

# Senate Calendar

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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

SENATE CONVENES AT: 9:30 A.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026**

**House Proposal of Amendment**

**S. 157**

An act relating to recovery residence certification

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

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4802 is amended to read:

§ 4802. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(5) “Designated substance abuse counselor” means a person approved by the Secretary to evaluate and treat ~~substance abusers~~ individuals with substance use disorder, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

\* \* \*

(12) “Recovery residence” means a shared living residence supporting residents recovering from a substance use disorder that provides residents with peer support, assistance accessing support services, and other community resources related to substance use disorder.

(13) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Human Services or designee.

(~~13~~)(14) “Substance abuse crisis team” means an organization approved by the Secretary to provide emergency treatment and transportation services to ~~substance abusers~~ individuals with substance use disorder pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(~~14~~)(15) “~~Substance abuser~~” “Individual with substance use disorder” means anyone who drinks alcohol or consumes other drugs to an extent or with a frequency that impairs or endangers ~~his or her~~ the individual’s health or the health and welfare of others.

(~~15~~)(16) “Treatment” means the broad range of medical, detoxification, residential, outpatient, aftercare, and follow-up services ~~which~~ that are needed by ~~substance abusers~~ individuals with substance use disorder and may include

a variety of other medical, social, vocational, and educational services relevant to the rehabilitation of these persons.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4806 is amended to read:

§ 4806. DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

(a) The Division of Substance Use Programs shall plan, operate, and evaluate a consistent, effective program of substance use programs. All duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Division shall be carried out and exercised by and within the Department of Health.

(b) The Division shall be responsible for the following services:

- (1) prevention and intervention;
- (2) [Repealed.]
- (3) project CRASH schools; ~~and~~
- (4) alcohol and drug treatment; and
- (5) recovery residences.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 4452 is amended to read:

§ 4452. EXCLUSIONS

(a) Unless created to avoid the application of this chapter, this chapter does not apply to any of the following:

\* \* \*

(b)(1) Notwithstanding subsections 4463(b) and 4467(b) and section 4468 of this chapter only, a recovery residence may immediately exit or transfer a resident if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) the recovery residence has developed and adopted a residential agreement:

(i) containing a written exit and transfer policy approved by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences or another certifying organization approved by the Department of Health that:

(I) addresses the length of time that a bed will be held in the event of a temporary removal;

(II) establishes the criteria by which a resident can return to the recovery residence in the event of a temporary removal; and

(III) ensures a resident's possessions will be held not less than 60 days in the event of permanent removal;

(ii) explaining the recovery residence's program rules and social standards;

(iii) designating alternative housing arrangements for the resident in the event of an exit or transfer, including contingency plans when alternative housing arrangements are not available;

~~(iii)~~(iv) describing the recovery residence's substance use policy, which shall exempt the use of a resident's valid prescription medication when used as prescribed; and

~~(iv)~~(v) indicating that by signing a residential agreement, a resident acknowledges that the recovery residence may cause the resident to be immediately exited or transferred to alternative housing if for behaving in a manner that impacts the health or safety of other individuals residing, working, or volunteering at the recovery residence, such as the resident violates violating the recovery residence's substance use policy, repeatedly refusing to engage in services or programming, being charged with a criminal offense, engaging in theft, materially interfering with the recovery of other residents, or engages engaging in acts of violence that threaten the health or safety of other residents, recovery residence staff, or volunteers;

(B) the recovery residence has obtained the resident's written consent to its residential agreement, reaffirmed after seven days;

(C) the resident ~~violated~~ behaved in a manner that impacted the health or safety of other individuals residing, working, or volunteering at the recovery residence, such as violating the recovery residence's substance use policy in the residential agreement, repeatedly refusing to engage in services or programming, being charged with a criminal offense, engaging in theft, materially interfering with the recovery of other residents, or engaged engaging in acts of violence that ~~threatened~~ threaten the health or safety of other residents, recovery residence staff, or volunteers; and

(D) the recovery residence has provided or arranged for a ~~stabilization~~ re-engagement bed or other alternative temporary housing;

(E) the recovery residence has provided written or electronic notice to the resident containing the date and rationale for the temporary removal or transfer and options for returning to the recovery residence; and

(F) the recovery residence has established a grievance process approved by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences or another certifying organization approved by the Department of Health.

(2) Relapse of a substance use disorder resulting in exiting a recovery residence shall not be deemed a cause of the resident's own homelessness for purposes of obtaining emergency housing.

(3) Notwithstanding section 4460 of this chapter, a recovery residence employee may enter the recovery residence at reasonable times as necessary to carry out functions related to the operation of the recovery residence.

