

# House Calendar

Thursday, March 27, 2025

79th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P.M.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Action Postponed Until March 27, 2025**

**Third Reading**

**H. 342**

An act relating to protecting the personal information of certain public servants

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Harvey of Castleton to H. 342**

That the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) The General Assembly finds that Vermont’s judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and other public servants play an essential role in the functioning of the government of the State of Vermont and that the nature of their official duties regularly places them in danger of death, serious physical injury, and other reprisals from members of the public.

(b) Violence to and intimidation of such public servants and their families is on the rise and public access to the personal information of these individuals can be and has been used to facilitate violence and intimidation. The personal information of these individuals is of negligible value to the public interest or public discourse.

(c) Accordingly, the provisions of this act are both necessary and appropriate to protect the privacy, safety, and security of public servants and to prevent interference in the administration of justice and the operation of government in the State of Vermont.

Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. chapter 62, subchapter 3B is added to read:

Subchapter 3B. Public Servant Privacy

§ 2444. NONDISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVANT

PERSONAL INFORMATION

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Authorized agent” means any of the following persons or entities authorized to submit or revoke a request for the redaction or nondisclosure of

protected information on behalf of a covered person and to engage in communications and enforcement related to the request:

(A) a designated trustee or other agent pursuant to a written power of attorney or other legal instrument on behalf of any covered person who is physically or mentally incapacitated;

(B) a parent or legal guardian on behalf of any child who is a minor and who is otherwise entitled to address redaction or nondisclosure pursuant to this section; and

(C) a person or entity who has been appointed pursuant to a notarized document by a covered person to act for the covered person for the submission or revocation of requests for redaction or nondisclosure of protected information.

(2) “Commercial entity” means any business, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, or association engaged in the buying or selling of goods or services for profit.

(3) “Covered person” means any of the following individuals:

(A) active or former judges, government lawyers, law enforcement officers, federal law enforcement officers, jurors, members of the General Assembly, parole and probation officers, and members of the Vermont Parole Board;

(B) employees of:

(i) the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families;

(ii) the Vermont Human Rights Commission;

(iii) the Department of Corrections;

(iv) the Department of Public Safety, including the Vermont State Police;

(v) the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs; and

(vi) all courts in the State;

(C) investigators, victim advocates, mental health crisis workers, and embedded crisis specialists who are employed or work on a contract basis for any of the entities listed in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (3); and

(D) the immediate family of individuals identified in subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (3).

(4) “Disclose,” “disclosing,” or “disclosure” means to publicly post.

(5) “Federal law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in 18 U.S.C. § 115(c)(1) but is limited to those individuals who work or reside in Vermont.

(6) “Government lawyer” means a licensed attorney who practices law in Vermont in the capacity as a State or federal employee.

(7) “Home address” means a partial or complete street address or other information that reveals a home’s location, including tax parcel ID, legal property description, or geographic coordinates.

(8) “Home telephone number” means any telephone number used primarily for personal communications, including a landline or cellular telephone number.

(9) “Immediate family” has the same meaning as in 3 V.S.A. § 1201.

(10) “Judge” means any justice, judge, or magistrate of a State court or of a federal court located in Vermont, or any person who serves as a judge, justice, or magistrate in another state who maintains a home address in Vermont.

(11) “Juror” means an individual who has served on a Vermont jury in the last 18 months.

(12) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in 20 V.S.A. § 2351a.

(13) “Parole and probation officer” means:

(A) a corrections services specialist employed by the Department of Corrections; or

(B) a parole or probation officer employed by a Vermont county or municipality.

(14)(A) “Protected information” means a covered person’s:

(i) home address, including primary residence and any secondary residences;

(ii) home telephone number;

(iii) personal email address;

(iv) Social Security number or driver’s license number; and

(v) license plate number or other unique identifiers of a vehicle owned, leased, or regularly used by a covered person.

(B) “Protected information” does not include protected information that a covered person voluntarily and publicly discloses on or after July 1, 2025.

(15) “Public agency” has the same meaning as in 1 V.S.A. § 317.

(b) Nondisclosure of protected information.

(1) Notice.

(A) A covered person or an authorized agent of the covered person has the right through this section to send a notice to a public agency or commercial entity requesting that the public agency or commercial entity cease disclosure or redisclosure of the covered person’s protected information.

