

House Calendar

Thursday, May 21, 2026

136th DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 10:00 AM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until Thursday, May 21, 2026

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 921

An act relating to alcoholic beverages

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 7 V.S.A. § 224, in subdivision (c)(1), following “not more than” by striking out “10” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “five”

Second: In Sec. 6, 7 V.S.A. § 271, after the period at the end of subsection (g), by inserting “A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages shall retain copies of records of distribution and sales made pursuant to this subsection. Annually, on or before January 15, a licensed manufacturer shall report to the Division in a manner and form required by the Commissioner the total amount of malt beverages distributed pursuant to this subsection during the preceding 12 months.”

Third: By striking out Sec. 7, 7 V.S.A. § 271 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

Fourth: By adding two new sections to be Secs. 11 and 12 and a reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Caterer’s License * * *

Sec. 11. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(5) “Caterer’s license” means a license issued by the Board of Liquor and Lottery authorizing the holder of a first-class license or first- and third-class licenses to serve alcoholic beverages at a function ~~located on premises other than those occupied by a first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensee to sell alcoholic beverages pursuant to section 241 of this title.~~

* * *

Sec. 12. 7 V.S.A. § 241 is amended to read:

§ 241. CATERER'S LICENSE; COMMERCIAL CATERING LICENSE

(a) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may issue a caterer's license or a commercial catering license to a person who holds a first-class license or first- and third-class licenses. The holder of a caterer's license is authorized to serve alcoholic beverages at a function located on premises other than those occupied by another first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensee to sell alcoholic beverages. The holder of a caterer's license may host not more than five functions per calendar year located on the license holder's own first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensed premises.

* * *

Fifth: By renumbering Sec. 11, effective dates, to be Sec. 13 and in subsection (b) of the new Sec. 13 by striking out the sentence "Sec. 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2028." and inserting in lieu thereof "[Deleted.]"

Sixth: In Sec. 13, effective dates, in subsection (a), following "This section and Secs. 9" by striking out "and 10 (deleting 2026 sunset of special venue serving permits for retail establishments)" and inserting in lieu thereof "through 12"

New Business

Favorable with Amendment

S. 193

An act relating to establishing a forensic facility for certain criminal justice-involved persons

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Secretary of Human Services shall establish and operate a locked secure forensic facility for the competency restoration, evaluation, stabilization, treatment, and care of persons who have been found not competent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity for serious criminal offenses. The Department of Corrections shall not operate or staff the forensic facility, with the exception that employees of the Department of Corrections may provide security services

for the facility at the admitting area of and around the outside perimeter of a forensic facility if it is co-located on the grounds of a correctional facility.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 4815a is added to read:

§ 4815a. COMPETENCY RESTORATION SERVICES WITHIN
FORENSIC FACILITY

(a) A person shall be placed at the forensic facility established in section 4826 of this title if the person:

(1) has been charged with an offense punishable by a life sentence;

(2)(A) has been held without bail pursuant to section 7553 of this title;

or

(B) if the person is not held without bail pursuant to section 7553 of this title, has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person;

(3) is not currently:

(A) receiving treatment through an order of hospitalization pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7619 or section 4822 of this title; or

(B) subject to an order of commitment to the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living issued under 18 V.S.A. § 8845 or section 4823 of this title, unless the person is detained in a correctional facility pending trial; and

(4) has been found not competent to stand trial.

(b)(1) The forensic facility shall cause the person to be evaluated for competency to stand trial:

(A) six months from the date of admission, and thereafter every six months from the issuance of an order for continued competency restoration treatment under subdivision (3)(B) of this subsection (b); and

(B) at any time upon the determination by the Agency of Human Services Medical Director that the person is likely competent to stand trial or that it is unlikely that the person's competency can be restored.

(2) The court shall hold a hearing after the competency evaluation, and prior to the hearing, the results of all evaluations shall be supplied to the court and the parties to the underlying criminal action.

(3)(A) If the court finds after the hearing that the person is competent to stand trial, the court shall immediately notify the State's Attorney and the person's counsel in the criminal case.

(B) If the court finds after the hearing that the person is not competent to stand trial, the court shall order continued competency restoration treatment at the facility pursuant to this section.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule, witnesses at hearings held pursuant to this section shall be permitted to provide testimony remotely.

(c)(1) At the request of a party or the Agency of Human Services Medical Director, the court may order that a competency evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section include an opinion on whether the person's competency can be restored. If a request is made pursuant to this subsection, the forensic facility shall cause the person to be evaluated for restorability to competence prior to the hearing.

(2) If the court finds that the person's competency can be restored, the court shall order continued competency restoration treatment at the facility pursuant to this section.

(3)(A) If the court finds that the person's competency cannot be restored, the court shall hold a hearing within 60 days unless that period is extended by the court for good cause.

(B) Prior to the date of the hearing, the court shall order that a forensic risk assessment of the person be conducted that includes:

(i) the person's history and present dangerousness;

(ii) a description of any tests that were employed and the results of the tests;

(iii) the examiner's findings;

(iv) the examiner's opinion as to whether the person's release would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person;

(v) recommendations for evidence-based treatment and supervision that would support the person's success and mitigate risk of aggression and violence;

(vi) the examiner's opinion as to whether the person is a person in need of custody, care, and habilitation as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 8839; and

(vii) the examiner's opinion as to whether the person is competent to stand trial.

(C) The results of all evaluations shall be supplied to the court and the parties to the underlying criminal action.

(4)(A) If the State's Attorney demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence at a hearing held pursuant to subdivision (3)(A) of this subsection (c) or (B) of this subdivision (4) that the person has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person, the court shall order continued commitment of the person consistent with the person's forensic risk assessment. The court shall order treatment of the person, which may include appropriate supervision and supervised housing, in the least restrictive setting consistent with the person's forensic risk assessment and treatment needs.

(B) If continued commitment is ordered pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (4), the person's commitment shall be reviewed by the court:

(i) every 12 months; and

(ii) at any time upon the determination by the Agency of Human Services Medical Director that the person no longer has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(5)(A) If the State's Attorney does not demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence at a hearing held pursuant to subdivision (3)(A) or (4)(B) of this subsection (c) that the person has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person, the court shall:

(i) order the release of the person under a prescribed regimen of medical, psychiatric, or psychological care or treatment, housing, and supervision by the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; or the Department of Health, that the Agency of Human Services Medical Director has certified as appropriate; and

(ii) order, as an explicit condition of supervision, that the person comply with the prescribed regimen of medical, psychiatric, or psychological care or treatment, housing, and supervision by the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; or the Department of Health, together with any other conditions appropriate to protect the public.

(B) A person's release pursuant to this subdivision (5) shall be reviewed by the court every 12 months. The person shall be released from the supervision of the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; or the Department of Health

unless the State's Attorney demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence at the hearing that continued treatment and supervision is necessary to prevent the person from becoming a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(C)(i) The State's Attorney shall make a reasonable effort to provide the victim with prior notice of any hearing held pursuant to this subdivision (5). The court may continue the hearing if the victim has not been provided with the notice required by this subdivision (C)(i).

(ii) At any hearing under this subdivision (5), the court shall ask if the victim is present and, if so, shall offer the victim the opportunity to be heard. The court may consider any views offered at the hearing by the victim, including the victim's views concerning the offense and preferences for the person's placement and care. If the victim is not present at the hearing, the court shall ask whether the victim has expressed oral or written views concerning the offense and preferences for the person's placement and care, and, if so, the court may consider those views.