~~(4) As used in this subsection, "recovery residence" means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder. This subsection shall only apply to a recovery residence that:~~

~~(A) provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support services and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use disorders meets the definition of "recovery residence" in 18 V.S.A. § 4802; and~~

~~(B) is certified by an organization approved by the Department of Health and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences or another approved organization.~~

Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 163, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. SUNSET; RECOVERY RESIDENCES; RESIDENTIAL AGREEMENT; REPORTING

(a) ~~9 V.S.A. § 4452(b) is repealed on July 1, 2026. [Repealed.]~~

(b) Sec. 4 (report; recovery residences' exit and transfer data) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

Sec. 5. RULEMAKING; RECOVERY RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

(a) On or before September 1, 2027, the Department of Health shall file an initial proposed rule with the Secretary of State pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 836(a)(2) for the purposes of establishing a voluntary recovery residence certification program. At a minimum, the rule shall:

(1) require that a recovery residence seeking certification from the State comply with the certification standards of the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences or another organization approved by the Department; and

(2) set forth data collection standards and reporting requirements for certified recovery residences, including data elements and frequency, exit and transfer data, and requirements for annual reporting from the Department to the General Assembly that measure the program's effectiveness.

(b) The Department shall complete the rulemaking process and adopt a permanent rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 on or before December 1, 2028.

(c) If the Department identifies the need for a fee to support the voluntary recovery residence certification program described in this section, the Department shall first propose the fee to the General Assembly and, if the General Assembly chooses to enact it into law, may incorporate the fee into the required rule.

#### Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

### **S. 239**

An act relating to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Working Group

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

#### Sec. 1. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) The General Assembly finds:

(1) According to Child Trends, a research organization focused on improving the lives of children, youth, and families, data shows that from 2022 through 2024 Vermont had a rate of referrals to child welfare services that was over three times higher than the national level, with a rate of referral of 166 per 1,000 children in Vermont compared to 50 per 1,000 children nationally. Additionally, only 17 percent of such referrals in Vermont met the criteria for further action via an assessment or investigation compared to 54 percent nationally.

(2) While the General Assembly recently reviewed and revised child abuse and neglect substantiation procedures that occur after a referral has been accepted by the Department for Children and Families, there has not been a similar review of the training and requirements for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect to ensure they employ best practices and provide sufficient guidance and resources for mandatory reporters.

(3) Data from Child Trends further shows that post-response services such as mental health services, substance misuse treatment, family therapy, child care, parenting education, and resources to assist families living in poverty were provided to only 28 percent of victims in Vermont compared with the national average of 57 percent.

(4) The provision of services to children and families prior to, during, and after a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is an essential element in a comprehensive child protection system.

(b) There is created the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Working Group for the purpose of examining the existing statutes and the Department for Children and Families' rules and policies regarding mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect of a child and recommending changes to modernize them and reflect current best practices. During its examination of mandatory reporting, the Working Group shall consider what services and strategies may be employed prior to any report of suspected abuse or neglect for the purpose of providing assistance to families before a situation rises to the level of requiring a report.

(c) The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) a member with lived experience as an abused or neglected child, appointed by the Vermont Child, Youth, and Family Advisory Council;

(2) a member with lived experience as an individual who was reported for suspected child abuse or neglect and an investigation found the report to be unsubstantiated, appointed by the Vermont Parent Representation Center;

(3) the Vermont Child, Youth, and Family Advocate or Deputy Advocate;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(5) a co-executive director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;

(6) a member from the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division, appointed by the Deputy Commissioner of the Division;

(7) the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont or designee;

(8) the Director of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network or designee;

(9) a certified law enforcement officer who has served on a special investigative unit, appointed by the Vermont Law Enforcement Advisory Board;

(10) a physician co-chair of the Vermont Citizen's Advisory Board;

(11) a principal, appointed by the Vermont Principals' Association;

(12) a representative of a designated agency that works in children's mental health, appointed by Vermont Care Partners; and

(13) the Vermont Office of Racial Equity.

(d) In conducting its work, the Working Group shall consult with stakeholders, including:

(1) the Vermont Children's Alliance and representation from Child Advocacy Centers;

(2) the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;

(3) the Juvenile Division of the Office of the Defender General;

(4) KidSafe Collaborative;

(5) Voices for Vermont's Children;

(6) the Vermont Parent Representation Center;

(7) Disability Rights Vermont;

(8) medical partners, such as the University of Vermont's Child Safe Program;

(9) the Office of the Attorney General; and

(10) a school counselor, appointed by the Vermont School Counselor Association.

