

(6)(A) Notice of each public hearing and of the annual or special meeting shall be given in accordance with section 2641 of this chapter.

(B)(i) Each notice shall specify the charter sections to be adopted, repealed, or amended, setting out those sections in the amended form, with deleted matter struck through and new matter underlined.

(ii) If the legislative body of the municipality determines that the charter proposal is too long or unwieldy to set out in amended form, the notice shall include a concise summary of the charter proposal and shall state that an official copy of the charter proposal is on file for public inspection in the office of the clerk of the municipality and that official copies thereof of the charter proposal shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

\* \* \*

Sec. 82. 17 V.S.A. § 2651 is amended to read:

§ 2651. ROAD AND WATER COMMISSIONERS; APPOINTMENT,  
REMOVAL

\* \* \*

(b) Unless the town votes to elect water commissioners, the selectboard shall appoint forthwith ~~no less~~ not fewer than three nor more than five water commissioners, unless there is no existing, or prospective, municipal water

1 system for ~~such~~ the commissioners to supervise. The selectboard may remove  
2 an appointed water commissioner from office for just cause after due notice  
3 and hearing. The selectboard may appoint members of their own board to  
4 serve as water commissioners.

5 Sec. 83. 17 V.S.A. § 2651a is amended to read:

6 § 2651a. CONSTABLES; APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL; ELIMINATION  
7 OF OFFICE

8 (a)(1) A town may vote by Australian ballot at an annual meeting to  
9 authorize the selectboard to appoint a first constable, and if needed a second  
10 constable, in which case at least a first constable shall be appointed.

11 \* \* \*

12 (3) When a town votes to authorize the selectboard to appoint  
13 constables, the selectboard's authority to make ~~such~~ the appointments shall  
14 remain in effect until the town rescinds that authority by the majority vote of  
15 the registered voters present and voting at an annual meeting duly warned for  
16 that purpose.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 84. 17 V.S.A. § 2651b is amended to read:

19 § 2651b. ELIMINATION OF OFFICE OF AUDITOR; APPOINTMENT OF  
20 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

21 \* \* \*

1 (b) The term of office of any auditor in office on the date a town votes to  
2 eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after ~~such~~ the vote or on the  
3 date upon which the selectboard enters into a contract with a public accountant  
4 under this section, whichever occurs first.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 85. 17 V.S.A. § 2651c is amended to read:

7 § 2651c. LACK OF ELECTED LISTER; APPOINTMENT OF LISTER;  
8 ELIMINATION OF OFFICE; HIRING ASSESSORS

9 \* \* \*

10 (b)(1) A town may vote by ballot at an annual meeting to eliminate the  
11 office of lister.

12 (2)(A) If a town votes to eliminate the office of lister, the selectboard  
13 shall notify the Director of Property Valuation and Review within 14 days and  
14 employ or contract a professionally qualified assessor, who, prior to  
15 conducting any work, shall meet the training requirements established by the  
16 Director under 32 V.S.A. § 4052 and need not be a resident of the town.

17 (B) The assessor shall have the same powers, discharge the same  
18 duties, proceed in the discharge ~~thereof~~ of those duties in the same manner,  
19 and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of  
20 listers under the provisions of Title 32.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 86. 17 V.S.A. § 2651d is amended to read:

2 § 2651d. COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES; APPOINTMENT;

3 REMOVAL

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) When a municipality votes to authorize the legislative body to appoint a  
6 collector of delinquent taxes, the legislative body's authority to make ~~such~~ the  
7 appointment shall remain in effect until the municipality rescinds that authority  
8 by the majority vote of the registered voters present and voting at an annual or  
9 special meeting, duly warned for that purpose.

10 Sec. 87. 17 V.S.A. § 2658 is amended to read:

11 § 2658. DUTIES

12 The moderator shall be the presiding officer of municipal meetings, shall  
13 decide questions of order and shall make public declaration of votes taken,  
14 except in elections using the Australian ballot system. When a vote declared  
15 by ~~him or her~~ the moderator is immediately questioned by one voter, ~~he or she~~  
16 the moderator shall divide the meeting, and if requested by seven voters, shall  
17 cause the vote to be taken by paper ballot, unless the town has provided some  
18 other procedure ~~in such cases~~. Robert's Rules or some other rules of order  
19 shall govern all municipal meetings, except in elections using the Australian  
20 ballot system.

1 Sec. 88. 17 V.S.A. § 2660 is amended to read:

2 § 2660. CONDUCT OF ELECTION

3 (a) When voting is at a floor meeting by paper ballot, the polls shall be  
4 kept open a reasonable time and reasonable notice shall be given before they  
5 close.

