House Calendar

Friday, March 28, 2025

80th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until March 28, 2025

Third Reading
H. 342 Protecting the personal information of certain public servants1136 Rep. Harvey Amendment
Rep. Marcotte et al. Amendment1141
New Business
Third Reading
H. 106 Selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area 1148
H. 218 Fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund
H. 491 Setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate
H. 493 Making appropriations for the support of the government 1149
Favorable
H. 494 Capital construction and State bonding Rep. Emmons for Corrections and Institutions
NOTICE CALENDAR
Favorable with Amendment
H. 91 The Emergency Temporary Shelter Program Rep. McGill for Human Services
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR ACTION
H.C.R. 63 Congratulating the Brattleboro Food Co-op on its 50th anniversary and extending best future wishes

H.C.R. 64 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 Finalists1164
H.C.R. 65 Recognizing May 2025 as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness Month in Vermont
H.C.R. 66 Celebrating the role of tourism in the Vermont economy and designating April 10, 2025 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House .1164
H.C.R. 67 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 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 Designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until March 28, 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.

Amendment to be offered by Reps. Marcotte of Coventry, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel 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 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 62. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

* * *

Subchapter 5. Data Brokers

* * *

§ 2448. 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)(A) "Covered person" means any of the following individuals who are either currently or formerly:
- (i) a judge, law enforcement officer, federal law enforcement officer, prosecutor, public defender, parole and probation officer, or member of the Vermont Parole Board;
 - (ii) an employee 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; or
 - (VI) any court in the State; and
- (iii) an investigator, victims advocate, mental health crisis worker, or embedded crisis specialist that is employed by or works on a contract basis for any of the entities listed in subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (a)(2)(A).

- (B) "Covered person" also includes the immediate family of individuals identified in subdivisions (A)(i)–(iii) of this subdivision (a)(2).
- (3) "Data broker" has the same meaning as set forth in section 2430 of this title. As used in this section, "data broker" excludes governmental agencies and their representatives acting in their official capacities.
- (4) "Disclose," "disclosing," or "disclosure" means to solicit, sell, manufacture, give, provide, lend, trade, mail, deliver, transfer, post, publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present, exhibit, advertise, offer, or include within a searchable list or database, regardless of whether any person has actually searched the list or database. "Disclose" does not include an organization maintaining protected information completely inaccessible and unviewable to any person outside of the organization.
- (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) "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.
- (7) "Home telephone number" means any telephone number used primarily for personal communications, including a landline or cellular telephone number.
 - (8) "Immediate family" has the same meaning as in 3 V.S.A. § 1201.
- (9) "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.
- (10) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in 20 V.S.A. § 2351a.
 - (11) "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.
- (12) "Prosecutor" means a Vermont State's Attorney or Deputy State's Attorney, the Attorney General or an Assistant Attorney General, or a U.S. Attorney or an Assistant U.S. Attorney who works in Vermont.

- (13) "Protected information" means a covered person's:
- (A) home address, including primary residence and any secondary residences;
 - (B) home telephone number;
 - (C) personal email address;
 - (D) Social Security number or driver's license number; and
- (E) license plate number or other unique identifiers of a vehicle owned, leased, or regularly used by a covered person.
- (14) "Public defender" means the Defender General, Deputy Defender General, public defenders, or deputy public defenders who provide legal services to persons in need as set forth in 13 V.S.A. chapter 163.
 - (b) Nondisclosure of protected information.
- (1) A covered person or an authorized agent of the covered person has the right through this section to send a notice to a data broker requesting that the data broker cease disclosure or redisclosure of the covered person's protected information.
- (2) Upon a data broker receiving physical or electronic notice from a covered person, or an authorized agent of the covered person, requesting that the data broker cease disclosing or redisclosing protected information of the covered person, the data broker 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) The notice as set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be in a form and manner provided by the Attorney General, except that:
- (A) the notice shall require that the covered person provide the covered person's full name along with the specific protected information of the covered person that is being disclosed by the data broker;
- (B) no prior verification of a covered person's or authorized agent's status shall be required for the notice; and
- (C) the notice shall include a disclaimer that ceasing disclosure of a covered person's protected information may:
 - (i) complicate certain business transactions; and
- (ii) not result in the covered person's protected information being totally removed from the internet.