(e) On or before April 1, 2027, the Working Group shall provide an interim presentation to the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary on its work to date. On or before October 1, 2027, the Working Group shall provide a final report detailing its findings and any recommended legislative proposals to the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary.

(f)(1) In developing its recommendations, the Working Group shall prioritize issues related to:

(A) providing clarity regarding statutory definitions applicable to mandatory reporters;

(B) establishing consistency between statutory requirements and Department for Children and Families rules, guidance, and training materials;

(C) identifying practical implementation challenges faced by mandatory reporters in complying with existing law;

(D) assessing the appropriateness and efficacy of provisions in 33 V.S.A. §§ 4912 and 4913 regarding the definitions applicable to mandatory reporters, who should be a mandatory reporter, the process for mandatory reporting, the penalties for failure to report, and any exemptions from the reporting requirement; and

(E) identifying alternatives to reporting suspected child abuse or neglect when such alternatives are in the best interests of the child.

(2) The Working Group shall avoid expanding its review into matters unrelated to mandatory reporting obligations, thresholds, or processes unless necessary to resolve an identified reporting issue.

(3) Any recommendations shall remain consistent with federal requirements under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which establishes minimum standards related to state definitions of abuse and neglect, including physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation, and emotional maltreatment.

(4) To promote efficiency and avoid duplicative work, the Working Group shall leverage the work of the Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the Vermont Citizen’s Advisory Board (VCAB), which serves as Vermont’s CAPTA citizen review panel.

(5) The Working Group shall consider best practices from other states in the development of its recommendations.

(g) The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department for Children and Families.

(1) The Working Group shall convene its first meeting on or before August 15, 2026.

(2) The Working Group shall elect a chair at its first meeting.

(3) Members of the Working Group who are not otherwise compensated for their attendance at meetings shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department for Children and Families.

(4) The Department for Children and Families shall post information about the Working Group’s efforts on its website, including meeting notices, agendas, procedures for public comment, and minutes of meetings.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Proposal of Amendment**

**H. 559.**

An act relating to the Parole Board.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Major for the Committee on Institutions.**

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

Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 403 is amended to read:

§ 403. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER  
REGARDING PAROLE

The Commissioner is charged with the following powers and responsibilities regarding the administration of parole:

\* \* \*

(6) To provide regular training for the Parole Board, at least annually, in collaboration with the Parole Board Director and the Chair of the Parole Board, on topics related to criminogenic behavior, mental health disorders, substance use treatment, trauma-informed work with victims of crime, and serious crime rehabilitation.

Sec. 2. 28 V.S.A. § 451 is amended to read:

§ 451. CREATION OF BOARD

(a)(1) A Parole Board of ~~five~~ seven members is created. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ~~five regular~~ members and ~~two alternates~~ for terms of three years in such a manner that not more than three terms shall expire annually. Initial terms may be less than three years. Each member ~~and alternate~~ shall hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified. The Governor shall designate the Board's chair.

(2) Upon notification of a vacancy, the Governor shall consult with the Parole Board Director and the Chair of the Parole Board. As far as practicable, the Governor shall appoint as members persons who have knowledge of and experience in ~~correctional treatment, crime prevention, or human relations~~ criminogenic behavior, mental health treatment, substance use disorder, or serious crime rehabilitation, and shall give consideration, as far as

practicable, to geographic representation of the State and a balance of different knowledge and experience.

(3) The Board shall select one of its members to serve as Vice Chair of the Board. If the Chair resigns or is otherwise permanently unable to serve on the Board, the Vice Chair shall serve as interim chair until the Governor designates a new chair pursuant to this section. ~~The Chair or the executive director may assign alternates to serve on the Board in the absence of a regular member and such alternates shall have all the powers and authority of a regular member when so assigned.~~

(b) Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of a meeting. Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 172, the concurrence of a majority of members present at a Parole Board meeting shall be necessary and sufficient for Board action.

(c) The Chair of the Parole Board shall be entitled to compensation in the amount of \$20,500.00 annually, effective on the first pay period in fiscal year 2006, which shall be in lieu of any per diem otherwise authorized by law. If the Vice Chair assumes the duties of the Chair for a period in excess of 30 consecutive days, the compensation otherwise payable to the Chair during ~~his or her~~ the Chair's absence shall be paid to the Vice Chair.

(d) At least annually, each member of the Parole Board shall attend trainings designated by the Parole Board Director in collaboration with the Chair of the Parole Board.