6 (b) When election is by ballot, a majority of all votes cast for any office  
7 shall be required for an election, unless otherwise provided by law; provided  
8 that when there is ~~but~~ only one nominee for an office, unless objection is  
9 made, the legal voters may vote to instruct the town clerk to cast one ballot for  
10 ~~such~~ the nominee and upon ~~such~~ the ballot being cast ~~he or she~~ the nominee  
11 shall be declared elected.

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 89. 17 V.S.A. § 2661 is amended to read:

14 § 2661. RECONSIDERATION OR RESCISSION OF VOTE

15 (a) A warned article voted on at an annual or special meeting of a  
16 municipality shall not be submitted to the voters for reconsideration or  
17 rescission at the same meeting after the assembly has begun consideration of  
18 another article. If the voters have begun consideration of another article, the  
19 original article may only be submitted to the voters at a subsequent annual or  
20 special meeting duly warned for the purpose and called by the legislative body  
21 on its own motion or pursuant to a petition requesting ~~such~~ a reconsideration

1 or rescission signed and submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this  
2 section. A vote taken at an annual or special meeting shall remain in effect  
3 unless rescinded or amended.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 90. 17 V.S.A. § 2663 is amended to read:

6 § 2663. CERTIFICATE OF VOTE

7 Whenever an act of the General Assembly by its provisions takes effect  
8 only when accepted by vote of a municipality, the clerk of the municipality  
9 shall certify within 10 days to the Secretary of State the result of ~~such~~ the vote.

10 Sec. 91. 17 V.S.A. § 2664 is amended to read:

11 § 2664. BUDGET

12 At its annual meeting, a town shall vote ~~such~~ any sums of money as it  
13 deems necessary for the interest of its inhabitants and for the prosecution and  
14 defense of the common rights. It shall express in its vote the specific amounts,  
15 or the rate on a dollar of the grand list, to be appropriated for laying out and  
16 repairing highways and for other necessary town expenses. If a town votes  
17 specific amounts in lieu of a rate on a dollar of the grand list, the selectboard  
18 shall, after the grand list book has been computed and lodged in the office of  
19 the town clerk, set the tax rate necessary to raise the specific amounts voted.  
20 The selectboard may apply for grants and may accept and expend grants or  
21 gifts above those that are approved in the town budget. The selectboard shall

1 include, in its annual report, a description of all grants or gifts accepted during  
2 the year and associated expenditures.

3 Sec. 92. 17 V.S.A. § 2667 is amended to read:

4 § 2667. ACCESS TO ANNUAL MEETING

5 The legislative body of the municipality shall take reasonable measures to  
6 ensure that voters who are elders or have a disability may conveniently attend  
7 annual or special meetings; provided, however, that ~~such~~ the measures need  
8 not be taken if doing so would impose undue hardship on the town. Measures  
9 may include location of meetings on the ground floor of buildings or providing  
10 ramps or other devices for access to meetings. In municipal elections using the  
11 Australian ballot system of voting, subsection 2502(b) of this title shall apply.  
12 For the purposes of this section, the legislative body shall have full jurisdiction  
13 on the day of the municipal meeting over the premises at which the town  
14 meeting is to be held.

15 Sec. 93. 17 V.S.A. § 2680 is amended to read:

16 § 2680. AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM; GENERAL

17 \* \* \*

18 (g) Early and absentee voting. At the time the Australian ballots are  
19 available, which shall be not less than 20 days before the election, early and  
20 absentee voting shall be permitted in accordance with chapter 51, subchapter 6  
21 of this title.



1 political party whose certificate of organization has been filed properly with  
2 the Secretary of State unless the candidate has been endorsed by a legally  
3 called town caucus of that political party for the office in question. In any  
4 event, the candidate must still file the petition and consent form required by  
5 section 2681 of this title.

6 \* \* \*

7 Sec. 95. 17 V.S.A. § 2685a is amended to read:

8 § 2685a. PROCEDURE FOR RECOUNT

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) Preparation for recount.

11 (1) Before the recount begins, the town clerk shall explain the recount  
12 procedures that are to be followed and shall answer questions relating to such  
13 the procedures.

14 (2) The election officials shall recount the contents of one container  
15 before another container is opened and shall recount the contents of all the  
16 containers relating to one polling place before moving to those of another  
17 polling place.

18 \* \* \*

19 Sec. 96. 17 V.S.A. § 2703 is amended to read:

20 § 2703. EXAMINING PETITIONS; SUPPLEMENTARY PETITIONS



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\* \* \*

(b)(1) If there is a vacancy in the electoral college on that day, occasioned by death, refusal to act, neglect to attend, failure of a person elected to qualify, or for other cause, the other electors present shall at once fill ~~such~~ the vacancy viva voce and by a plurality of votes.

(2) When all the electors appear or a vacancy therein is filled, the electors shall perform the duties required of them by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

(3) If a vacancy occurs and is filled as aforesaid, the electors shall attach to the certificate of their votes a statement showing how ~~such~~ a vacancy occurred and their action thereon.