(c) Penalties for violations.

(1) Attorney General enforcement.

- (A) A data broker that receives a notice from a covered person or the authorized agent of the covered person pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section 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 assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000.00 for each violation.
- (B) The Attorney General has the same authority to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section and to conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, bring civil actions, and take other enforcement actions as provided under chapter 63, subchapter 1 of this title.
- (C) The Attorney General shall create a form on its website where a covered person or an authorized agent of the covered person is able to provide notice to the Attorney General that more than 15 days have passed since the covered person or an authorized agent of the covered person submitted a notice to a data broker pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section and that the data broker continues to disclose or has redisclosed the covered person's protected information. This form shall require, at minimum, that the covered person provide the name of the:

(i) data broker; and

(ii) covered person and the specific protected information of the covered person that is being disclosed by the data broker.

(2) Private action.

- (A) Subject to the requirements in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2), a data broker that receives a notice from a covered person or the authorized agent of the covered person pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section and 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 is subject to a civil action brought in Superior Court by the covered person for the following:
- (i) damages, calculated as the greater of actual damages or liquidated damages computed at the rate of \$1,000.00 for each violation of this section;
- (ii) punitive damages upon proof of willful or reckless disregard of the law;

- (iii) reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and
- (iv) any other preliminary and equitable relief as the court determines to be appropriate.
- (B) A data broker that ceases disclosing the protected information of a covered person not more than 15 days after being served with process in a civil suit brought by the covered person pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall only be liable to the covered person for reasonable attorney's fees and court costs in the civil action. A data broker is not eligible for the exception provided this subdivision (B) if the data broker:
- (i) more than 15 days after receiving notice from a covered person or the authorized agent of a covered person pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section discloses additional protected information of the covered person; or
- (ii) rediscloses protected information of the covered person after having received notice pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section.
- (3) Standard of fault. In any judicial proceeding pursuant to this section, the standard of fault shall be ordinary negligence. It shall not be a defense to liability in a judicial proceeding that the covered person's protected information is or was available to the public from other sources, on the internet or otherwise, or available by inspection of public records.
- (d) Accessing information. A covered person or an authorized agent accessing a data broker'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.

(e) Limitations.

- (1) A disclosure of protected information shall not constitute a violation of this section if the disclosure is:
- (A) made with the express or standing authorization of the covered person, provided that the authorization is provided subsequent to the relevant nondisclosure request; or
- (B) for the sole purpose of facilitating a transaction initiated by the covered person.
- (2) This section does not apply to a data broker in a disclosure pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

- (3) 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.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a data broker to delete protected information.

Sec. 3. FORM OF NOTICE

The Attorney General shall publish the form of notice pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 2448(b)(3) 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:

- (1) references this section;
- (2) identifies the sender as a covered person or an authorized agent acting on behalf of a covered person;
- (3) provides the covered person's full name along with the specific protected information of the covered person that is being disclosed by the data broker; and
- (4) requests that the data broker cease disclosing the specific protected information of the covered person.

Sec. 4. STUDY AND REPORT ON PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE

- (a) Study. The Agency of Digital Services, in consultation with the Agency of Administration, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Office of the Attorney General, and with other State agencies as requested by the Agency, shall conduct a study to determine the various considerations and impacts on State public agencies if public agencies were required to conform to the disclosure policies set forth in this act. The Agency shall meet with and receive input from relevant stakeholders in conducting its study, including the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association. The Agency shall consider the following in its study:
- (1) if public agencies were required to cease disclosing the protected information of covered persons:
- (A) the extent to which public agencies would currently be able to accommodate these requests;
 - (B) the fiscal and resource impact on public agencies;
- (C) whether additional staffing or training would be needed to comply;

- (D) the degree to which risk can be mitigated through State or local policy; and
- (E) determining which statutes, regulations, and administrative policies require amending in order to accomplish the goal of public agencies being able to cease the disclosure of protected information of covered persons;
- (2) how other states have implemented similar requirements on their public agencies, including the types of penalties levied for noncompliance;
- (3) the feasibility of creating a State office to manage all statewide requests to cease disclosing protected information; and
 - (4) any additional related areas of study as determined by the Agency.
- (b) Report. On or before December 1, 2026, the Agency of Digital Services shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with a summary of its findings pursuant to the study set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The Agency shall also include in its report its recommendations for legislative action and policy modification as well as a suggested timeline for the implementation of the disclosure policies on public agencies.