Sec. 3. 28 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

§ 455. DIRECTOR

(a) The position of Parole Board Director is created. The Director shall be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Board.

(b) The Director shall serve for a term of four years commencing on March 1 and continuing until ~~his or her~~ a successor is appointed.

(c) The Director shall be exempt from classified State service.

(d) The Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Parole Board and the Department of Human Resources, shall establish the minimum and preferred qualifications, duties, and compensation of the Director.

(e) The Director shall be responsible for the overall function of the Parole Board, ensuring legal compliance, developing and implementing all policies and procedures of the Board, and ensuring training is developed and provided to the Board, in collaboration with the Commissioner and the Chair of the Parole Board.

Sec. 4. PAROLE BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL PILOT PROJECT

(a) There is created the Parole Board Legal Counsel Pilot Project to provide external legal support for:

(1) annual training to the Board, including on topics related to due process and parole violations; and

(2) legal advice to the Board as needed related to Board hearings.

(b) The Board and the Agency of Human Services shall identify and contract with external legal support in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General.

(c) As part of the fiscal year 2028 budget development process, the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Corrections shall coordinate with the Parole Board Director to evaluate the pilot project and determine resources needed for Board external legal support for fiscal year 2028.

(d) On or before November 15, 2026, the Parole Board Director shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions detailing the operation of the pilot project. The report shall include a recommendation regarding legal support for the Board going forward and the resources needed.

Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2026  
CARRYFORWARD

The \$25,000.00 General Fund appropriated to the Department of Corrections for third-party legal services in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.336 shall carry forward into fiscal year 2027 for the purpose of hiring external legal counsel pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act.

Sec. 6. APPROPRIATION

The sum of \$50,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections in fiscal year 2027 for the purpose of hiring external legal counsel pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act.

Sec. 7. PAROLE BOARD BUDGET SUBMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR  
2028 AND FISCAL YEAR 2029

(a) As part of the fiscal year 2028 and fiscal year 2029 budget development processes, the Parole Board Director shall submit a proposed budget to the Commissioner of Corrections and Secretary of Human Services.

(b) On or before December 1, 2027, the Parole Board Director shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions detailing the budget development

process. The report shall include a recommendation regarding the Parole Board submitting an annual budget to the Commissioner of Corrections.

Sec. 8. 13 V.S.A. § 5305 is amended to read:

§ 5305. INFORMATION CONCERNING RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

\* \* \*

~~(c) If requested by a victim of a listed crime, the~~ The Department of Corrections shall:

~~(1) at least 30 days before a parole board hearing concerning the defendant, inform the victim of the hearing and of the victim's right to testify before the parole board or to submit a written statement for the parole board to consider; and~~

~~(2) promptly inform the victim of the decision of the parole board, including providing to the victim any conditions attached to the defendant's release on parole~~ notify victims of a listed crime as to parole board hearings concerning defendants and parole board decisions as provided in 28 V.S.A. §§ 502a and 507.

Sec. 9. 28 V.S.A. § 502a is amended to read:

§ 502a. RELEASE ON PAROLE

\* \* \*

(e)(1) The Department shall identify each inmate meeting the presumptive parole eligibility criteria in section 501a of this title and refer each eligible inmate who does not meet the risk criteria set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection to the Parole Board for an administrative review at least 60 days prior to the inmate's eligibility date.

(2) The Department shall screen each inmate it identifies as eligible for presumptive parole for the risk criteria set forth in this subdivision. If the Department determines that, based on clear and convincing evidence, there is a reasonable probability that the inmate's release would result in a detriment to the community, or that the inmate is not willing and capable of fulfilling the obligations of parole, the Department shall, at least 60 days prior to the inmate's eligibility date, refer the inmate to the Parole Board for a parole hearing.

(3)(A) Within 30 days in advance of the inmate's eligibility date, the Parole Board shall conduct an administrative review of each inmate the Department identifies as eligible for presumptive release who does not meet the risk criteria set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection. The Board may

deny presumptive release and set a hearing if it determines, through its administrative review, that a victim or victims should have the opportunity to participate in a parole hearing. If the Board determines there is a victim or victims who should be notified, the Department shall notify the victim or victims, and the Board shall provide them with the opportunity to participate in a parole hearing. A victim may waive any notification.

