

1 S.80

2 Introduced by Senators Douglass, Cummings, Gulick, Harrison, Hart,

3 Heffernan, Lyons, Major, Norris, Westman and White

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: General provisions; legal holidays; commemorative days

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish
8 Vermont Digital Addictions Awareness Day in order to educate the public
9 regarding addictions to digital services and the resulting consequences. The
10 observance would also serve as an incentive, in combination with free State
11 park admission, to encourage families to use this day to explore the outdoors
12 and visit a State park or Vermont historic site.

13 An act relating to establishing Vermont Digital Addictions Awareness Day

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

15 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

16 Digital addictions, whether mild or severe, are increasingly prevalent in
17 modern society, especially among the younger population. Mindless scrolling
18 on a digital device or overuse of video games stifles creativity, productivity,
19 and motivation and often leads to dependence on engaging in digital activities.
20 The establishment of the Vermont Digital Addictions Awareness Day is

1 intended to raise public awareness of the problem and hopefully encourage
2 families and individuals to explore the outdoors and to visit Vermont State
3 parks and historic sites.

4 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 378 is added to read:

5 § 378. VERMONT DIGITAL ADDICTIONS AWARENESS DAY

6 The last Saturday in the month of July is designated as Vermont Digital
7 Addictions Awareness Day.

8 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 2603 is amended to read:

9 § 2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER

10 * * *

11 (c)(1) The Commissioner, subject to the direction and approval of the
12 Secretary, shall adopt and publish rules in the name of the Agency for the use
13 of State forests, or park lands, including reasonable fees or charges for the use
14 of lands, roads, camping sites, buildings, and other facilities and for the
15 harvesting of timber or removal of minerals or other resources from such lands,
16 notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603.

17 * * *

18 (5) On Digital Addictions Awareness Day, as established in accordance
19 with 1 V.S.A. § 378, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation,
20 pursuant to the fee setting authority of the Commissioner set forth in
21 subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall waive the one-day entry fee to State

1 parks for families and individuals. Dependent upon the finances of the
2 Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Commissioner may limit this
3 waiver to residents of the State of Vermont.

4 * * *

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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