Sec. 5. DELAYED START FOR PRIVATE ACTION

The private action provided to a covered person pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 2448(c)(2) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

New Business

Third Reading

H. 106

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

H. 218

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

H. 491

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

H. 493

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

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)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 91

An act relating to the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program

Rep. McGill of Bridport, 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:

* * * Findings and Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, Vermont had the fourth highest rate of homelessness in 2024 in that 53 of every 10,000 Vermonters are experiencing homelessness, with only Hawaii, New York, and Oregon experiencing higher rates;
- (2) in 2023, according to the same Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, 51 of every 10,000 Vermonters were experiencing homelessness;
- (3) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, there were approximately 3,458 unhoused individuals in Vermont, which represents a 300 percent increase over the 1,110 unhoused individuals prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020;

- (4) of the 3,458 unhoused individuals in Vermont identified by the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 166 experienced unsheltered homelessness, which is the highest count of unsheltered homeless individuals in Vermont within the past decade;
- (5) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, over 35 percent of those Vermonters experiencing homelessness were unhoused for more than one year and over 72 percent were unhoused for more than 90 days;
- (6) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 737 of those Vermonters experiencing homelessness were children and youth under 18 years of age and 646 were 55 years of age or older;
- (7) according to the Vermont 2024 Point-in-Time Count, Black Vermonters are 5.6 times more likely to be unhoused as compared to white Vermonters;
- (8) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that 36,000 primary homes are needed in Vermont between 2025–2029, 3,295 of which are needed to address homelessness; and
- (9) the 2024 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment notes that "[h]alf of all Vermont renters are cost-burdened, and one-in-four pay more than 50 [percent] of their income on housing costs, putting them at high risk of eviction," which "is heightened by Vermont's rental vacancy rate of 3 [percent], which is well below the 5 [percent] rate of a healthy market."

Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

- (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that unsheltered homelessness be eliminated and that homelessness in Vermont be rare, brief, and nonrecurring.
- (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is a step toward ensuring that:
- (1) homelessness be reduced in Vermont and interim shelter opportunities be available to provide a stable pathway to permanent housing for all Vermonters experiencing homelessness, including safe shelter options for individuals living in unsheltered homelessness;
- (2) Vermont increase the supply of emergency shelter as well as permanent supportive housing that meets the specific needs of individuals;
- (3) community components of all shelter types are integrated in a systemic manner;

- (4) time limits, night-by-night shelter, relocation between interim shelter sites, and other disruptions in housing stability be eliminated to the extent possible;
- (5) Vermont's emergency housing statutes, rules, policies, procedures, and practices be modeled on Housing First principles; and
 - (6) noncongregate shelter be used to the extent possible.
- (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 replaces the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 21 and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program.
- * * * Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program * * *
- Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is added to read:

CHAPTER 22. VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

§ 2201. SHORT TITLE

The Program established in this chapter may be cited as "VHEARTH" or the "VHEARTH Program."

§ 2202. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the General Assembly to replace the provision of emergency housing through the General Assistance Program established in chapter 21 of this title and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program and use funds and resources previously attributed to those programs, and any other identified State and federal monies, to fund the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in this chapter.

§ 2203. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "At-risk of homelessness" means in peril of imminently losing a primary, night-time residence or precariously housed.
- (2) "Community action agency" means an agency designated pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59.
- (3) "Community-based shelter" means a shelter that meets the Department's standards for the operation of shelters.