(6)(A) If the court finds that the person's competency cannot be restored, and finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person is a person in need of custody, care, and habilitation as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 8839, the court shall issue an order of commitment for up to one year directed to the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for placement in a designated program in the least restrictive environment consistent with the person's need for custody, care, and habilitation. The order of commitment shall have the same force and effect as an order issued under 18 V.S.A. chapter 206, subchapter 3 and persons committed under the order shall have the same status, and the same rights, including the right to receive care and habilitation, to be examined and discharged, and to apply for and obtain judicial review of their cases, as persons ordered committed under 18 V.S.A. chapter 206, subchapter 3.

(B)(i) The Commissioner shall provide appropriate custody, care, and habilitation in a designated program to a person committed under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6).

(ii) The court may order continued treatment at the forensic facility for a period not to exceed one year if the court finds that the Commissioner is not currently able to provide appropriate custody, care, and habilitation in a designated program. For good cause shown the court may extend the one-year period by an additional period not to exceed six months.

(C)(i) The court shall review an order of continued treatment issued pursuant to subdivision (B)(ii) of this subdivision (6) every 90 days.

(ii) If the court finds at the review that that appropriate custody, care, and habilitation can be provided to the person in a designated program, the court shall vacate the order for continued treatment and order the person committed to the custody of the Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6).

(iii) If the court finds at the review that that appropriate custody, care, and habilitation cannot be provided to the person in a designated program, the court shall order continued treatment at the forensic facility pursuant to subdivision (B)(ii) of this subdivision (6).

(D) The Commissioner may at any time certify to the court that appropriate custody, care, and habilitation can be provided to the person in a designated program, and after such a certification the court shall vacate the order for continued treatment and order the person committed to the custody of the Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6).

(E) As used in this subdivision (6), “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(d) Except as provided in subdivisions (c)(4)(A), (c)(5), and (c)(6)(A) of this section, the person shall remain at the forensic facility until the person is restored to competency or until there is a final disposition of the charges against the person.

(e) The person shall receive competency restoration services while at the forensic facility according to a plan approved by the Agency of Human Services Medical Director. Such services shall include any appropriate combination of medication, education, accommodations, habilitation, or other services identified as necessary or proper to achieve and maintain competency to stand trial. The person’s refusal to receive competency restoration services shall not be grounds for release or dismissal from the forensic facility.

(f) Competency restoration services shall be provided to the person at the forensic facility, or at another location as part of a discharge plan, until the person is restored to competency or until there is a final disposition of the charges against the person.

(g)(1) As appropriate for the needs of the person, the Commissioner of Mental Health; of Health; or of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall actively monitor compliance with orders issued pursuant to subdivision (c)(5) of this section. Upon request from the commissioner monitoring the person, the court shall immediately order return of a person to the forensic facility if:

(A) the person was released from the facility pursuant to subdivision (c)(5) of this section; and

(B) the Agency of Human Services Medical Director has reason to believe that, due to a qualifying condition, the person's continued release would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(2) The commissioner monitoring the person shall notify the court where the person was committed upon return of the person to the forensic facility. Upon readmission, the court shall hold a hearing at which the State's Attorney shall have the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that the person has a qualifying condition that, if the person's release continues, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person. If the State's Attorney meets its burden, the court shall order the person readmitted to the forensic facility for treatment pursuant to this section. If the State's Attorney does not meet its burden, the court shall order the person restored to the status the person had when the person was returned to the facility.

(h) The Agency of Human Services Medical Director shall receive prior approval of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court where the person's underlying criminal charge is pending for any competency restoration plan involving involuntary medication. The court shall not approve involuntary medication unless the State's Attorney establishes by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) the involuntary medication is medically appropriate;

(2) the involuntary medication serves the important governmental interests of bringing to trial an individual accused of a serious crime and ensuring a fair, timely prosecution;

(3) the involuntary medication significantly furthers these important governmental interests by making it substantially likely to render the defendant competent to stand trial; and

(4) any alternative, less intrusive treatments are unlikely to achieve the same results.

(i) When an evaluation is required of the person's competency or restorability under this section, the defense shall be entitled to conduct an independent evaluation and introduce the results at the hearing.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 4817 is amended to read:

§ 4817. COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL; DETERMINATION;

DISMISSAL

* * *

(e)(1) When a person has been found incompetent to stand trial for an alleged misdemeanor offense, the charges against the person shall be dismissed without prejudice if, after the finding of incompetence, the case remains inactive for a continuous period of time equal to or greater than the maximum sentence for the offense. Dismissal under this section shall not be required if the court finds that dismissing the case would be contrary to the interests of justice.

(2)(A) If the offense is not a qualifying crime under subdivision 7601(4) of this title, the court shall hold a hearing prior to dismissing a case under this subsection (e). The State's Attorney shall make a reasonable effort to provide the victim with prior notice of the hearing, and the court may continue the hearing if the victim has not been provided with the notice required by this subdivision (2)(A).

(B) At the hearing, the court shall ask if the victim is present and, if so, shall offer the victim the opportunity to be heard. The court may consider any views offered at the hearing by the victim, including the victim's views concerning the offense and the interests of justice. If the victim is not present at the hearing, the court shall ask whether the victim has expressed oral or written views concerning the offense and the interests of justice, and, if so, the court may consider those views.

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A § 4819a is added to read:

§ 4819a. FORENSIC FACILITY PLACEMENT FOR PERSONS

NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY FOR CERTAIN
CRIMES

(a)(1) A person who is charged with an offense punishable by a life sentence and is found not guilty only by reason of insanity at the time of the offense charged shall be committed to a forensic facility pursuant to this section. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the temporary transfer of a person requiring inpatient treatment through an order of hospitalization pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7619 or section 4822 of this title.

(2) The committing court shall retain jurisdiction over the person for all proceedings under this section.

(b)(1) A hearing shall be held by the court where the person was tried within 60 days following admission to the forensic facility, unless that period is extended by the court.

(2) Prior to the date of the hearing, the court shall order that a forensic risk assessment of the person be conducted that includes:

(A) the person's history and present dangerousness;

(B) a description of any tests that were employed and the results of the tests;

(C) the examiner's findings;

(D) the examiner's opinion as to whether the person's release would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person; and

(E) recommendations for evidence-based treatment and supervision that would support the individual's success and mitigate risk of aggression and violence.

(3) The results of all evaluations shall be supplied to the court and the parties to the underlying criminal action.

(4)(A) At the hearing, the court shall order the person committed to the forensic facility if the State's Attorney establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the person has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(B) If the State's Attorney does not establish by clear and convincing evidence that the person has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person, the court shall enter an order releasing the person pursuant to subdivisions (e)(3)(A) and (B) of this section.

(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule, witnesses at the hearing shall be permitted to provide testimony remotely.

(c) A person committed to the forensic facility pursuant to this section shall not be released until the court finds pursuant to subsection (e) of this section that the person no longer has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(d) The Agency of Human Services Medical Director shall, taking into account public safety and the least restrictive conditions applicable, provide adequate care and individualized treatment at the forensic facility to persons ordered committed pursuant to this section. In order that the Medical Director may adequately determine the nature of the person's condition and needs, all persons committed pursuant to this section shall be promptly examined by qualified personnel in order to provide a proper evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment plan.

(e)(1)(A)(i) The State's Attorney shall petition the committing court for review of the person's commitment:

(I) six months after the date that the person is committed pursuant to subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section;

(II) three years after a commitment order issued following a review under subdivision (I) of this subdivision (i);

(III) every fifth year after a commitment order issued following a review under subdivision (II) of this subdivision (i); and

(IV) at any time upon certification at any time to the Secretary of Human Services by the Agency of Human Services Medical Director that the person no longer has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(ii) The Secretary of Human Services shall provide all reports required under this section to the State's Attorney, who shall file them with the petition.