\* \* \*

Sec. 99. 17 V.S.A. § 2753 is amended to read:

§ 2753. ARTICLE III—MANNER OF APPOINTING PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTORS IN MEMBER STATES

(a) Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, the chief election official of each member state shall determine the number of votes for each presidential slate in each ~~State~~ state of the United States and in the District of Columbia in which votes have been cast in a statewide popular election and shall add ~~such~~ the votes together to produce a “national popular vote total” for each presidential slate.

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\* \* \*

(d) At least six days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the number of popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and shall communicate an official statement of ~~such~~ the determination within 24 hours to the chief election official of each other member state.

\* \* \*

(g) If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a member state in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state's number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors for that state and that state's presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment of ~~such~~ the nominees.

\* \* \*

Sec. 100. 17 V.S.A. § 2754 is amended to read:

§ 2754. ARTICLE IV—OTHER PROVISIONS

(a) This agreement shall take effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the

1 same form and the enactments by ~~such~~ the states have taken effect in each  
2 state.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 101. 17 V.S.A. § 2755 is amended to read:

5 § 2755. ARTICLE V—DEFINITIONS

6 For purposes of this agreement:

7 \* \* \*

8 (6) “Presidential slate” shall mean a slate of two persons, the first of  
9 whom has been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States  
10 and the second of whom has been nominated as a candidate for Vice President  
11 of the United States, or any legal successors to ~~such~~ the persons, regardless of  
12 whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the voter in a particular  
13 state.

14 \* \* \*

15 Sec. 102. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

16 § 2901. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter:

18 \* \* \*

19 (14) “Political party” means a political party organized under chapter 45  
20 of this title and any committee established, financed, maintained, or controlled  
21 by the party, including any subsidiary, branch, or local unit ~~thereof~~ of the

1 party, and shall be considered a single, unified political party. The national  
2 affiliate of the political party shall be considered a separate political party.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 103. 17 V.S.A. § 2944 is amended to read:

5 § 2944. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RELATED EXPENDITURES

6 \* \* \*

7 (d) As used in this section, an expenditure by a person shall not be  
8 considered a “related expenditure made on the candidate’s behalf” if:

9 (1)(A) All of the following apply:

10 \* \* \*

11 (ii) the expenditure was made for:

12 (I) invitations and any postage for those invitations to invite  
13 voters to the event; or

14 (II) any food or beverages consumed at the event and any  
15 related supplies ~~thereof~~; and

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. 104. 17 V.S.A. § 2964(c) is amended to read:

18 (c) A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only  
19 political committee, or political party that is not otherwise required to file a  
20 report pursuant to this section shall file with the Secretary of State a report and  
21 affirmative statement that the candidate, political committee, independent

1 expenditure-only political committee, or political party has not either rolled  
2 over any amount of surplus into a new campaign or made expenditures or  
3 accepted contributions in the amounts specified in this section.

4 Sec. 105. 20 V.S.A. § 48 is amended to read:

5 § 48. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DISASTER MITIGATION  
6 GRANT PROGRAM

7 \* \* \*

8 (c) Administration; implementation.

9 \* \* \*

10 (3) Report. Annually, ~~by~~ on or before November 15, the Department of  
11 Public Safety shall submit a report detailing the current Program design and  
12 any grants awarded pursuant to this section during the preceding year to the  
13 House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the  
14 Senate Committee on Government Operations.

15 Sec. 106. 20 V.S.A. § 1953(b) is amended to read:

16 (b) If authorized by the laws of his or her party state, the administrative  
17 head of the state police department of a party state may provide for the  
18 discharge of his or her duties and the performance of his or her functions on  
19 the Conference, for periods none of which shall exceed 15 days, by an  
20 alternate. No such alternate shall be entitled to serve unless notification of his

1 or her identity and appointment shall have been given to the Conference in  
2 such form as the Conference may require.

3 Sec. 107. 21 V.S.A. § 309 is amended to read:

4 § 309. FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

5 \* \* \*

6 (e) The Attorney General, a State's Attorney, or the Human Rights  
7 Commission in the case of State employees may enforce subsections (b) and  
8 (c) of this section by restraining prohibited acts, conducting civil  
9 investigations, and obtaining assurances of discontinuance in accordance with  
10 the procedures established in subsection 495b(a) of this title. An employer  
11 subject to a complaint shall have the rights and remedies specified in  
12 subsection 495b(a) of this title. An investigation against an employer shall not  
13 be a prerequisite for bringing an action. The Civil Division of the Superior  
14 Court may award injunctive relief and court costs in any action. There shall be  
15 no private right of action to enforce this ~~section~~ subsection.