- (4) "Department" means the Department for Children and Families.
- (5) "Extreme weather event" means extreme hot or cold temperatures or weather events, such as hurricanes, flooding, or blizzards, that create hazardous conditions for outdoor habitation by humans.
- (6) "Homeless" means lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- (7) "Household" means an individual and any dependents for whom the individual is legally responsible and who live and intend to stay in Vermont. "Household" includes individuals who reside together as one economic unit, including those who are married, parties to a civil union, or unmarried.
- (8) "Unsheltered homelessness" means sleeping in a location not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation.

§ 2204. ESTABLISHMENT; VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM

- (a) The Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program is established in the Department and shall be operated by community action agencies and a statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence, to the extent funds exist.
- (b) Community action agencies shall collaborate with other community partners, including municipalities, the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance, Balance of State Continuum of Care, and local housing coalitions. The Program shall utilize coordinated entry and shall utilize, but not duplicate, the work of the community partners. It shall include the following components:
- (1) supportive services pursuant to section 2205 of this chapter to assist households experiencing homelessness or those households that are at-risk of homelessness pursuant to section 2205 of this chapte:
- (2) extreme weather event shelters operated or caused to be operated by a community action agency pursuant section 2206 of this chapter; and
- (3) emergency shelters operated or caused to be operated by a community action agency pursuant to section 2207 of this chapter.
- (c) The Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program shall include supportive services and shelters specific to households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence, which shall be provided or caused to be provided by a

statewide organization with population-specific service experience pursuant to section 2208 of this section.

§ 2205. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

A community action agency, in collaboration with other community partners, shall offer or cause to be offered the following supportive services, which may vary in terms of manner and extent depending on the level of shelter a household utilizes or whether the household is at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness:

- (1) intake assessments and services for diversion from homelessness;
- (2) household needs assessments;
- (3) individualized household plans to address identified needs;
- (4) assistance obtaining and retaining housing, including financial assistance;
 - (5) referrals to other services and supports;
 - (6) peer-supported services;
 - (7) landlord-tenant outreach, education, and conflict resolution;
 - (8) housing navigation services;
 - (9) advocacy; and
 - (10) progress monitoring and interventions.

§ 2206. EXTREME WEATHER EVENT SHELTER

A community action agency shall operate or cause to be operated shelters in the State that shall be used during extreme weather events to shelter any homeless individual who seeks shelter. The community action agencies, in collaboration with community partners, shall prioritize funding for extreme weather event shelters by utilizing data available under this section and considering geographic access. A shelter offered pursuant to this section during an extreme weather event may include time-limited congregate accommodations and may be provided through agreements to municipalities or other entities.

§ 2207. EMERGENCY SHELTERS

(a) Temporary shelter. At a minimum, a community action agency shall serve or cause to be served in a manner that complies with and builds upon the federally required community planning process, households that are prioritized and in need of the services of a temporary shelter. A community action agency may provide or cause to be provided temporary shelter through community-

based shelters, temporary use of hotels or motels, lease agreements for full or partial use of an existing building, need-specific shelter arrangements, or other arrangements or combinations of arrangements that comply with the intent of this chapter.

(b) Transitional shelter. A community action agency shall serve or cause to be served households in its region in need of the services of a transitional shelter in a manner that complies with and builds upon the federally required community planning process. A community action agency may provide or cause to be provided transitional shelter through community-based shelter, master grant leases, developing shelter capacity, or other arrangements or combinations of arrangements that comply with the intent of this chapter.

§ 2208. SUPPORTIVE AND SHELTER SERVICES FOR HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

As part of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program, the Department shall enter into an agreement with a statewide organization with population-specific experience serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence. The organization shall provide or cause to be provided various shelter and case management services that support households.

§ 2209. VHEARTH; DUTIES OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

- (a) The community action agencies shall serve or cause to be served households that are experiencing homelessness or that are at risk of homelessness in the State by providing supportive services, extreme weather event shelter, or emergency shelter pursuant to sections 2204–2207 of this chapter. If a community action agency cannot fulfil its responsibilities under this chapter, the Department shall work with other community action agencies or other appropriate community entities to ensure that there is not a gap in services in a community action agency's region.
- (b) A community action agency providing or causing to provide services in accordance with this chapter shall:
- (1) have existing or planned infrastructure to support households in the region, including an established leadership team, a human resources staff, and the ability to receive grant funding and issue subgrants;
- (2) have the ability to meet the Department's reporting requirements, including past history of reporting compliance;
- (3) have community connections with other providers in the region, including local housing coalitions, housing providers, providers of coordinated

entry, and providers of services to individuals who are older Vermonters, individuals who have disabilities, substance use disorder, or a mental health condition; individuals reentering the community after incarceration; individuals transitioning from the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families; and families with children; and

(4) provide plain language communications to households receiving services.