(B)(i) A person committed pursuant to subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section may petition the committing court for release on the grounds that the person no longer has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person.

(ii) A petition shall not be filed pursuant to this subdivision (B):

(I) until at least 90 days after the issuance of the commitment order pursuant to subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section; and

(II) more frequently than once during each applicable period set forth in subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (e)(1).

(2) If the State's Attorney establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the person has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person, the court shall deny the petition and order the person committed to the forensic facility for continued treatment pursuant to this section.

(3) If the State's Attorney does not establish by clear and convincing evidence that the person has a qualifying condition that, upon the person's release, would create a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person, the court shall:

(A) order the release of the person under a prescribed regimen of medical, psychiatric, or psychological care or treatment, including supervision

and housing, that the Agency of Human Services Medical Director has certified as appropriate; and

(B) order, as an explicit condition of supervision, that the person comply with the prescribed regimen of evidence-informed medical, psychiatric, or psychological care or treatment, including supervision and housing, together with any other conditions appropriate to protect the public.

(f) As appropriate for the needs of the person, the Commissioner of Mental Health; of Health; or of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall actively monitor compliance with orders issued pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of this section. Upon request from the commissioner monitoring the person, the court shall immediately order return of the person to the forensic facility if the Agency of Human Services Medical Director determines that the person is noncompliant with the order and that the noncompliance may create a risk of bodily injury to another person. The commissioner monitoring the person shall notify the court where the person was committed upon return of the person to the forensic facility. Upon readmission, the court shall hold a hearing at which the State's Attorney shall have the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that the person was noncompliant with the court's order for conditional release and that the noncompliance creates a risk of bodily injury to another person.

(g)(1) The State's Attorney shall provide the victim with prior notice of any hearing held pursuant to this section. The court may continue the hearing if the victim has not been provided with the notice required by this subdivision.

(2) At any hearing under this section, the court shall ask if the victim is present and, if so, shall offer the victim the opportunity to be heard. The court may consider any views offered at the hearing by the victim, including the victim's views concerning the offense and preferences for the person's placement and care. If the victim is not present at the hearing, the court shall ask whether the victim has expressed oral or written views concerning the offense and preferences for the person's placement and care, and, if so, the court may consider those views.

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 4826 is added to read:

§ 4826. FORENSIC FACILITY; DEFINITIONS

(a)(1) As used in this chapter:

(A) "Competency can be restored" means a substantial probability that in the foreseeable future the person will attain the capacity to permit the proceedings to go forward.

(B) “Forensic facility” means a locked secure facility licensed as a therapeutic community residence as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7102(11) where:

(i) the Agency of Human Services provides for the secure competency restoration, evaluation, stabilization, treatment, and care of persons with a qualifying condition who are involved in the legal system and who do not require a hospitalization level of care; and

(ii) a person is transferred pursuant to subsections 4815a(a) and 4819a(a) of this title.

(C) “Qualifying condition” means any condition whether mental, congenital, or traumatic, however acquired or developed, or any other circumstance that resulted in the person being determined:

(i) incompetent to stand trial; or

(ii) not guilty by reason of insanity.

(2) The evaluations required by this chapter may be conducted pursuant to contracts entered into between the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and evaluation providers.

(3) Prior to any hearing under section 4815a or 4819a of this title, the person shall be required, at the request of a party, to permit an expert assessment of the person’s competency, forensic risk, or restorability to competency.

(b) The Secretary of Human Services shall establish and operate a locked secure forensic facility for the competency restoration, evaluation, stabilization, treatment, and care of persons who have been transferred pursuant to subsections 4815a(a) and 4819a(a) of this title. The forensic facility’s clinical, forensic, and competency restoration services shall be overseen by the Agency of Human Services Medical Director. The Department of Corrections shall not play a role in the forensic facility’s operation, the provision of services, or internal security, except to provide security services for the facility at the admitting area and around the outside perimeter if the facility is co-located on the grounds of a correctional facility. The forensic facility shall:

(1) be designed and operated in a manner that supports therapeutic, recovery-oriented, and trauma-informed programming in a therapeutic community residence, while maintaining appropriate levels of safety and security;

(2) not refuse any persons it is ordered to admit and shall not require any clinical or diagnostic prerequisites for admission;

(3) provide for the safe competency restoration, evaluation, treatment, stabilization, and care of persons, including the ability to separate the population by sex or gender and to otherwise address clinical, safety, or operational considerations as appropriate, including the possible operation of multiple facilities;

(4) follow the direction of the Agency of Human Services Medical Director, who shall oversee all forensic, clinical, and competency restoration services provided to transferred persons;

(5) implement staff qualifications, licensure, training, and supervision requirements that are sufficient to ensure that persons transferred to the forensic facility have access to clinically appropriate care, treatment, services, and supports consistent with individual needs and with applicable professional standards;

(6) ensure that a registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28 or a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33 is available to provide care to transferred persons 24 hours a day, seven days a week;

(7) ensure that persons receive clinically appropriate assessment and treatment planning and competency restoration plans, as appropriate, including the development of an initial person-specific treatment plan within 72 hours following transfer, which shall be reviewed periodically as clinically indicated;

(8) ensure that clinical services and programming include psychiatric care, management of medications, education about court procedures, habilitation, and trauma-informed care, as appropriate;

(9) continue to provide evaluation, treatment, stabilization, and care of a resident who has regained competency while the resident awaits and participates in the resident's trial;

(10) provide residents with interpreters, as appropriate;

(11) implement grievance and appeals procedures; and

(12) implement a process for reporting instances of death or serious bodily injury to residents of the forensic facility to the Agency of Human Services Medical Director.

(c) Any records related to a person placed at the forensic facility shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential, except that:

(1) the records shall be made available to the parties in the underlying criminal case upon request; and

(2) the person's health care providers may, with the person's permission, view forensic facility records of the person's psychiatric assessments at the facility, including assessments of the person's competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility.

(d) Persons shall be admitted to and maintained at the forensic facility pursuant to sections 4815a and 4819a of this title, and in proceedings under those sections shall be entitled to have counsel appointed from Vermont Legal Aid to represent them.

(e) The Secretary of Human Services shall regularly consult with the Commissioners of Corrections; of Mental Health; of Health; and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living when performing the duties required by this chapter for operating the forensic facility.

(f) The Agency of Human Services Medical Director and an evaluator submitting a report pursuant to sections 4815a and 4819a of this title shall testify at any hearing under those sections if requested by the court or a party.

(g) The Secretary of Human Services shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement this section.

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 7257 is amended to read:

§ 7257. REPORTABLE ADVERSE EVENTS

(a) An acute inpatient hospital, an intensive residential recovery facility, a designated agency, a psychiatric residential treatment facility for youth, a forensic facility, or a secure residential recovery facility shall report to the Department of Mental Health instances of death or serious bodily injury to individuals with a mental condition or psychiatric disability in the custody or temporary custody of the Commissioner.