(B) The notice as set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1) shall be in a form provided by the Secretary of State, except that no prior verification of a covered person’s or authorized agent’s status shall be required for the notice. The Secretary of State shall publish the form of notice not later than 90 days after July 1, 2025, provided that until such form is published, covered persons and their authorized agents may use their own form of written notice that references this section, identifies the sender as a covered person or an authorized agent acting on behalf of a covered person, and requests that the public agency or commercial entity cease disclosure of the covered person’s protected information.

(2) Requirements.

(A) Unless otherwise required by law, upon a public agency receiving physical or electronic notice from a covered person, or an authorized agent of the covered person, requesting that the public agency cease disclosing or redisclosing protected information of the covered person, the public agency shall cease disclosing the protected information not later than 15 days after receipt of the notice and shall not disclose or redisclose the protected information after that time. The requirements in this subdivision (A) shall not be construed to limit or affect the rights persons have pursuant to subsection 2440(f) of this title.

(B) Upon a commercial entity receiving physical or electronic notice from a covered person, or an authorized agent of the covered person, requesting that the commercial entity cease disclosing or redisclosing protected information of the covered person, the commercial entity shall cease disclosing the protected information not later than 15 days after receipt of the notice and shall not disclose or redisclose the protected information after that time.

(3) Injunction.

(A) A public agency or commercial entity that receives a notice from a covered person or an authorized agent of the covered person pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection (b) that discloses or rediscloses the covered person's protected information more than 15 days after receiving the notice is in violation of this section and shall be subject to an injunction in a civil action brought in Superior Court by the covered person.

(B) A public agency or commercial entity that violates an injunction granted by a court pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) is liable to the covered person for reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

(C) In any judicial proceeding pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), the standard of fault shall be ordinary negligence.

(4) Limitations.

(A) A disclosure of protected information shall not constitute a violation of this section if the disclosure is:

(i) made with the express authorization of the covered person, provided that the authorization is provided subsequent to the relevant nondisclosure request; or

(ii) for the sole purpose of facilitating a transaction initiated by the covered person.

(B) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting an employer from providing employee information to the Vermont Labor Relations Board or to employee organizations that is required under Vermont law.

(C) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a public agency or commercial entity to delete protected information.

(D) A covered person or an authorized agent accessing a commercial entity's website or other public application for the purpose of determining whether the covered person's protected information is being disclosed shall not, as a result of such access, be deemed to have agreed on behalf of the covered person to any website terms and conditions with respect to the covered person's rights under this section.

**Sec. 3. REPORTING ON INJUNCTIONS**

On or before February 15 of each year commencing in 2026 and ending in 2031, the State Court Administrator shall submit a report to the House Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Judiciary identifying the following from the previous calendar year:



(1) the number of injunctions pursuant to this act filed, granted, denied, and appealed;

(2) for injunctions that were granted, the number that were subsequently violated;

(3) for injunctions that were violated, the amount in attorney's fees and court costs awarded in each case; and

(4) any additional information or data the Administrator believes is relevant to the report.

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

### **Favorable with Amendment**

#### **H. 218**

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

**Rep. Maguire of Rutland City**, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

#### Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the following sums shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund established in 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

(1)(A) \$1,976,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach or case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for the provision of services that increase motivation of and engagement with individuals with substance use disorder in settings such as police barracks, shelters, social service organizations, and elsewhere in the community.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that these positions shall be funded annually by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(2) \$76,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform to fund an outreach worker position.

(3)(A) \$1,400,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(4)(A) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Health for syringe services.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that syringe services be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(5) \$800,000.00 for distribution as follows:

(A) not more than \$35,000.00 to the Department of Corrections for distribution to Pathways Vermont to implement a contingency management pilot program in Chittenden County for individuals under the supervision of the Department of Corrections; and

(B) the remainder to the Department of Health for grants to providers for ongoing support for contingency management.

(6) \$32,157.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Brattleboro Fire Department to establish community training programs on the administration of opioid antagonists, CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed protocols.

(7) \$44,229.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Champlain Housing Trust to continue a pilot program providing access to wound care and preventative health care in three low-barrier shelters within Chittenden County.

(8) \$800,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports and clinical nursing programs.

(9) \$309,000.00 to the Department of Health for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont's Project Connectionworks to reduce opioid use disorder morbidity and mortality in Windham County through prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

(10) \$50,000.00 to the Judicial Branch to train Vermont's judges on issues related to opioid use disorder and strategies for use in dockets statewide.