§ 2210. VHEARTH; DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

- (a) The Agency of Human Services, working with the Department, shall have statewide responsibility for meeting the intent of this chapter, including statewide planning, system development, and the involvement of all the Agency's departments.
- (b) For the purpose of providing administrative oversight and monitoring of the Program established in this chapter, the Department shall:
- (1)(A) adopt guidance regarding when extreme weather event shelters shall be operated, including flexibility for regional weather conditions; and
- (B) maintain a website with the locations of all extreme weather event shelters;
- (2) include as part of any review of a community action agency required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59, the community action agency's ability to perform the requirements of this chapter;
- (3)(A) consult with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence pursuant to section 2208 of this chapter, to develop appropriate resource allocations and methods for adjustment that take into account available data, the presence of community-based providers, and customary resource allocation methods, economic indicators, rate of homelessness, rental vacancy rates, and other variables, as appropriate; and
- (B) annually, distribute funding to each community action agency and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence pursuant to section 2208 of this chapter using the allocation formula developed pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), or if the Department and community action agencies agree, disperse a joint allocation for all community action agencies, which the community action agencies shall determine how to distribute amongst themselves;

- (4) consult with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence pursuant to section 2208 of this chapter to develop appropriate measures and methods for accountability of the community action agencies' and the statewide organization's execution of duties under this chapter, including the provision of any previously agreed upon information to enable the Department to evaluate the services provided through grant funds, the effect on households receiving services, and an accounting of expended grant funds;
- (5) provide support and technical assistance to the community action agencies, other community partners, and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence pursuant to section 2208 of this chapter;
- (6) identify specific administrative resources that could be transitioned to community operations;
- (7) develop and submit standards for the operation of community-based shelters;
- (8) adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, in consultation with the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence pursuant to section 2208 of this chapter, as appropriate, for the implementation of this chapter, including accommodations for individuals with a disability.

§ 2211. REGIONAL PLANNING; NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

- (a) As part of the plan required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 and the federally required planning and needs assessments for the continuums of care, the community action agencies shall develop a regional needs assessment and planning process, in collaboration with community and State partners, for use in each community action agency's region to inform future plans addressing housing and homelessness in each region of the State. The plans shall include:
- (1) addressing progress in reducing the number of households experiencing homelessness in a region;
- (2) assessing the rate households placed in permanent housing return to homelessness and the underlying reasons;
- (3) identifying resources developed and utilized in the region to address homelessness;
- (4) reporting the rate of household participation with coordinated entry processes and case management services;

- (5) identifying system gaps and the funding needed to address those gaps, including periodic inflationary adjustments; and
- (6) utilizing data, including Vermont's Point-in-Time Count, coordinated entry assessment results, and community conversations.
- (b) Each community action agency shall submit plans developed pursuant to this section to the Department in a format prescribed by the Department. The Department shall aggregate the results of these reports and submit the aggregated report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

§ 2212. USE OF HOTEL AND MOTEL ROOMS

- (a) Hotels and motels providing emergency shelter pursuant to this chapter shall comply with Program rules and shall comply with the following:
- (1) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and
- (2) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).
- (b) Annually, the Department shall propose hotel and motel rates as part of its budget presentation for approval by the General Assembly. A community action agency shall not pay or cause to be paid with State monies a per room, per night basis that exceeds the rate approved by the General Assembly.
 - (c) To the extent possible, if a hotel or motel is being utilized:
- (1) a community action agency shall enter into agreements for the use of blocks of hotel and motel rooms and negotiate the conditions of use for those blocks, including access for providers of case management or other supportive services; and
- (2) prioritize the use of hotel and motel room agreements over individual per-room, per-night hotel or motel room use, unless it is not appropriate to a household's needs.