* * *

Sec. 7. FEASIBILITY PLAN; FORENSIC FACILITY

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall submit a feasibility plan for the development and operation of a forensic facility to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Corrections and Institutions, on Health Care, on Human Services, and on Judiciary and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, on Institutions, and on Judiciary. The feasibility plan shall assume that operation, staffing, and programming at the forensic facility shall be provided by the Agency of Human Services or its departments, with the exception that the Department of Corrections shall not play a role in its operation, the provision of services, or

internal security, other than the provision of security services for the facility at the admitting area and around the outside perimeter if the facility is co-located on the grounds of a correctional facility. The feasibility plan shall address the following:

(1) the proposed location of a forensic facility, which shall be independent from a correctional facility, and, if on the same grounds as a correctional facility, shall be separated by sight and sound;

(2) the proposed design plans for a forensic facility that allows for the ability to separate residents by sex or gender and clinical need;

(3) the number of beds within a forensic facility;

(4) the entity or entities responsible for operating and providing services in a forensic facility;

(5) the timeline for constructing a stand-alone forensic facility or fitting up an existing stand-alone facility to operate as a forensic facility;

(6) the estimated cost of constructing or fitting up and operating a forensic facility;

(7) which aspects of the therapeutic community residence rule would need to be modified to operate the forensic facility as a therapeutic community residence;

(8) the clinical services available at a forensic facility, including on-site competency restoration services;

(9) the proposed staffing levels, staff qualifications, and potential contracting needs necessary to establish a multidisciplinary clinical team at the forensic facility that reflects best practices, including required evidence-based, trauma-informed staff training and multiple potential staffing strategies;

(10) the physical and staff security plan within and around the perimeter of a forensic facility, including therapeutic design and clinical supervision that reflect best practices, which shall not involve the Department of Corrections, with the exception that employees of the Department of Corrections may provide security services for the facility at the admitting area and around the outside perimeter of the facility if it is co-located on the grounds of a correctional facility;

(11) a resident discharge and community monitoring plan from each department with custody of individuals in the forensic facility, developed in consultation with the Department of Corrections, that prioritizes community safety and provides residential, clinical, and case management services;

(12) opportunities and cost estimates for persons who would be eligible for placement at the forensic facility to receive the following services while the development of a forensic facility in Vermont is pending:

(A) placement in an out-of-state residence where clinically appropriate programming can be provided; and

(B) a competency restoration program within a Vermont correctional facility, provided by an entity that is not under contract with the Department of Corrections;

(13) a plan for the expansion of 1988 Acts and Resolves No. 248 to include individuals with a cognitive disability;

(14) annual reporting metrics on the demographics, outcomes, and staffing at the forensic facility; and

(15) any recommendations for legislative action to effectuate the development of a therapeutic, trauma-informed forensic facility.

(b) At the August and November 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Secretary of Human Services or designee shall provide an interim status update on the development of the feasibility plan required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 8. Rule 1101 of the Vermont Rules of Evidence is amended to read:

RULE 1101. APPLICABILITY OF RULES

(a) Rules applicable. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), these rules apply to all actions and proceedings in the courts of this state.

(b) Rules inapplicable. The rules other than those with respect to privileges do not apply in the following situations:

* * *

(3) Miscellaneous Proceedings. Proceedings for extradition or rendition; inquest proceedings; except as otherwise provided by statute or rule promulgated by the Supreme Court, sentencing or granting or revoking probation; proceedings concerning competency restoration; granting or revoking conditional release from a forensic facility; finding probable cause for arrests without warrant and issuance of citations, warrants for arrest, criminal summonses, and search warrants.

* * *

Sec. 9. SUNSET

Sec. 7(a)(12) (interim competency restoration program) of this act shall be repealed on January 1, 2028.

Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 3 (13 V.S.A. § 4817), Sec. 7 (feasibility plan; forensic facility), and Sec. 9 (sunset of interim competency restoration program) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) All remaining sections shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

(Committee vote: 9-0-2)

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends that the report of the Committee on Judiciary be amended in Sec. 7, feasibility plan; forensic facility, by inserting a new subsection to be subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Absent further legislative enactment by the General Assembly, the Agency of Human Services and its departments shall not advance the development of the forensic facility other than what is required to complete the feasibility plan required by this section.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 740

An act relating to the greenhouse gas inventory and registry

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 10 V.S.A. § 582 is amended to read:

§ 582. GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES; REGISTRY

* * *

(e) Rules.

(1) The Secretary may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section and shall review existing and proposed international, federal, and State greenhouse gas emission reporting programs and make reasonable efforts to promote consistency among the programs established pursuant to this section and other programs, and to streamline reporting requirements on greenhouse gas emission sources. Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section,

nothing in this section shall limit a State agency from adopting any rule within its authority.

(2) The Secretary has authority to adopt rules that create a comprehensive greenhouse gas emission reporting program that covers all sources of emissions, including fuel suppliers. Suppliers of transportation and heating fuels covered by the rules shall comply with requests from the Secretary for information. The Secretary shall adopt a rule that at a minimum includes the types and volume of fossil fuels sold by sector for the transportation, residential, commercial, and industrial sectors and by zip code, municipality, or the smallest geographic level practicable that also protects the individual identities of consumers.

* * *

Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

On or before July 1, 2027, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall adopt final rules for greenhouse gas emission reporting as required under 10 V.S.A. § 582(e)(2).

Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION

In addition to other funds appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources, in fiscal year 2027, the sum of \$300,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Natural Resources to be used to draft the greenhouse gas emission reporting rules and to develop a greenhouse gas emission source database.

Sec. 4. REPEAL

30 V.S.A. chapter 94 (Clean Heat Standard) is repealed.

Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 3102 is amended to read:

§ 3102. CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAX RECORDS

* * *

(e) The Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's discretion and subject to such conditions and requirements as the Commissioner may provide, including any confidentiality requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, disclose a return or return information:

* * *

~~(23) To the Public Utility Commission and the Department of Public Service, provided the disclosure relates to the fuel tax under 33 V.S.A. chapter 25 and is used for the purposes of auditing compliance with the Clean Heat~~

~~Standard under 30 V.S.A. chapter 94. The Commissioner shall, at a minimum, provide the names of any new businesses selling heating fuel in any given year and the names of any businesses that are no longer selling heating fuel. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

H. 907

An act relating to legislative review of reporting requirements

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Repeal of Reporting Requirements * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2313 is amended to read:

§ 2313. PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

(a) The Chief Performance Officer shall assist agencies as necessary in developing performance measures for contracts and grants.

~~(b) Annually, on or before July 30 and as part of any other report requirement to the General Assembly set forth in this subchapter, the Chief Performance Officer shall report to the General Assembly on the progress by rate or percent of how many State contracts and grants have performance accountability requirements and the rate or percent of contractors' and grantees' compliance with those requirements. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 331 is amended to read:

§ 331. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

* * *

(c)(1) The Commissioner may authorize the continued employment of a person in a temporary capacity for more than 1,280 hours in any one calendar year if the Commissioner determines, in writing, that a bona fide emergency exists for the appointing authority that requires such continued employment.

* * *

(3) The Commissioner may authorize seasonal employment in a specific position for a period of between seven and 12 months if the Commissioner determines, in writing, that the nature and duties of the position require the employment of a person for a period of more than seven months in a 12-month

period. The Commissioner shall not authorize seasonal employment for a period of more than seven months in a 12-month period if the authorization is intended to circumvent, or has the effect of circumventing, the policies and purposes of the classified service under this chapter. ~~Annually, on or before January 15, the Commissioner shall submit a report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations:~~

~~(A) the total number of positions in seasonal employment that have been authorized for a period of between seven and 12 months during the prior calendar year;~~

~~(B) the agency or department that each position identified in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) is assigned to; and~~

~~(C) the period of time that each identified position is authorized for.~~

* * *

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 2972 is amended to read:

§ 2972. POWERS AND DUTIES

* * *

(b) Included among the powers of the Council in connection with the enforcement of this chapter are the powers to require reports from any person subject to this chapter; to adopt, rescind, modify, and amend all proper and necessary rules and orders to administer this chapter, which rules and orders shall be adopted by publication in the manner prescribed by the Council and shall have the force and effect of law when not inconsistent with existing laws; to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, take depositions, and certify to official acts; to require any dealer to keep such true and accurate records and to make such reports covering purchases, sales, and receipts of dairy products and related matters as the Council deems reasonably necessary for effective administration, which records shall be open to inspection by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets at any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary, but information thus obtained shall not be published or be open to public inspection in any manner revealing any individual dealer's identity, except as required in proceedings to enforce compliance; ~~and to keep accurate books, records, and accounts of all of its dealings; and to make annually a full report of its doings to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Governor, which shall show the amount of money received and the expenditures thereof. The report shall be submitted on or before January 15.~~ The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall perform the administrative work of the

Council as directed by the Council. The Council shall reimburse the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the cost of services performed by the Agency.