(11) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate Youth Services to establish Healthy Youth Program counselors at the Basement Teen Center at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Washington County.

(12) \$100,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Friends for Change's Youth Center in Bellows Falls for the purpose of delivering intervention strategies and harm reduction supports to youth and young adults.

(13) \$170,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Spectrum Youth and Family Services for two new positions to expand opioid use disorder screening, treatment, and case management services to youth in Chittenden and Franklin Counties.

(14) \$80,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for the purpose of teaching parenting skills and providing social and emotional parenting supports for individuals with opioid use disorder.

(15) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for distribution to HireAbility Vermont to provide specialized employment services for individuals with opioid use disorder in Burlington, Newport, Rutland, and Bennington.

(16) \$550,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Northeast Kingdom Community Action to hire four peer support specialists to assist individuals with opioid use disorder who are transitioning out of homelessness into safe, permanent housing.

(17) \$150,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Connecticut Valley Addiction Services, Inc. to expand opioid use treatment in rural Windsor County.

(18) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform and the Johnson Health Center to continue and improve the Managed Medical Response Partnership.

(19) \$30,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Treatment Associates of Washington County Mental Health to hire an embedded recovery coach.

(20) \$20,824.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Umbrella to provide integrated services between domestic and sexual violence providers and partners in recovery in northeastern Vermont.

(b) The Department of Health shall carry forward \$1,100,000.00 appropriated from the Opioid Settlement Special Fund in fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of awarding grants to the City of Burlington for establishing an overdose prevention center upon submission of a grant proposal that has been approved by the Burlington City Council and meets the requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 4256, including the guidelines developed by the Department of Health. Any unmet need in fiscal year 2026, up to \$550,000.00, shall be addressed in the Department's budget adjustment proposal.

(c) All grant agreements associated with funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall require outcome and measurements data to be collected and

reported to the department issuing the grant and to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 93 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 93. OPIOID USE DISORDER

Subchapter 1. Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

\* \* \*

§ 4754. LIMITATION ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for prescription drugs for a patient who is receiving ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder if the dosage prescribed is within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's dosing recommendations.

(b) A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for all counseling and behavioral therapies associated with ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder for a patient who is receiving medication-assisted treatment.

Subchapter 2. Opioid Settlement

\* \* \*

§ 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

\* \* \*

(b) Membership.

(1) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following members and shall reflect the diversity of Vermont in terms of gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and socioeconomic status and ensure inclusion of individuals with lived experience of opioid use disorder and their family members whenever possible:

\* \* \*

(E) a primary care prescriber with experience providing ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder within the Blueprint for Health hub and spoke model, appointed by the Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health, to provide a statewide perspective on the provision of ~~providing medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder services;

\* \* \*

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about their direct experience with related systems, including ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services, overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory Council, and other stakeholders to identify spending priorities as related to opioid use disorder prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services and harm reduction strategies for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Department of Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:

(1) the impact of the opioid crisis on communities throughout Vermont, including communities' abatement needs and proposals for abatement strategies and responses;

(2) the perspectives of and proposals from opioid use disorder prevention coalitions, recovery centers, and ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder providers; and

(3) the ongoing challenges of the opioid crisis on marginalized populations, including individuals who have a lived experience of opioid use disorder.

\* \* \*

(e) Presentation. Annually, the Advisory Committee shall vote on its recommendations. Recommendations shall be informed by outcomes and measurements reported by previous grantees. If the recommendations are supported by an affirmative vote of the majority, the Advisory Committee shall present its recommendations for expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund established pursuant to this subchapter to the Department of Health and concurrently submit its recommendations in writing to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare. The Advisory Committee's written recommendations shall address how each recommendation meets one or more of the criteria listed in subsections 4774(b) and (c) of this subchapter. The Advisory Committee shall give priority consideration to services requiring funding on an ongoing basis.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Health shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Committee to occur on or before June 30, 2022.

(2) Annually, the Advisory Committee shall elect a voting vice chair from among its nongovernmental members.

(3) The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly but not more than 12 times per calendar year.

(3)(4) The Advisory Committee shall adopt procedures to govern its proceedings and organization, including voting procedures and how the staggered terms shall be apportioned among members.