Sec. 4. VERMONT HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO HOUSING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program Implementation Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Commissioner for Children and Families and to the community action

- agencies as defined in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 regarding the design, implementation, and transition to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 22, including advice and recommendations on the implementation plan required pursuant to Sec. 5 of this act.
- (b) Membership. The Advisory Committee's membership shall reflect the growing diversity among Vermonters, including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, as well as with regard to socioeconomic status, geographic location, gender, sexual identity, and disability status and shall be composed of:
- (1) five representatives with lived experience of homelessness, appointed by the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and the Balance of State Continuum of Care;
- (2) five representatives, one appointed by each of the community action agencies;
- (3) one representative, appointed by the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance:
- (4) one representative, appointed by the Balance of State Continuum of Care:
- (5) five representatives of local housing coalitions, including at least two of whom are shelter providers, appointed jointly by the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and the Balance of State Continuum of Care;
- (6) the Deputy Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families' Economic Services Division or designee; and
- (7) the Director of the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity or designee.
- (c) Assistance. The Advisory Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department for Children and Families.

(d) Meetings.

- (1) The Commissioner shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2025.
- (2) The Committee shall select co-chairs from among its members at the first meeting at least one of whom is not a State employee.
 - (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

- (4) The Advisory Committee may divide into subcommittees to carry out its duties under this section and subcommittees may include individuals not appointed to the Advisory Committee pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including representatives of individuals who are older Vermonters, individuals who have disabilities, substance use disorder, or a mental health condition; individuals reentering the community after incarceration; individuals transitioning from the care and custody of the Commissioner for Children and Families; and families with children.
- (e) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings annually. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department.
- (f) Sunset. The Advisory Committee shall cease to exist on July 1, 2029.

Sec. 5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

On or before February 1, 2026, the Department for Children and Families, in collaboration with community action agencies and in consultation with the departments of the Agency of Human Services and the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program Implementation Advisory Committee established pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act, shall submit a plan to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare for the implementation of the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program established by 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 that ensures maximum flexibility for the use of resources and streamlines processes for Program participants. Specifically, the implementation plan shall address:

- (1) funding allocations among the community action agencies and other providers, including for services specific to households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic or sexual violence;
- (2) additional State and federal funding and other resources identified for the Program;
- (3) appropriate measures and methods of accountability in fulfilling the intent of this act for community action agencies, the organization serving households that are experiencing or that have experienced domestic and sexual violence, and community partners;
- (4) appropriate supportive services specific to the level of shelter a household utilizes, or whether the household is at risk of homelessness, or experiencing unsheltered homelessness;

- (5) establishing an appeals process that includes a hearing before the Human Services Board and an option for an expedited appeals process;
 - (6) expanded use of 211 within the intake system;
- (7) whether continuation in emergency shelter should include an expectation regarding household participation in case management services or other expectations such as night limits on the use of hotels and motels, and if so, what elements and in what circumstances participation in case management services or other expectations should be applied;
- (8) whether the use of emergency shelter should include financial participation, and if so, what that participation should include;
- (9) how prioritization should occur for emergency temporary shelter and what priority categories should exist within those parameters;
- (10) how to best ensure that there is equitable access to shelter and supportive services for households experiencing homelessness;
- (11) the appropriate level of required intake and assessment processes for each of the various levels of shelter that a household may utilize for households that are at risk of homelessness and for households experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and
 - (12) any anticipated challenges requiring a legislative solution.
 - * * * Community Action Agencies * * *
- Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 59. COMMUNITY <u>SERVICES</u> <u>ACTION</u> AGENCIES § 3901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

- (a) Recognizing that the economic well-being and social equity of every Vermonter has long been a fundamental concern of the State, it remains evident that poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number of Vermont's population continues to experience poverty. It is the policy of this the State to help develop the full potential of each of its citizens so they can contribute to the fullest extent possible to the life of our communities and the State as a whole.
- (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts that further this policy through:
- (1) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning, coordinating, and managing federal, State, and other sources of assistance related to the problem of poverty;

- (2) the better organization and utilization of a range of services related to the needs of the poor individuals with low income; and
- (3) the broadening of the resource base of programs to secure a more active role in assisting the poor <u>individuals</u> with low income from business, labor, and other groups from the private sector.