* * *

Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 4810 is amended to read:

§ 4810. AUTHORITY; COOPERATION; COORDINATION

* * *

(d) Cooperation and coordination. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for reducing and eliminating agricultural nonpoint source pollutants and discharges from farms. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall cooperate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in the implementation of the federal Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall implement the State's comprehensive, complementary nonpoint source program. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall coordinate regarding program administration; grant negotiation; grant sharing; implementation of the antidegradation policy including to new sources of agricultural nonpoint source pollutants, and watershed planning activities to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 1259(i), the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall issue a document that sets forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the Agency of Natural Resources in implementing the federal Clean Water Act on farms and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' roles and responsibilities in implementing the State's complementary nonpoint source program on farms. The document shall be consistent with and equivalent with the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regulations for discharges from CAFOs. The document will replace the memorandum of understanding between the agencies. The allocation of duties under this chapter between the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall be consistent with the Secretary's duties, established under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1258(b), to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be the State lead person in applying for federal funds under Pub. L. No. 92-500 but shall consult with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets during the process. The agricultural nonpoint source program may compete with other programs for competitive watershed projects

funded from federal funds. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall be represented in reviewing these projects for funding. Actions by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under this chapter concerning agricultural nonpoint source pollution shall be consistent with the water quality standards and water pollution control requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 47 and the federal Clean Water Act as amended. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for the proper management of composting facilities when those facilities are located on a farm. ~~The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall each develop three separate measures of the performance of the agencies under the federal Clean Water Act and State nonpoint source regulatory authority, and annually on or before January 15, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit separate reports to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the House Committee on Environment regarding the success of each agency in meeting its selected performance measures.~~

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1978 is amended to read:

§ 1978. RULES

* * *

(e)(1) The Secretary shall periodically review and, if necessary, revise the rules adopted under this chapter to ensure that the technical standards remain current with the known and proven technologies regarding potable water supplies and wastewater systems.

* * *

~~(3) The Technical Advisory Committee shall provide annual reports, starting January 15, 2003, to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. The reports shall include information on the following topics: the implementation of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter; the number and type of alternative or innovative systems approved for general use, approved for use as a pilot project, and approved for experimental use; the functional status of alternative or innovative systems approved for use as a pilot project or approved for experimental use; the number of permit applications received during the preceding calendar year; the number of permits issued during the preceding calendar year; and the number of permit applications denied during~~

~~the preceding calendar year, together with a summary of the basis of denial. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

The State Board shall engage local school board members and the broader education community and, consistent with the provisions of this title, its own rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary, establish and regularly update a long-term strategic vision for the delivery of educational services in Vermont; advise the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on high-priority educational policies and issues as they arise; and act in accordance with legislative mandates, including the adoption of rules and executing special assignments. In addition to other specified duties, the Board shall:

* * *

~~(17) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a supervisory union and school district basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision (9) of this section, number and types of complaints of hazing, harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and regulations, data on hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be disaggregated by incident type, including disaggregation by ethnic groups, racial groups, religious groups, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and English language learner status. The Secretary shall use the information in the report to determine whether students in each school, school district, and supervisory union are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools, school districts, and supervisory unions pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 829 is amended to read:

§ 829. PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

* * *

(e) Rules. The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for Children and Families shall jointly develop and agree to rules and present them to the State Board for adoption under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as follows:

* * *

(10) To establish a system by which the Agency of Education and Department for Children and Families shall jointly monitor and evaluate prekindergarten education programs to promote optimal results for children that support the relevant population-level outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 and to collect data that will inform future decisions. ~~The Agency and Department shall be required to report annually to the General Assembly in January.~~ At a minimum, the system shall monitor and evaluate:

* * *

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4635 is amended to read:

§ 4635. PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST TRANSPARENCY

* * *

~~(d)(1) The Attorney General shall provide a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year based on the information received from manufacturers pursuant to this section.~~ The Attorney General shall post the report and the public version of each manufacturer's information submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section on the Office of the Attorney General's website.

(2) The Green Mountain Care Board shall post on its website ~~the report prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection~~ and the public version of each manufacturer's information submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section, and may inform the public of the availability of the report and the manufacturers' justification information.

* * *

Sec. 9. 28 V.S.A. § 104 is amended to read:

§ 104. NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

* * *

~~(e) The Commissioner of Corrections shall annually, by January 15, report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the implementation of this section during the previous 12 months. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 10. 33 V.S.A. § 4305 is amended to read:

§ 4305. COORDINATED SYSTEM OF CARE

* * *

~~(c) The Commissioners of Mental Health and for Children and Families and the Secretary of Education shall jointly submit to the General Assembly a report on the status of programs for children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance and their families, which shall include a system of care plan. The report shall be submitted together with the general appropriation bill provided for by 32 V.S.A. § 701. The system of care plan shall:~~

~~(1) identify the characteristics and number of children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance in need of appropriate services, describe the educational, residential, mental health or other treatment services needed, describe currently available programs and resources, recommend a plan to meet the needs of such children, recommend priorities for the continuation or development of programs and resources, and make an assessment of the success of such programs; and~~

~~(2) provide information as available on the extent to which children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance have not received services, the characteristics and number of those children and adolescents who have not received services and recommendations on how to address their identified needs. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Sec. 11. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 20 is amended to read:

Sec. 20. VERMONT CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements at domestic violence shelters. ~~Annually, on or before December 1, the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services shall file with the commissioner of buildings and general services a report which details the status of the improvements funded in whole or in part by state capital appropriations.~~

Total Appropriation – Section 20	\$50,000
----------------------------------	----------

Sec. 12. REPEALS

The following are repealed:

(1) 6 V.S.A. § 4825 (report concerning activities in support of water quality financial and technical assistance);

(2) 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 112a(b)(2)(A) (report on utilization of services and expenses under Choices for Care);

(3) 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 192, Sec. 5.221(b) (report on use of appropriations for household weatherization);

(4) 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. 3 (report on Genuine Progress Indicator);

(5) 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. C.106 (Vermont Health Connect monthly reports);

(6) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.100.5(g) (report on resources made available from the Vermont Enterprise Fund);

(7) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 195, Secs. 3(f) and 4(b) (evaluate goals and performance of pretrial services and precharge programs);

(8) 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 68, Sec. 3 (report on concussions suffered by student athletes);

(9) 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 174, Sec. 1(c)(2) (Auditor report filed if a privatization contract has not achieved the required cost savings or complied with required performance measures); and

(10) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 10(b) (report on status of the Broadband Innovation Grant Program).