(4)(5) All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be consistent with Vermont's Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

\* \* \*

§ 4774. OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

\* \* \*

(c) Priority for expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund shall be aimed at reducing overdose deaths, including the following:

\* \* \*

(2) increasing access to ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder and other opioid-related treatment, specifically:

(A) increasing distribution of ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder to individuals who are uninsured or whose health insurance does not cover the needed goods and services;

(B) providing education to school-based and youth-focused programs that discourage or prevent misuse, including how to access opioid use disorder treatment;

(C) providing ~~medication-assisted~~ education and awareness training on medication for opioid use disorder to health care providers, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, and other first responders; and

\* \* \*

(3) assisting pregnant and postpartum individuals, specifically:

(A) enhancing services for expanding screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) services to non-Medicaid eligible or uninsured pregnant individuals;

(B) expanding comprehensive evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment and recovery services, including ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder, for individuals with co-occurring opioid use disorder and other substance or mental health disorders for up to 12 months postpartum; and

\* \* \*

(5) expanding the availability of warm handoff programs and recovery services, specifically:

(A) expanding services such as navigators and on-call teams to begin ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder in hospital emergency departments;

\* \* \*

(6) treating incarcerated populations, specifically:

(A) providing evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment and recovery support, including ~~medication-assisted treatment~~ medication for opioid use disorder for individuals with opioid use disorder or co-occurring substance use or mental health disorders while transitioning out of the criminal justice system; and

\* \* \*

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

#### **(Committee Vote: 10-1-0)**

**Rep. Bluemle of Burlington**, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the report of the Committee on Human Services be amended by striking out Sec. 1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

#### Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

(a) In fiscal year 2026, the following sums shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund established in 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

(1)(A) \$1,976,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach or case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for the provision of services that increase motivation of and engagement with individuals with substance use disorder in settings such as police barracks, shelters, social service organizations, and elsewhere in the community.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that these positions shall be funded annually by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(2) \$76,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform to fund an outreach worker position.

(3)(A) \$1,400,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(4)(A) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Health for syringe services.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that syringe services be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(5)(A) \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of Health for the purpose of awarding grants to the City of Burlington for establishing an overdose prevention center upon submission of a grant proposal that has been approved by the Burlington City Council and meets the requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 4256, including the guidelines developed by the Department of Health.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly to continue to appropriate funds from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund through fiscal year 2028 for the purpose of awarding grants to the City of Burlington for the operation of the overdose prevention center, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(6) \$800,000.00 for distribution as follows:

(A) not more than \$35,000.00 to the Department of Corrections for distribution to Pathways Vermont to implement a contingency management pilot program in Chittenden County for individuals under the supervision of the Department of Corrections; and

(B) the remainder to the Department of Health for grants to providers for ongoing support for contingency management.

(7) \$32,157.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Brattleboro Fire Department to establish community training programs on the administration of opioid antagonists, CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed protocols.



(8) \$44,229.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Champlain Housing Trust to continue a pilot program providing access to wound care and preventative health care in three low-barrier shelters within Chittenden County.

(9) \$800,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports and clinical nursing programs.

(10) \$309,000.00 to the Department of Health for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont's Project Connectionworks to reduce opioid use disorder morbidity and mortality in Windham County through prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

(11) \$50,000.00 to the Judicial Branch to train Vermont's judges on issues related to opioid use disorder and strategies for use in dockets statewide.

(12) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate Youth Services to establish Healthy Youth Program counselors at the Basement Teen Center at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Washington County.

(13) \$100,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Friends for Change's Youth Center in Bellows Falls for the purpose of delivering intervention strategies and harm reduction supports to youth and young adults.

(14) \$170,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Spectrum Youth and Family Services for two new positions to expand opioid use disorder screening, treatment, and case management services to youth in Chittenden and Franklin Counties.

(15) \$80,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont for the purpose of teaching parenting skills and providing social and emotional parenting supports for individuals with opioid use disorder.

(16) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for distribution to HireAbility Vermont to provide specialized employment services for individuals with opioid use disorder in Burlington, Newport, Rutland, and Bennington.

(17) \$550,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Northeast Kingdom Community Action to hire four peer support specialists to assist individuals with opioid use disorder who are transitioning out of homelessness into safe, permanent housing.

(18) \$150,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Connecticut Valley Addiction Services, Inc. to expand opioid use treatment in rural Windsor County.

(19) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform and the Johnson Health Center to continue and improve the Managed Medical Response Partnership.

(20) \$30,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Treatment Associates of Washington County Mental Health to hire an embedded recovery coach.

(21) \$20,824.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Umbrella to provide integrated services between domestic and sexual violence providers and partners in recovery in northeastern Vermont.