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. 108. 21 V.S.A. § 342 is amended to read:

18 § 342. WEEKLY PAYMENT OF WAGES

19 (a)(1) Any employer that is doing business within the State shall pay each  
20 week, in lawful money or checks, the wages earned by each employee to a day  
21 not more than six days prior to the date of payment.





1 (ii) in excess of 80 hours for any biweekly period.

2 \* \* \*

3 Sec. 110. 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

4 § 471. DEFINITIONS

5 As used in this subchapter:

6 \* \* \*

7 (10) “Parental leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an  
8 employee for one of the following reasons:

9 (A) the employee’s pregnancy;

10 (B) the employee’s recovery from childbirth or miscarriage;

11 (C) the birth of the employee’s child and to care for or bond with the  
12 child within one year after the child’s birth; or

13 (D) the initial placement of a child under 18 years of age ~~or younger~~  
14 with the employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care and to care for or  
15 bond with the child within one year after the placement for adoption or foster  
16 care.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 111. 21 V.S.A. § 495d is amended to read:

19 § 495d. DEFINITIONS

20 As used in this subchapter:

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\* \* \*

(h) Any employing unit that fails to report employment and separation information with respect to a claimant and wages paid to a claimant required under subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a penalty of \$100.00 for each report not received by the prescribed due date. The penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection shall be collected in the manner provided for the collection of contributions in section 1329 of this subchapter and shall be paid into the ~~contingent fund~~ Contingent Fund established in section 1365 of this subchapter. If the employing unit demonstrates that its failure was due to a reasonable cause, the Commissioner may waive the penalty.

Sec. 113. 21 V.S.A. § 1321 is amended to read:

§ 1321. CONTRIBUTIONS; TAXABLE WAGE BASE CHANGES

\* \* \*

(b) Base of contributions. The term “wages” ~~shall~~ does not include that part of remuneration that, after remuneration equal to \$13,000.00 on January 1, 2011, and \$16,000.00 on January 1, 2012, has been paid in a calendar year to an individual by an employer with respect to employment during a calendar year, unless that part of the remuneration is subject to a tax under a federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund. After January 1, 2012, whenever the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund has a positive balance and all

1 advances made to the State Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund pursuant  
2 to Title XII of the Social Security Act have been repaid as of June 1, the base  
3 of contribution amount shall be adjusted on January 1 of the following year by  
4 the same percentage as any increase in the State annual average wage as  
5 calculated pursuant to subsection 1338(g) of this subchapter. When the  
6 unemployment contribution rate schedule established by subsection 1326(e) of  
7 this subchapter is reduced to schedule III, the base of contribution amount  
8 shall be reduced by \$2,000.00 on January 1 of the following year and shall be  
9 adjusted annually thereafter on January 1 of the following year by the same  
10 percentage as any increase in the State annual average wage as calculated  
11 pursuant to subsection 1338(g) of this subchapter. When the unemployment  
12 contribution rate schedule established by subsection 1326(e) of this subchapter  
13 is reduced to schedule I, the base of contribution amount shall be reduced by  
14 \$2,000.00 on January 1 of the following year and shall be adjusted annually  
15 thereafter on January 1 of the following year by the same percentage as any  
16 increase in the State annual average wage as calculated pursuant to subsection  
17 1338(g) of this subchapter. For the purposes of this subsection:

18 \* \* \*

19 (c) Nonprofit organizations.

20 (1) Financing benefits paid to employees of nonprofit organizations.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 114. 21 V.S.A. § 1325 is amended to read:

2 § 1325. EMPLOYERS' EXPERIENCE-RATING RECORDS;

3 DISCLOSURE TO SUCCESSOR ENTITY

4 \* \* \*

5 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following shall apply  
6 to assignment of rates and transfers of experience:

7 \* \* \*

8 (2) Whenever a person ~~who~~ is not an employer under this chapter at the  
9 time it acquires the trade or business of an employer, the unemployment  
10 experience of the acquired business shall not be transferred to such person if  
11 the Commissioner finds that such person acquired the business solely or  
12 primarily for the purpose of obtaining a lower rate of contributions. Instead,  
13 that person shall be assigned the highest rate assignable under this chapter until  
14 being subject to this chapter for a sufficient period of time to have ~~his or her~~  
15 the person's rate computed under section 1326 of this title. In determining  
16 whether the business was acquired solely or primarily for the purpose of  
17 obtaining a lower rate of contribution, the Commissioner shall use objective  
18 factors that may include:

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. 115. 21 V.S.A. § 1326 is amended to read:

21 § 1326. RATE BASED ON BENEFIT EXPERIENCE

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\* \* \*

(d) The Commissioner shall compute a current fund ratio, and a highest benefit cost rate, as follows:

(1) The current fund ratio shall be determined by dividing the available balance of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund on December 31 of the preceding calendar year by the total wages paid for employment during that calendar year as reported by employers ~~by~~ on or before the following March 31.