* * * Reports Extended Until 2030 Review * * *

Sec. 13. REPORTS REPEAL DELAYED

The reports set forth in this section shall not be subject to review under the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) until July 1, 2030:

(1) 3 V.S.A. § 168(f)(6) (Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System Advisory Panel report and recommendations);

(2) 10 V.S.A. § 280ee(d) (Vermont Economic Development Authority report concerning Broadband Expansion Loan Program activities);

(3) 10 V.S.A. § 325m(g) (Rural Economic Development Initiative report);

(4) 13 V.S.A. § 5256 (Office of Defender General annual report);

(5) 13 V.S.A. § 5415(c) (Department of Public Safety report concerning sex offender registry compliance);

(6) 18 V.S.A. § 909(e) (EMS Advisory Committee report concerning progress toward goals of five-year plan);

(7) 20 V.S.A. § 2367 (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report concerning use of electronic control devices);

(8) 20 V.S.A. § 2366(d) (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report concerning fair and impartial policing policies and training);

(9) 20 V.S.A. § 4624 (Department of Public Safety report on drone use);

(10) 24 V.S.A. § 1892(g) (quadrennial analysis of recommendations and conclusions of the tax increment financing capacity study and report);

(11) 29 V.S.A. § 160(e) (Department of Buildings and General Services Property Management Revolving Fund annual report);

(12) 32 V.S.A. § 3340(a) (Vermont Economic Progress Council report concerning Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program).

* * * Reports Exempted from 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) * * *

Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 3902 is amended to read:

§ 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

* * *

(d) Annually, the Office shall provide a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Natural Resources and Energy on appropriations utilizing existing resources within State government available in the Office of Economic Opportunity's weatherization data management system that compiles performance data available on households weatherized in the past year to include the:

(1) number of households weatherized;

(2) average program expenditure per household for energy efficiency;

(3) average percent in energy savings;

(4) energy and nonenergy benefits combined;

(5) benefits saved for every dollar spent;

(6) average savings per unit for heating fuels;

(7) gallons of oil saved related to the equivalent number of homes heated;

(8) projected number of households to be weatherized in the current program year;

(9) projected program expenditures for the current program year ending March 31;

(10) total number of all units that had weatherization deferred, and the reasons why;

(11) number of rental units that had weatherization deferred, and the reasons why;

(12) number of rental units deferred specifically because of vermiculite;

(13) backlog of deferred rental units deferred specifically because of vermiculite; and

(14) potential energy savings for all deferred weatherization that do not require disturbing the vermiculite.

Sec. 15. 3 V.S.A. § 1226 is amended to read:

§ 1226. COMMISSION REPORTS

* * *

(c) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 16. 4 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

§ 608. FUNCTIONS

* * *

(e) On or before the tenth Thursday after the convening of each biennial and adjourned session, the Committee shall report to the General Assembly its recommendation whether the candidates should continue in office, with any amplifying information that it may deem appropriate, in order that the General Assembly may discharge its obligation under Chapter II, § 34 of the Constitution of the State of Vermont Constitution. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 17. 6 V.S.A. § 4710 is amended to read:

§ 4710. VERMONT FARM AND FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

* * *

(f) In collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall report in writing to the Senate Committees on

Agriculture and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry and on Commerce and Economic Development on or before January 31 of each year with a report on the activities and performance of the Farm and Forest Viability Program. At a minimum, the report shall include an evaluation of the Program utilizing the performance goals and performance measures established in consultation with the Advisory Board under subsection (d) of this section. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 18. 6 V.S.A. § 4825 is amended to read:

§ 4825. REPORTS

(a) Annually by January 15 of each year, the Secretary shall report to the General Assembly regarding activities in support of the objectives of this subchapter, including use of State, federal, and private funds:

* * *

(b) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. TREASURER'S LOCAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(e) Report. On or before January 15, the Advisory Committee annually shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Appropriations, on Commerce and Economic Development, on Ways and Means, and on Government Operations and Military Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The report shall include the following:

* * *

Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 531 is amended to read:

§ 531. THE VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM

* * *

(k) Report. Annually on or before January 15, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and

the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In addition to the reporting requirements under section 540 of this title, the report shall identify:

* * *

Sec. 21. 10 V.S.A. § 2609a is amended to read:

§ 2609a. INCOME FROM LEASE OF MOUNTAINTOP
COMMUNICATION SITES

Annually on or before February 15, the Agency of Natural Resources shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House ~~Committees~~ Committee on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife Digital Infrastructure containing an itemization of the income generated through the end of the previous fiscal year from the use of sites for communication purposes. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 6503 is amended to read:

§ 6503. LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL

(a) The Committee shall report to the General Assembly its recommendation to approve or not to approve the petition for the facility together with such additional information and comment it deems appropriate. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 311 is amended to read:

§ 311. RETIREMENT FUNDS INTEGRITY REPORT

* * *

(b) At the request of the House ~~or Senate Committee on Government Operations or on Appropriations~~ Committee on Appropriations or on Government Operations and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on Appropriations or on Government Operations, or the Joint Public Pension Oversight Committee, the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall present to the requesting committees the recommendations submitted under 3 V.S.A. § 471(n) and 16 V.S.A. § 1942(r).

(c) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 24. 32 V.S.A. § 588 is amended to read:

§ 588. SPECIAL FUNDS; ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

All special funds shall be organized and managed in accordance with the provisions of this section.

* * *

(6) Accounting and reporting.

* * *

(B) In addition, the Commissioner shall annually report a list of any special funds created during the fiscal year. The list shall furnish for each fund its name, authorization, and revenue source or sources. The report for the prior fiscal year shall be submitted to the General Assembly through the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before December 1 of each year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 25. 3 V.S.A. § 3303 is amended to read:

§ 3303. REPORTING, RECORDS, AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

(a) Annual report and budget. The Secretary shall submit to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Institutions, concurrent with the Governor's annual budget request required under 32 V.S.A. § 306, an annual report for information technology and cybersecurity. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The report shall reflect the priorities of the Agency and shall include:

* * *

* * * Reports Modified * * *

Sec. 26. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 119, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

Sec. 8. REPORTING; UTILIZATION BY SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

(a) The Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on

Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding:

* * *

(b) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding:

* * *

(c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were certified to perform inspections without being required to pass an examination as provided pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1227(b)(2).

(d) The Commissioner of Health shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were deemed to have knowledge of the prevention of food-borne disease, be able to apply the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles, and have met the criteria for “demonstration of knowledge” requirements set forth by the Department of Health in rule for the purposes of obtaining a food establishment license as provided pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4303(b) and the total number of food establishment licenses issued to those service members and veterans.

Sec. 27. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. COURT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON PUBLIC RECORDS
CASES

On or before January 15, 2012, and annually on even years thereafter, the Vermont court administrator’s office shall report to the senate and house committees on government operations regarding contested cases filed in the civil division of the superior court involving disputes under the Public Records

Act, as set forth in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 4. The report shall include the number of Public Records Act contested cases filed annually in the civil division of the superior court, the disposition of such cases, and whether attorney's fees were awarded in any of the cases. The court administrator shall submit a copy of a report required under this section to the secretary of state at the same time the report is submitted to the senate and house committees on government operations.

Sec. 28. 4 V.S.A. § 40 is amended to read:

§ 40. REPORT ON TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

(a) Annually, on or before January 15 of every even year, the State Court Administrator shall submit a report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations identifying for each of the two prior calendar years:

(1) the total number of individuals employed by the Judiciary Department on a temporary basis who have worked in excess of 1,280 hours in the prior calendar year, excluding employees identified in 3 V.S.A. § 1011(7), (8)(A)–(D), (8)(F) and (G), and (8)(I)–(K);

(2) the total number of temporary positions in which one or more individuals have been employed for a combined total of more than 1,280 hours, excluding positions filled by employees identified in 3 V.S.A. § 1011(7), (8)(A)–(D), (8)(F) and (G), and (8)(I)–(K);

(3) the total number of hours worked by each temporary employee identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section; and

(4) the total number of years during which each temporary employee identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section has worked for the Judiciary Department.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the State Court Administrator need not submit the report if there were no temporary employees hired in the prior two calendar years.