(b) All grant agreements associated with funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall require outcome and measurements data to be collected and reported to the department issuing the grant and to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.

**(Committee Vote: 10-1-0)**

**New Business**

**Third Reading**

**H. 17**

An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Morristown

**H. 167**

An act relating to establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

**H. 237**

An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists

**H. 244**

An act relating to State contracting standards for advertising

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town to H. 244**

That the bill be amended in Sec. 2, 29 V.S.A. § 910, by striking out subsections (a)–(b) in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new subsections (a)–(b) to read as follows:

(a) When contracting for print or digital advertising services for the State or its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, or institutions, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall contract with local news organizations for not less than 70 percent of the total annual value of the print or digital advertising services, of which at least 40 percent of the total annual value of the print or digital advertising services shall be with local news organizations with annual revenue of less than \$3,000,000.00.

(b) When contracting for radio or television advertising services for the State or its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, or institutions, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall contract with local broadcast organizations for not less than 70 percent of the total annual value of the radio or television advertising services, of which at least 40 percent of the total annual value of the radio or television advertising services shall be with local broadcast organizations with annual revenue of less than \$3,000,000.00.

### **H. 397**

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response

#### **Amendment to be offered by Rep. Parsons of Newbury to H. 397**

That the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 13a, 24 V.S.A. § 138, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 13a to read as follows:

Sec. 13a. [Deleted.]

#### **Amendment to be offered by Reps. Kornheiser of Brattleboro and Waszazak of Barre City to H. 397**

That the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 14, [Deleted.], in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new reader assistance heading and Secs. 14 through 14c to read as follows:

\* \* \* Municipal Charters; Local Option Tax Revenue Share \* \* \*

Sec. 14. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3, § 102d is amended to read:

§ 102d. LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX AUTHORITY

The Burlington City Council is authorized to impose a one percent sales tax upon sales within the City that are subject to the State of Vermont sales tax with the same exemptions as the State sales tax. The City sales tax shall be effective beginning on the next tax quarter following 30 days' notice in 2006 to the Department of Taxes, or shall be effective on the next tax quarter following 90 days' notice to the Department of Taxes if notice is given in 2007

or after. Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with State law governing the State sales tax. ~~Seventy percent of the The taxes collected shall be paid to the City, and the remaining amount of the taxes collected shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the PILOT Special Fund first established in 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60, Sec. 89. The cost of administration and collection of this tax shall be paid 70 percent by the City and 30 percent by the State from the PILOT Special Fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. The tax to be paid to the City, less its obligation for 70 percent of the costs of administration and collection, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138 shall be paid to the City on a quarterly basis and may be expended by the City for municipal services only and not for education expenditures.~~

Sec. 14a. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 5, § 1214 is amended to read:

#### § 1214. LOCAL OPTION TAXES

Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of affording the City an alternative method of raising municipal revenues. Accordingly:

\* \* \*

~~(3) Of the taxes reported under this section, 70 percent shall be paid to the City for calendar years thereafter. Such revenues The City's local option tax revenue may be expended by the City for municipal services only and not for educational expenditures. The remaining amount of the taxes reported shall be remitted monthly to the State Treasurer for deposit in the PILOT Special Fund set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 3709. Taxes due to the City under this section shall be paid by the State on a quarterly basis.~~

Sec. 14b. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 127, § 1308a is amended to read:

#### § 1308a. SALES, ROOMS, MEALS, AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

##### TAX

\* \* \*

~~(d) Of the taxes collected under this section, 70 percent The share of taxes due to the Town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138 shall be paid to the Town on a quarterly basis to the Town after reduction for the costs of administration and collection under subsection (c) of this section. Revenues received by the Town may be expended for municipal services only and not for education expenditures. Any remaining revenues shall be deposited in the PILOT Special Fund established by 32 V.S.A. § 3709.~~

Sec. 14c. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 171, § 18 is amended to read:

## § 18. LOCAL OPTIONS TAX

The Selectboard is authorized to impose a one percent sales tax, a one percent meals and alcoholic beverages tax, and a one percent rooms tax upon sales within the Town that are subject to the State of Vermont tax on sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms. The Town tax shall be implemented in the event the State local options tax as provided for in 24 V.S.A. § 138 is repealed or the 70-percent allocation to the town is reduced. A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with State law governing the State tax on sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms. ~~The amount of 70 percent of the taxes collected shall be paid to the Town, and the remaining amount of the taxes collected shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Pilot Special Fund first established in 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60, § 89 pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138.~~ The cost of administration and collection of this tax shall be paid 70 percent by the Town and 30 percent by the State from the Pilot Special Fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138. The tax to be paid to the Town, ~~less its obligation for the 70 percent of the costs of administration and collection, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138~~ shall be paid to the Town on a quarterly basis and may be expended by the Town for municipal services only and not for education expenditures. The Town may repeal the local option taxes by Australian ballot vote.