\* \* \*

Sec. 116. 21 V.S.A. § 1334 is amended to read:

§ 1334. JUDGMENT; EXCEPTION

(a) Any liability for contributions, payments, penalties, interest, and costs imposed under this chapter becomes, from the time the liability is due and payable, a debt of the liable employer or employing unit to the State for the benefit of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and the Contingent Fund to be recovered in a civil action.

\* \* \*

Sec. 117. 21 V.S.A. § 1338 is amended to read:

§ 1338. WEEKLY BENEFITS

\* \* \*

1 (f) [Subdivision (f)(1) effective until occurrence of contingency; see also  
2 contingent amendments to subdivision (f)(1) by 2021, No. 183, §§52c–52e and  
3 52g set out below.]

4 (1) The maximum weekly benefit amount shall be annually adjusted on  
5 the first day of the first calendar week in July to an amount equal to the sum of  
6 \$60.00 plus 57 percent of the State annual average weekly wage as determined  
7 by subsection (g) of this section.

8 [Contingent amendment to subdivision (f)(1) by 2021, No. 183 (Adj.  
9 Sess.), §§ 52c and 52g; see also subdivision (f)(1) effective until occurrence of  
10 contingencies set out above and contingent amendment to subdivision (f)(1) by  
11 2021, No. 183 (Adj. Sess.), §§ 52d and 52e set out below.]

12 (1) The maximum weekly benefit amount shall be annually adjusted on  
13 the first day of the first calendar week in July to an amount equal to 57 percent  
14 of the State annual average weekly wage as determined by subsection (g) of  
15 this section.

16 [Contingent amendment to subdivision (f)(1) by 2021, No. 183 (Adj.  
17 Sess.), §§ 52d and 52e; see also subdivision (f)(1) effective until occurrence of  
18 contingencies and contingent amendment to subdivision (f)(1) by 2021, No.  
19 183 (Adj. Sess.), §§ 52c and 52g set out above.]

20 (1) The maximum weekly benefit amount shall be annually adjusted on  
21 the first day of the first calendar week in July to an amount equal to the sum of

1 \$25.00 plus 57 percent of the State annual average weekly wage as determined  
2 by subsection (g) of this section.

3 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (1) of this subsection  
4 to the contrary:

5 (A) The maximum weekly benefit amount shall not increase in any  
6 year that advances made to the State Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund  
7 pursuant to Title XII of the Social Security Act, as amended, remain unpaid.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 118. 21 V.S.A. § 1621 is amended to read:

10 § 1621. UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) It shall be an unfair labor practice for a labor organization or its agents:

13 \* \* \*

14 (8) ~~Compulsory membership; employees' rights.~~ A labor organization  
15 entering into an agreement requiring a person's membership in the labor  
16 organization as a condition of employment by the employer shall not:

17 (A) discriminate against a person seeking or holding membership in  
18 the labor organization on account of race, color, disability, religion, creed, sex,  
19 sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin;

20 \* \* \*

1 (e)(1) For the purposes of this section, to bargain collectively is the  
2 performance of the mutual obligation of the employer and the representative of  
3 the employees to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with  
4 respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, or the  
5 negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising under the agreement, and  
6 the execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached is  
7 requested by either party; but the failure or refusal of either party to agree to a  
8 proposal, or to change or withdraw a lawful proposal, or to make a concession  
9 shall not constitute, or be evidence direct or indirect of, a breach of this  
10 obligation.

11 \* \* \*

12 (3) The duties imposed upon employers, employees, and labor  
13 organizations by pursuant to subdivisions (e)(2)(B), (C), and (D) of this  
14 subsection shall become inapplicable upon an intervening certification of the  
15 Board, under which the labor organization or individual, which is a party to  
16 the contract, has been superseded as or ceased to be the representative of the  
17 employees subject to the provisions of section 1583 of this title, and the duties  
18 so imposed shall not be construed as requiring either party to discuss or agree  
19 to any modifications of the terms and conditions contained in a contract for a  
20 fixed period, if such modification is to become effective before such terms and  
21 conditions can be reopened under the provisions of the contract. Any

1 employee who engages in a strike within the 60-day period specified in this  
2 subsection shall lose ~~his or her~~ the employee's status as an employee for the  
3 employer engaged in the particular labor dispute, for the purposes of this  
4 chapter, as amended, but ~~such~~ the loss of status for ~~such~~ the employee shall  
5 terminate if and when ~~he or she~~ the employee is re-employed by such  
6 employer.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 119. 21 V.S.A. § 1623 is amended to read:

9 § 1623. JUDICIAL REVIEW

10 (a) The Board may petition the Supreme Court for the enforcement of such  
11 Board order relative thereto and for appropriate temporary relief or restraining  
12 order. The Board shall certify and file in the ~~court~~ Court the entire record in  
13 the proceeding, including the pleadings and evidence upon which the order  
14 was entered, and its findings and order; provided, however, the ~~court~~ Court  
15 may, by separate rule, set forth the portions of the record to be certified and  
16 filed. Thereupon, the ~~court~~ Court shall cause notice thereof to be served upon  
17 such person, and shall then have jurisdiction of the proceeding and of the  
18 question determined therein. It shall have the power to grant such temporary  
19 relief or restraining order as it considers just and proper, and to make and enter  
20 a decree enforcing, modifying and enforcing as so modified, or wholly or  
21 partly setting aside the Board's order.

1           (b) The parties before the ~~court~~ Court shall be the Board and such person  
2 found by the Board to have committed the unfair labor practice.

3           (c) Any aggrieved party to a proceeding under section 1622 of this title  
4 may appeal to the Supreme Court under 12 V.S.A. chapter 102 and the  
5 Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure.

6           (d) No objection that has not been urged before the Board may be  
7 considered by the ~~court~~ Court, unless the failure or neglect to urge such  
8 objection shall be excused because of extraordinary circumstances. The  
9 findings of the Board with respect to questions of fact, if supported by  
10 substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole, shall be conclusive.  
11 However, if either party applies to the ~~court~~ Court for leave to adduce  
12 additional evidence, and shows to the satisfaction of the ~~court~~ Court that such  
13 additional evidence is material and that there were reasonable grounds for the  
14 failure to adduce such additional evidence at the hearing before the Board, the  
15 ~~court~~ Court may order such additional evidence to be taken before the Board  
16 and to be made a part of the record. The Board may modify its findings as to  
17 facts or make new findings because of additional evidence so taken. The  
18 Board shall file such modified or new findings which findings with respect to  
19 questions of fact, if supported by substantial evidence on the record considered  
20 as a whole, shall be conclusive, and shall file its recommendations, if any, for  
21 the modification or setting aside of its original order.

1 (e) The commencement of proceedings under this section shall not, unless  
2 specifically ordered by the ~~court~~ Court, operate as a stay of the Board's order.

3 (f) Petitions filed under the chapter shall be heard expeditiously.

4 (g) The Board shall have the power upon issuance of a complaint as  
5 provided for under this chapter to petition the Superior Court within any  
6 county wherein the unfair labor practice is alleged to have occurred, for  
7 appropriate temporary relief or restraining order. Upon the filing of such  
8 petition, the ~~court~~ Court shall cause notice thereof to be served upon such  
9 person; and, thereupon, shall have jurisdiction to grant to the Board such  
10 temporary relief as it deems just and proper.

11 Sec. 120. 21 V.S.A. § 1724 is amended to read:

12 § 1724. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

13 (a)(1) A petition may be filed with the Board, in accordance with rules  
14 adopted by the Board:

15 \* \* \*

16 (2)(A)(i) An employer shall, not more than seven business days after  
17 receiving a copy of the petition, file any objections to the appropriateness of  
18 the proposed bargaining unit and raise any other unit determination issues with  
19 the Board and provide a copy of the filing to the employee, group of  
20 employees, individual, or employee organization that filed the petition.



1 fee for vehicles weighing between 26,100 and 40,099 pounds inclusive shall  
2 be an additional \$85.03, the fee for vehicles weighing between 40,100 and  
3 60,099 pounds inclusive shall be an additional \$297.68, and the fee for  
4 vehicles 60,100 pounds and over shall be an additional \$467.80. The fee shall  
5 be computed at the following rates per 1,000 pounds of weight determined  
6 pursuant to this subdivision and rounded up to the nearest whole dollar; the  
7 minimum fee for registering a tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck to 6,099  
8 pounds shall be the same as for the pleasure car type:

9 \$18.21 when the weight is at least 6,100 pounds but not more than  
10 8,099 pounds.

11 \$20.83 when the weight is at least 8,100 pounds but not more than  
12 12,099 pounds.

13 \$22.97 when the weight is at least 12,100 pounds but not more than  
14 16,099 pounds.

15 \$24.56 when the weight is at least 16,100 pounds but not more than  
16 20,099 pounds.

17 \$25.71 when the weight is at least 20,100 pounds but not more than  
18 30,099 pounds.

19 \$26.26 when the weight is at least 30,100 pounds but not more than  
20 40,099 pounds.