Sec. 29. REPEAL

2014 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2(c) (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report concerning use of electronic control devices) is repealed.

Sec. 30. 20 V.S.A. § 2367 is amended to read:

§ 2367. STATEWIDE POLICY; ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES;
REPORTING

* * *

(f)(1) Every State, county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency and every constable who is not employed by a law enforcement agency shall report all incidents involving the use of an electronic control device to the Criminal Justice Council in a form to be determined by the Council.

(2) Annually, on or before November 15, the Criminal Justice Council shall report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Judiciary and to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary all incidents from the prior 12 months involving the use of an electronic control device, a review of compliance with standards, the adequacy of training and certification requirements, and the adequacy of funding for mental health collaboration.

* * *

Sec. 31. 20 V.S.A § 4662 is amended to read:

§ 4662. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

* * *

(g) Reports. On or before ~~January~~ February 15 each year, the Council shall ~~submit a written~~ report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Government Operations with a status update on the work of the Council and any recommendations for legislative action. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 32. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Marcotte of Coventry to H. 907

That the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 32, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a reader assistance heading and a new section Sec. 32 to read as follows:

* * * Vermont Sister State Program * * *

Sec. 32. 3 V.S.A. § 2479 is added to read:

§ 2479. VERMONT SISTER STATE PROGRAM

(a) Creation and purpose.

(1) The Vermont Sister State Program is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The Agency shall provide support to the Program and to the Sister State Program Committee as required.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to strengthen Vermont's international engagement and to foster mutually beneficial relationships with national and subnational governments abroad, with a goal of promoting cultural exchange, economic development, and educational cooperation.

(b) Program oversight.

(1) The Sister State Program Committee, composed of the following members, shall oversee the Program:

(A) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(B) a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(C) a member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(D) the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Council on World Affairs or designee;

(E) the Vermont Adjutant General or designee;

(F) the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Arts Council or designee; and

(G) three members, as follows:

(i) one member with expertise in cultural exchange or in Peace Corps operations, appointed by the Governor;

(ii) one member representing a private institution of higher education, appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(iii) one member representing a public institution of higher education, appointed by the Speaker.

(2) Members of the Committee shall serve two-year terms, provided that members appointed pursuant to subdivision (1)(G) of this subsection shall

serve initial terms of three years each to establish staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

(3) The Committee shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members that shall each serve a two-year term.

(4) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(c) Meetings.

(1) All meetings shall be called by the Chair, but in the event that the Committee does not have a chair, a meeting may be called by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee.

(2) The Committee shall meet:

(A) at least once quarterly, for the purpose of:

(i) evaluating current Program agreements;

(ii) proposing new Program agreements;

(iii) preparing its annual report; or

(iv) discussing any other matter that the Committee deems relevant to its work; and

(B) to review and score an eligible Program application not later than 30 days after the Committee receives the application from the Agency, pursuant to subdivision (d)(3) of this section.

(d) Program application, review, and approval procedures.

(1) Development of application process. The Agency, in consultation with the Committee, shall develop a process by which an entity can apply and be considered for admission as a partner to the Program. This process shall include the development of:

(A) an official application to be in the Program;

(B) a confidential internal review procedure to be used by the Agency to review Program applicants for sensitive political, legal, ethical, and strategic factors;

(C) minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for the Program;

(D) a fixed-scoring system, including a rubric, to be uniformly applied by the Committee to evaluate all eligible applications;

(E) a memorandum of understanding template to be used and signed by the State and an approved Program partner that shall include a termination

date; and

(F) any other necessary Program parameters, including the length of time for partner agreements to be in effect.

(2) Agency initial verification.

(A) When a Program application has been received by the Agency pursuant to this section, the Agency shall, before the Committee may meet to review the application:

(i) verify that the application meets the Program's minimum eligibility requirements; and

(ii) conduct a confidential internal review of the applicant.

(B) Not later than 10 days after completion of the Agency's initial verification and review of an application pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2), the Agency shall send the Committee a copy of the application along with a summary of the Agency's analysis.

(C) The confidential internal review process conducted in subdivision (A)(ii) of this subdivision (2), along with any and all documents reviewed during that process, shall be exempt from public inspection and copying.

(3) Committee review and recommendation.

(A) The Committee, upon receiving an application that has received preliminary approval from the Agency, shall meet to review the application pursuant to subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section not later than 30 days after receipt of the application from the Agency.

(B) If the Committee recommends that an application reviewed pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) be approved, the Committee shall submit its recommendation to the Governor along with a copy of the application not later than 30 days after completing its review of the application. The Committee shall not send to the Governor an application that the Committee does not recommend be approved.

(4) Governor's review.

(A) The Governor shall have the sole authority to issue final approval or disapproval of a Sister State Program application that the Committee recommended be approved. The Governor shall send written notice of the Governor's decision to the Agency not later than 10 days after the Governor's decision.

(B) If the Governor disapproves a Program application, the

Governor's notice in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (4) shall include a written explanation of why the Governor did not follow the recommendation of the Committee.

(C) Upon the Agency's receipt of the Governor's decision pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (4), the Agency shall notify the applicant of the Governor's decision not later than 30 days after the Agency receives notice of the Governor's decision.

(D) If the application is approved by the Governor, the Agency shall finalize a memorandum of understanding between the State and the Sister State Program applicant.

(5) Termination.

(A) The Committee may, at one of its meetings, propose to the Governor upon a majority vote that an active Sister State Program partnership be terminated.

(B) The Governor shall have the sole authority to terminate an active Sister State Program partnership.

(e) Reporting. The Committee shall submit an annual report not later than January 15 of each year to the Governor and to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs that includes the following:

(1) an executive summary of key development and outcomes of the Program;

(2) a description of Committee activities, including a summary of attendance and decisions at its meetings;

(3) updates on the Program, including an evaluation of sister state applications, new partners, significant developments, metrics of success, and challenges;

(4) a description of stakeholder engagement with the Program;

(5) a financial overview, including a summary of funding sources and expenditures; and

(6) an outlook for the Program, which shall include strategic objectives, potential new agreements, and growth opportunities for the next year.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General

Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than eight meetings per year. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings per year. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Second: By inserting a reader assistance heading and adding a new section to be Sec. 33 to read as follows:

* * * Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission * * *

Sec. 33. 9 V.S.A. chapter 111B is amended to read:

CHAPTER 111B. TRADE COMMISSIONS

§ 4129. VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

(a) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is established within the State Treasurer's office to advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont and Ireland. The Commission shall consist of ~~seven~~ nine members as follows:

- (1) two members, appointed by the Governor;
 - (2) two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (3) two members, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees;
- ~~and~~
- (4) the State Treasurer or designee;
 - (5) the Commissioner of Economic Development or designee; and
 - (6) the President of the University of Vermont or designee.

* * *

(c) The members of the Commission, ~~except for the State Treasurer or designee,~~ appointed pursuant to subdivisions (a)(1)–(3) of this section:

(1) shall be appointed for terms of four years each and shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed, except that in order to achieve staggered terms, the two members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial terms of two years each and the two members appointed by the Speaker of the House shall serve initial terms of three years each;

(2) Members may be reappointed upon the expiration of the member's term;

(3) A member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority; and

(4) Not shall consist of not more than two members serving on the Commission may be members of the General Assembly.

* * *

(f) The Commission, in coordination with the State Treasurer's office, shall submit a written report with its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within one year of following its initial organizational meeting and on or before December 1 of each succeeding year for the activities of the current calendar year. The report shall also include a:

(1) disclosure listing any in-kind contributions received by specific members of the Commission through their work in the Commission in the current calendar year; and

(2) detailed accounting from the State Treasurer's office of the:

(A) administrative expenses that have been paid with funds raised by the Commission, pursuant to subsection (g) of this section; and

(B) funds raised and donations, grants, and bequests received through the Commission including the name, country of residence, and amount donated of each contributor.