§ 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- (a) The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity is hereby authorized to allocate available financial assistance for community services action agencies and programs in accordance with State and federal law and regulation.
- (b) The Director may provide financial assistance to community services action agencies for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of community service action programs to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or in areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem. Components of those services and activities may involve, without limitation of other activities and supporting facilities designed to assist low income participants with low income:
 - (1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;
 - (2) to obtain adequate education;
 - (3) to make better use of available income;
- (4) to provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment have access to safe, secure, permanent housing;
- (5) to obtain <u>prevention</u>, <u>intervention</u>, <u>treatment</u>, <u>and recovery</u> services for the <u>prevention</u> of <u>narcotics</u> addiction, alcoholism, and for the rehabilitation of <u>narcotic</u> addicts and alcoholies individuals with substance use disorder;
- (6) to obtain emergency assistance through loans and grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and unemployment-related assistance;
- (7) to remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems which that block achievement of self-sufficiency;
 - (8) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;
- (9) to make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to the purposes of this chapter; and

- (10) to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and other social service programs to assure ensure the effective delivery of such services to low-income persons; with low income and to encourage the use of entities in the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community.
- (c) The Director is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 25 of this title appropriate to the carrying out of this chapter and the purposes thereof.

§ 3903. DESIGNATION OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES TO AMELIORATE OR ELIMINATE POVERTY

The Director shall designate private nonprofit community based organizations who that have demonstrated or who that can demonstrate the ability to provide services and activities as defined in subsection 3902(b) of this title as community services action agencies.

§ 3904. COMMUNITY SERVICES ACTION AGENCY PLAN

Each designated community services action agency shall determine the need for activities and services within the area served by the agency and shall thereafter prepare a community services plan which that describes the method by which the agency will provide those services. The plan shall include a schedule for the anticipated provision of new or additional services and shall specify the resources which that are needed by and available to the agency to implement the plan. The community services plan shall be completed every three years and updated annually. The plan shall include the regional needs assessment required under 33 V.S.A. § 2211.

§ 3905. COMMUNITY SERVICES ACTION AGENCIES;

ADMINISTRATION

- (a) Each community services action agency shall administer its programs as set out in the community services plan and as approved by its board of directors.
- (b) Each board of a nonprofit <u>community-based</u> organization that is designated a community <u>services</u> <u>action</u> agency under section 3903 of this chapter shall have an executive committee of not more than seven members who shall be representative of the composition of the board and the board shall be so constituted that:

* * *

- (2) one-third of the members of the board are persons chosen in accordance with election procedures adequate to assure ensure that they are representative of the poor individuals with low income in the area served; and
- (3) the remainder of the members of the board are officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community.
- (c) Each member of the <u>a</u> board selected to represent a specific geographic area within a community shall reside in the area he or she the member represents. No person selected under subdivisions (2) or (3) of subsection (b) as a member of a board shall serve on such board for more than five consecutive years, or more than a total of 10 years <u>Each board shall adopt term limits to govern its members</u>.

* * * Appropriations * * *

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION PLANNING

<u>In fiscal year 2026, \$10,000,000.00 of one-time funding is appropriated</u> from the General Fund as follows:

- (1) \$6,500,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for distribution to the community action agencies and the statewide organization serving households experiencing or who have experienced domestic and sexual violence;
- (2) \$500,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for contractual and other system transformation assistance; and
- (3) \$3,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families for the continued development of shelter capacity in the State.

Sec. 8. FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that in fiscal year 2027 and thereafter, equivalent funds and resources, base and one-time, used in fiscal year 2025 for General Assistance emergency housing and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program be redesignated for the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 22.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 3 (Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program"

(Committee Vote: 8-2-1)

Rep. Bluemle of Burlington, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Human Services.

(Committee Vote: 8-3-0)

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR ACTION

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 before today's adjournment. 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 of March 27, 2025.

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 <u>not</u> 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]