1 Sec. 123. 23 V.S.A. § 1202 is amended to read:

2 § 1202. CONSENT TO TAKING OF TESTS TO DETERMINE BLOOD

3 ALCOHOL CONTENT OR PRESENCE OF OTHER DRUG

4 \* \* \*

5 (e) In any proceeding under this subchapter, a law enforcement officer's  
6 testimony that the officer is certified pursuant to ~~section~~ 20 V.S.A. § 2358 shall  
7 be prima facie evidence of that fact.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 124. 23 V.S.A. § 3206 is amended to read:

10 § 3206. SNOWMOBILE OPERATION

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) A snowmobile shall not be operated:

13 \* \* \*

14 (5) On any privately owned land or body of private water unless:

15 \* \* \*

16 (B) the operator has, on ~~his or her~~ the operator's person, the written  
17 consent of the owner or lessee of the land to operate a snowmobile in the  
18 specific area in which the operator is operating, or the snowmobile displays a  
19 valid TMA decal as required by subsection 3202(a) of this title that serves as  
20 proof that the snowmobile and its operator by virtue of the TMA are members

1 of a VAST-affiliated snowmobile club to which such consent has been given  
2 orally or in writing; or

3 \* \* \*

4 (7) By a child under eight years of age unless ~~he or she~~ the child is on  
5 land owned by ~~his or her~~ the child's parents, family, or legal guardian.

6 (8) By a person born after July 1, 1983, on private or public land and  
7 water without first obtaining a certificate of snowmobile education, unless the  
8 person is operating on land owned, leased, or farmed by the person's parents,  
9 family, or guardian or the operator is the ~~land owner~~ landowner.

10 (A) A person who is required to have a certificate of snowmobile  
11 education shall do all of the following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (ii) Show the certificate or a copy of the certificate on demand of  
14 an enforcement officer wearing an insignia identifying ~~him or her~~ the officer  
15 as a law enforcement officer. No person charged with violating this  
16 subdivision (8) shall be convicted if the person produces in court, to the  
17 officer, or to a State's Attorney, a certificate or a copy of the certificate that  
18 was valid at the time the violation occurred. A person may show an electronic  
19 copy of the certificate using a portable electronic device; however, use of a  
20 device for this purpose does not in itself constitute consent for an enforcement  
21 officer to access other contents of the device.

1 (B) The following persons are exempt from the requirements of this  
2 subdivision (8):

3 (i) a person who is operating on land owned by ~~his or her~~ the  
4 person's parents, family, or guardian or the ~~operator is the landowner~~ person;

5 \* \* \*

6 (9)(A) In any manner intended, or that could reasonably be expected, to  
7 harass, drive, or pursue any wildlife; or

8 \* \* \*

9 (15) On a sidewalk unless permitted by the ~~selectmen or trustees or the~~  
10 ~~local governing~~ legislative body of the municipality.

11 \* \* \*

12 (21) Without proper head and face protection.

13 (A) No person shall operate, or ride in or on a snowmobile, or on a  
14 sled or device pulled by a snowmobile on the Statewide Snowmobile Trail  
15 System (SSTS) without wearing, upon ~~his or her~~ the person's head, protective  
16 headgear of a type approved by the Commissioner, unless the operator of the  
17 snowmobile is in the process of grooming the trail. The headgear shall be  
18 equipped with a strap to secure the headgear in place.

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. 125. 28 V.S.A. § 760 is amended to read:

21 § 760. COMPENSATION OF OFFENDERS

1 (a) The Commissioner ~~shall~~, in consultation with the Department of Labor,  
2 ~~promulgate~~ shall adopt rules establishing an injured offender compensation  
3 program for offenders or their dependents for injuries suffered while under  
4 supervision by the Department and arising out of and in the course of work,  
5 industry, or an employment program, at a correctional facility, or any  
6 community service or public works activity or vocational training directed by  
7 the Department of Corrections. The rules shall establish the compensation,  
8 medical, and vocational benefits to which an injured offender may be entitled  
9 as well as procedures for resolving disputes. To the extent practicable and  
10 consistent with the requirements of the Department, compensation, medical,  
11 and vocational benefits shall be comparable to what a similarly injured  
12 employee would receive under 21 V.S.A. chapter 9.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 126. 32 V.S.A. § 3102(f) is amended to read:

15 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, information obtained  
16 from the Commissioner for Children and Families under 33 V.S.A. § 112(c), or  
17 the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation under 16 V.S.A. § 2843, ~~or the~~  
18 ~~Dental Health Program under 33 V.S.A. § 4507~~ shall be confidential, and it  
19 shall be unlawful for anyone to divulge such information except in accordance  
20 with a judicial order or as provided under another provision of law.