(g)(1) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other groups, and accept donations, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes as set forth in this chapter.

(2) The funds, donations, grants, or bequests received pursuant to this chapter subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be deposited in a bank account and allocated annually by the State Treasurer's office to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and carry out its purposes. Any monies so withdrawn shall not be used for any purpose other than the payment of administrative expenses under incurred pursuant to this chapter section and shall be itemized and tracked for reporting purposes by the State Treasurer's office. Interest earned shall remain in the bank account. The State Treasurer shall include the balance of the account in the annual reporting required pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(3) For purposes of this section, “administrative expenses” does not include any:

(A) expenses related to:

(i) campaign or election activity; or

(ii) food or beverages provided at official Commission meetings;

or

(B) other expense that is not specific to the administrative functions of the Commission.

(h) Members of the Commission shall not receive any compensation or be entitled to reimbursement of expenses by the State of Vermont or from the fund managed by the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection (g) of this section for their service on the Commission.

Third: By adding a new section to be Sec. 34 to read as follows:

Sec. 34. REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE VERMONT-IRELAND

TRADE COMMISSION

On or before December 1, 2029, the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following information:

(1) a summary of the accomplishments of the Commission since its inception;

(2) a detailed analysis as to how the Commission has served its legislative purposes pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4129(b); and

(3) an accounting on funds raised and details on gifts received pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4129(g) since the Commission’s inception.

Fourth: By inserting a reader assistance heading and adding a new section to be Sec. 35 to read as follows:

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 35. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1–31 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) This section and Secs. 32–34 shall take effect on passage.

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

S. 230

An act relating to fair employment practices

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 3b, 21 V.S.A. § 495q, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3b to read as follows:

Sec. 3b. 21 V.S.A. § 495q is added to read:

§ 495q. AGREEMENTS WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

(a) Any provision in a contract or agreement that creates or establishes the terms of a partnership, employment, or any other form of professional relationship with a health care provider regarding the health care provider's provision of health care services in Vermont shall be void and unenforceable if the provision:

(1) includes a restriction on the right of the health care provider to provide health care services in any geographical area for any period of time after the termination of such partnership, agreement, or professional relationship;

(2) limits the ability of a separating health care provider to provide notice of the provider's change of employment to individuals to whom the separating provider provided direct health care services;

(3) restricts a health care provider from making disparaging statements about another party to the contract or agreement or about another person specified in the agreement as a third-party beneficiary of the agreement;

(4) is inconsistent with Vermont law; or

(5) requires litigation arising from the performance of the contract or agreement in Vermont to be conducted in another state.

(b) The notice provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section may include the following information:

(1) that the health care provider is continuing to practice the provider's profession;

(2) the health care provider's new professional contact information; and

(3) the recipient's right to choose a health care provider.

(c) The provisions in subsection (a) of this section do not apply to restrictions that limit a health care provider who contracts with a third-party company for nonclinical business support services from opening a business within a specific territory supported by a different third-party company providing nonclinical services.

(d) “Health care provider” means a person licensed, certified, or authorized by law to provide professional health care service in this State to an individual during that individual’s medical care, treatment, or confinement.

(e) An employer shall not discharge or in any other manner retaliate against an employee who exercises or attempts to exercise the employee’s rights under this section. The provisions against retaliation in subdivision 495(a)(8) of this subchapter and the penalty and enforcement provisions of section 495b of this subchapter shall apply to this section.

(f) This section shall apply to contracts and agreements entered into on or after July 1, 2026.

Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 3c to read as follows:

Sec. 3c. SOLICITATION AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

The Commissioner of Corrections or designee shall meet with representatives of the Vermont State Employees’ Association to develop a proposal governing permissible and impermissible solicitation in parking lots at the Department of Corrections’ facilities for consideration for adoption by the Secretary of Administration on or before January 1, 2027. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall coordinate the meetings and provide assistance as appropriate.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable

H. 957

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Williston

Rep. Coffin of Cavendish, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, recommends that the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 9-0-2)

Report of Committee of Conference

S. 223

An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate Bill, entitled:

S.223. An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate accede to the House proposal of amendment and that the bill be further amended in Sec. 1, Water Quality, Lake Classification, and Antidegradation Study Group; report, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivisions (1) and (2) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (1) and (2) to read as follows:

(1) three current members of the House of Representatives, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) three current members of the Senate, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

SEN. ANNE E. WATSON

SEN. SETH BONGARTZ

SEN. TERRY K. WILLIAMS

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. AMY D. SHELDON

REP. LARRY LABOR

REP. LAWRENCE SATCOWITZ

Committee on the part of the House

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. 306

House concurrent resolution honoring George Springston for his exemplary roles in environmental and natural resources management

H.C.R. 307

House concurrent resolution honoring Representative Kevin "Coach" Christie of Hartford for his inspirational civic leadership and extending future best wishes

For Informational Purposes

HOUSE CHAMBER 2027 SEATING REQUESTS

Pursuant to House Rule 5, a current Representative who will return to the House for the 2027-28 Biennium has a right to retain their current seat in the Chamber or to change seats by selecting a seat that will be vacant in 2027. No steps are needed for a Representative to retain their current seat. Here are the steps for Representatives to request a change of seat for the 2027-28 Biennium:

1. Requests for changes in House seating will be accepted by the House Clerk's Office beginning **at 8:00 A.M. on the first Monday after the House adjourns *sine die*.**
2. Call or email your request to Nigel Hicks-Tibbles at:
nigel.hicks-tibbles@vtleg.gov.
3. Include in your request the seat number you would like to request; or you may ask Nigel what seats are available and they will be able to provide a list of vacant seats. A request for information will not be treated as a seat-change request for purposes of reserving a seat against other requests.
4. Requests for vacant seats will be accepted in the order received.
5. A vacant seat is one that was held at the end of the 2026 session by a member who has publicly announced they do not plan to run or has not filed to run for reelection to the House, who is not so reelected, or who has changed seats for 2027-28.

6. The list of vacant seats will change over the course of the adjournment and members are welcome to request a change more than once as different seats become available.

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 13, 2026**, 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 13, 2026**.

(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 20, 2026**, 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 or email 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 communicate 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 sign-out sheet will also be included.

4. Please submit a final sponsor list (with all sponsors listed) to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.
5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted, by email *or* on a paper sign-out sheet, to Counselor Chernick **not later than 1:00 p.m. the Wednesday 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, meaning it must have been adopted through the House Consent Calendar not later than the week prior to your requested ceremonial reading date. Contact Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.
9. **A Note:** If there is a **specific date, week, or month that your resolution must be read** (e.g. to designate a specified period of time or to recognize a group on a certain day), please inform Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord as soon as possible, so she can reserve that date in advance. You do not need to have the resolution drafted by then.

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 #3276: Twelve (12) limited-service positions to the Agency of Human Services, various departments, to staff the Rural Health Transformation Initiative. The Rural Health Transformation grant, JFO #3272 was approved at the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting on February 6, 2026. All limited-service positions are expected to be funded through 9/30/2031. *[Received March 31, 2026]*

JFO #3277: \$36,000.00 to the Vermont Legislature, Sergeant at Arms office from the National Conference of State Legislatures. The grant will extend up to \$500.00 to each member of the General Assembly to secure their homes. Funds would be available once as a reimbursement

during the lawmaker's service for expenses incurred after June 1, 2026.
[Received April 14, 2026]