### H. 472

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

### H. 479

An act relating to housing

### H. 488

An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation

### **Committee Bill for Second Reading**

### H. 491

An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate

**(Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock will speak for the Committee on Ways and Means.)**

## Favorable with Amendment

### H. 106

An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area

**Rep. Dolgin of St. Johnsbury**, for the Committee on General and Housing, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 27 V.S.A. § 380 is amended to read:

#### § 380. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION; CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE

(a) Prior to or as part of a contract for the conveyance of real property, the seller shall provide the buyer with the following information:

(1) whether the real property is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped special flood hazard area;

(2) whether the real property is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped moderate flood hazard area;

(3) whether the real property was subject to flooding or flood damage while the seller possessed the property, including flood damage from inundation or from flood-related erosion or landslide damage; and

(4) whether the seller maintains flood insurance on the real property.

(b) The failure of the seller to provide the buyer with the information required under subsection (a) of this section is grounds for the buyer to terminate the contract prior to transfer of title or occupancy, whichever occurs earlier.

(c) ~~A buyer~~ If a seller of real estate ~~who~~ fails to ~~receive~~ provide the information required to be disclosed by a seller under subsection (a) of this section, a buyer may bring an action to recover from the seller the amount of the buyer's damages and reasonable attorney's fees. The buyer may also seek punitive damages when the seller knowingly failed to provide the required information.

(d) A seller shall not be liable for damages under this section for any error, inaccuracy, or omission of any information required to be disclosed to the buyer under subsection (a) of this section:

(1) when the error, inaccuracy, or omission was based on information provided by a public body or by another person with a professional license or

special knowledge who provided a written report that the seller reasonably believed to be correct and that was provided by the seller to the buyer; or

(2) if the seller, after reasonable attempt to identify whether the location of the real property is within a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped special or moderate flood hazard area, notifies the buyer that the seller cannot reasonably determine if the real property is located within a special or moderate flood hazard area and the seller notifies the buyer of the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(e) Noncompliance with the requirements of this section shall not affect the marketability of title of a real property.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage.

**(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)**

### **Favorable**

#### **H. 493**

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government

**(Rep. Scheu of Middlebury** will speak for the Committee on Appropriations.)

**Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

**(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)**

#### **Amendment to be offered by Rep. Scheu of Middlebury to H. 493**

Representative Scheu of Middlebury moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. B.713, by striking out “Natural resources” and inserting in lieu thereof “Land use review”

Second: In Sec. B.1100, miscellaneous fiscal year one-time appropriations, in subdivision (e)(1), by striking out “Access’s” and inserting in lieu thereof “Access”

Third: In Sec. B.1100, miscellaneous fiscal year one-time appropriations, in subdivision (n)(4), by striking out “Middle Income” and inserting in lieu thereof “Middle-Income”

Fourth: In Sec. B.1100, miscellaneous fiscal year one-time appropriations, in subdivision (n)(5), by inserting “2.0” following “Vermont Housing Improvement Program”

Fifth: In Sec. B.1100, miscellaneous fiscal year one-time appropriations, in subdivision (n)(7), by striking out “a Universal Design study” and inserting in lieu thereof “the Residential Universal Design Study Committee”

Sixth: In Sec. B.1100, miscellaneous fiscal year one-time appropriations, in subdivision (q)(1), by striking out “Vermont” and inserting in lieu thereof “Volunteer”

Seventh: In Sec. E.100, positions, following subsection (b), by inserting a new subdivision (c) to read as follows:

(c) The extension of nine limited services positions is authorized until June 30, 2026:

(1) Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs:

(A) six Deputy State’s Attorneys;

(B) two Legal Assistants; and

(C) one Victim Advocate.