1 Sec. 127. [Deleted.]

2 Sec. 128. 32 V.S.A. § 3481(1)(C) is amended to read:

3 (C) For owner-occupied housing that is subject to a housing subsidy  
4 covenant, as defined in 27 V.S.A. § 610, imposed by a governmental, quasi-  
5 governmental, or public purpose entity, that limits the price for which the  
6 property may be sold, the housing subsidy covenant shall be deemed to cause a  
7 material decrease in the value of the owner-occupied housing, and the  
8 appraisal value means not less than 60 and not more than 70 percent of what  
9 the fair market value of the property would be if it were not subject to the  
10 housing subsidy covenant. Every five years, starting in 2019, the  
11 Commissioner of Taxes, in consultation with the Vermont Housing  
12 Conservation Board, shall report to the House Committee on Ways and Means  
13 on whether the percentage of appraised ~~value~~ value used in this subdivision  
14 (C) should be altered and the reasons for ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's  
15 determination.

16 Sec. 129. 32 V.S.A. § 5405(g) is amended to read:

17 (g) The Commissioner shall provide to municipalities for the front of  
18 property tax bills the district homestead property tax rate before equalization,  
19 the ~~nonresidential~~ nonhomestead tax rate before equalization, and the  
20 calculation process that creates the equalized homestead and nonhomestead tax  
21 rates. The Commissioner shall further provide to municipalities for the back

1 of property tax bills an explanation of the common level of appraisal,  
2 including its origin and purpose.

3 Sec. 130. 32 V.S.A. § 10554(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) The Child Care Contribution Special Fund is created pursuant to  
5 chapter 7, subchapter 5 of this title and shall be administered by the  
6 Department for Children and Families and the Department of Taxes. Monies  
7 in the Fund may be expended by the Department of Taxes for the  
8 administration of the Child Care ~~and Parental Leave~~ Contribution created  
9 under this chapter; by the Department for Children and Families for benefits  
10 provided by the Child Care Financial Assistance Program established in 33  
11 V.S.A. §§ 3512 and 3513, including the provision of incentive payments  
12 pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3515; and by the Departments for necessary costs  
13 incurred in administering the Fund. All interest earned on Fund balances shall  
14 be credited to the Fund.

15 Sec. 131. 33 V.S.A. § 1103(e) is amended to read:

16 (e) In determining eligibility and benefit levels for parents who are under  
17 18 years of age in participating families, the Commissioner shall:

18 (1) Require parents who are under 18 years of age to attend school or an  
19 appropriate alternative education or training activity.

1           (2) Ensure that the family development plan of a parent who is under 18  
2           years of age includes a requirement to take part in a case-managed support,  
3           education, and training program.

4           (3) Adopt rules, which shall include appropriate exemptions, requiring  
5           parents who are under 18 years of age and who are not emancipated minors in  
6           accordance with 12 V.S.A. § 7151 to live with a parent or in an approved  
7           supervised living arrangement. The sanctions provided for noncompliance  
8           with a Reach Up family development plan requirement under section 1116 of  
9           this title shall apply to noncompliance with the rules adopted under this  
10          subdivision.

11          (4) Allow parents who are under 18 years of age and who live with their  
12          parents to have their eligibility for the Reach Up program and the amount of  
13          their financial assistance grant determined without consideration of their  
14          parents' income.

15          Sec. 132. 33 V.S.A. § 1107(f) is amended to read:

16          (f) The Secretary shall:

17               (1) work with community providers to develop and maintain an  
18               adequate number and variety of supervised living alternatives designed to meet  
19               the individual needs of parents who are under 18 years of age;

20               (2) work with community providers to develop and maintain parenting,  
21               training, and education options for parents who are under 18 years of age;

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\* \* \*

Sec. 133. 33 V.S.A. § 1203(3) is amended to read:

(3) is an individual under 21 years of age, has a child, is ineligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits solely because the individual resides with the individual's parent, and has employment that meets the work requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and composition.

Sec. 134. 33 V.S.A. § 1901n(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall provide coverage for medically necessary high-intensity, medically monitored residential treatment episodes to Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorder and a co-occurring mental health condition when medically necessary high-intensity, medically monitored residential treatment episodes are prescribed by a health care professional employed by a residential treatment program who is practicing within the scope of the health care professional's license and the residential treatment program is participating in Vermont's Medicaid program.

Sec. 135. 33 V.S.A. § 4110 is amended to read:

§ 4110. EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS

(a) Where a parent is required by a court or administrative order to provide health coverage for a child, and the parent is eligible for dependent health coverage, which is available through an employer doing business in this State, the employer is required:

1

\* \* \*

2

(2) Not to disenroll or eliminate coverage of any such child unless the employer is provided satisfactory written evidence that one or more of the following conditions applies:

3

4

5

(A) the court order is no longer in effect;

6

7

(B) the child is or will be enrolled in comparable coverage that will take effect ~~no~~ not later than the effective date of disenrollment; or

8

9

(C) the employer has eliminated dependent health coverage for all of its employees if allowed by law.

10

\* \* \*

11

Sec. 136. EFFECTIVE DATE

12

This act shall take effect on passage.