Eighth: In Sec. E.321, general assistance emergency housing, in subdivision (b)(1), in the third sentence, by striking out “September 15” and inserting in lieu thereof “July 1”

Ninth: In Sec. E.333, developmental disability services payment reform, in subsection (a), by striking out “,” following “Aging”

Tenth: In Sec. E.500, education finance and administration, in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking out “funds appropriated in this section will” and inserting in lieu thereof “appropriation in Sec. B.500 of this act shall”

Eleventh: In Sec. E.514, state teachers’ retirement system, in subsection (a), by striking out “State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS)” and inserting in lieu thereof “Vermont State Teachers’ Retirement System”

Twelfth: In Sec. E.603, Vermont state colleges allied health, in subsection (a), following “Global Commitment” by striking out “fund” and inserting in lieu thereof “Fund” and in subsection (b), following “Global Commitment” by striking out “funds appropriated” and inserting in lieu thereof “appropriation”



**Action Under Rule 52**

**H.R. 7**

House resolution reaffirming the friendship between the State of Vermont and Taiwan and supporting enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's participation in international organizations

**(For text, see House Journal of March 26, 2025)**

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Favorable**

**H. 494**

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

**(Rep. Emmons of Springfield** will speak for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.)

**Rep. Laroche of Franklin**, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends the bill ought to pass.

**(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)**

**CONSENT CALENDAR FOR NOTICE**

**Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a - 16d**

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in that member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar.

**H.C.R. 63**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Brattleboro Food Co-op on its 50th anniversary and extending best future wishes

**H.C.R. 64**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver of Winooski High School on her selection as the 2025 Vermont Teacher of the

Year and Jeremy DeMink of Edmunds Middle School in Burlington and Sonya Shedd of Wolcott Elementary School on their recognition as Distinguished Finalists

**H.C.R. 65**

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness Month in Vermont

**H.C.R. 66**

House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of tourism in the Vermont economy and designating April 10, 2025 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House

**H.C.R. 67**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's planning, in Bennington in 1775, of the successful Vermont initiation of the American War of Independence and the associated expedition to Ticonderoga

**H.C.R. 68**

House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of the manufacturing industry in the Vermont economy and designating April 2, 2025 as Manufacturing Day at the State House

**H.C.R. 69**

House concurrent resolution designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House

**For Informational Purposes**

**CROSSOVER DATES**

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover dates:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day – Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 14, 2025**.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday**,

**March 21, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

**Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (the general Appropriations bill (“The Big Bill”), the Transportation Capital bill, the Capital Construction bill, and the Fee/Revenue bills).**

### **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (H.C.R.) PROCESS**

Joint Rules 16a–16d provide the procedure for the General Assembly to adopt concurrent resolutions pursuant to the Consent Calendar. Here are the steps for Representatives to introduce an H.C.R. and to have it ceremonially read during a House session:

1. Meet with Legislative Counselor Michael Chernick regarding your H.C.R. draft request. Come prepared with an idea and any relevant supporting documents.
2. Have a date in mind if you want a ceremonial reading. You should meet with Counselor Chernick at least two weeks prior to the week you want your ceremonial reading to happen.
3. Counselor Chernick will draft your H.C.R., and Resolutions Editor and Coordinator Jill Pralle will edit it. Upon completion of this process, a paper or electronic copy will be released to you. If a paper copy is released to you, a sponsor signout sheet will also be included.
4. Please submit the sponsor list to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.
5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted to Counselor Chernick not later than 12:00 noon the Thursday of the week prior to the H.C.R.’s appearance on the Consent Calendar.
6. The Office of Legislative Counsel will then send your H.C.R. to the House Clerk’s Office for incorporation into the Consent Calendar and House Calendar Addendum for the following week.
7. The week that your H.C.R. is on the Consent Calendar, any presentation copies that you requested will be mailed or available for pickup on Friday, after the House and Senate adjourn, which is when your H.C.R. is adopted pursuant to Joint Rules.
8. Your H.C.R. can be ceremonially read during a House session once it is adopted. If you would like to schedule a ceremonial reading, contact

Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.

**JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE NOTICES**

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3)(D):

**JFO #3246:** 125+ acre land donation valued at \$184,830.00 from Pieter Van Schaik of Cavendish, VT to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The acreage will become part of the Lord State Forest. *[Received March 24, 2025]*

**JFO #3244:** \$2,335,401.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Funds support continued crisis counseling assistance and training in response to the July 2024 flood event. *[Received February 7, 2025]*

**JFO #3245:** \$250,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Funds used to provide trainings for crisis staff and to make improvements to the State's crisis system dispatch platform. *[Received February 7, 2025]*