(B) The Parole Board shall conduct a parole hearing pursuant to section 502 of this title for each eligible inmate that the Department determines meets the risk criteria in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

Sec. 10. 28 V.S.A. § 507 is amended to read:

§ 507. NOTIFICATION TO VICTIM AND OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY

(a) The Department of Corrections shall, unless waived by the victim:

(1) At at least 30 days prior to a parole eligibility hearing concerning the defendant, notify the victim of a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7); shall be notified as to the time and location of the hearing and as to the victim's right to testify before the Parole Board or to submit a written statement for the Parole Board to consider; and

(2) promptly inform the victim of the decision of the Parole Board, including providing to the victim any conditions attached to the defendant's release on parole. Such notification may be waived by the victim in writing.

\* \* \*

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 17, 2026, pages 3310-3313)

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Westman for the Committee on Appropriations.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Institutions, with further recommendation of proposal of amendment thereto:

By striking Sec. 5, Department of Corrections fiscal year 2026 carryforward, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2026  
CARRYFORWARD

Notwithstanding 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. 89 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the \$25,000.00 General Fund appropriated to the Department of Corrections for third-party legal services in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.336 shall carry forward into fiscal year 2027 for the purpose of hiring external legal counsel pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act and shall not be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration or designated for any other purpose.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

### Second Reading

#### Favorable

#### H. 674.

An act relating to the creation of the Vermont Sister State Program.

**Reported favorably by Senator Brock for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 13, 2026, pages 3234-3243)

**Reported favorably by Senator Perchlik for the Committee on Appropriations.**

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

#### Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

#### H. 512.

An act relating to the regulation of the event ticketing market.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

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

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 2B is added to read:

#### Subchapter 2B. Event Tickets

§ 2479f. RESALE OF EVENT TICKETS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Independent venue” means an event space that derives a majority of its revenue from ticket events, is not majority owned by a publicly traded company, and does not operate venues in more than 10 states.

(2) “Price” means the total amount paid or to be paid for a ticket, including all taxes, fees, and charges. Price does not include actual shipping costs.

(3) “Resale” means the second or subsequent sale of a ticket by any method, including in-person transactions, telephone, mail, email, facsimile, or electronic means through websites or mobile phone applications.

(4) “Reseller” means a business entity engaged in the sale or resale of tickets. A “reseller” does not include an individual reselling a ticket purchased for personal use.

(5) “Secondary ticket exchange” means an electronic marketplace enabling the sale, purchase, and resale of tickets.

(6) “Speculative ticket” means a ticket not in the actual or constructive possession at the time a person lists, advertises, or offers the ticket for sale or resale. This includes tickets not owned or under contract to be transferred at the time of sale.

(7) “Ticket” means any form of physical, electronic, or other evidence that grants the possessor of the evidence license to enter a place of entertainment within the State for one or more events at a specified date and time.

(8) “Ticket issuer” means a person or entity that issues tickets for initial sale, including musicians, venues, promoters, theater companies, marketplaces for initial purchases, or their agents.

(b) Ticket disclosure requirements.

(1) A ticket issuer shall include on the face of a ticket in a clear and conspicuous manner the total price of the original ticket.

(2) A person operating a secondary ticket exchange shall provide a statement in a clear and conspicuous manner informing any customer:

(A) whether the customer is purchasing the ticket from a ticket issuer or a reseller as the case may be; and

(B) that the resale price of the ticket is limited by subsection (c) of this section.

(3) If a secondary ticket exchange provides information about the number or percentage of available tickets for a given event, the information shall not mislead customers about the availability of tickets on that platform or on other platforms.

(c) Price cap on the resale of event tickets.

(1) A ticket reseller shall not sell or offer for sale a ticket at a price greater than 110 percent of the price of an original ticket.

(2) A secondary ticket exchange shall not authorize for resale on the exchange a ticket for a price at greater than 110 percent of the price of an original ticket.

(3) This subsection shall apply to the resale of tickets where the event is held at an independent venue and where:

(A) the seating capacity of the venue is 3,000 individuals or fewer; or

(B) the event is to be held at a nonprofit venue that hosts agricultural fairs, exhibitions, or multiday community events in addition to live performances.

(4) This subsection shall not apply to the resale of a ticket under a written contract with the ticket issuer for the resale of tickets at a price greater than 110 percent of the price of the original ticket.

(d) Ban on deceptive URLs and improper use of intellectual property. It shall be unlawful for a secondary ticket exchange, reseller, or the operator of any website purporting to sell or offer for sale event tickets that links or redirects to a secondary ticket exchange or reseller to:

(1) use deceptive website addresses or imply endorsement or ownership of any intellectual property of the venue or artist without explicit written authorization of the venue or artist; or

(2) state or imply that the secondary ticket exchange, reseller, or website is affiliated with or endorsed by a venue, team, or artist, including by using words such as “official” in promotional materials, social media promotions, search engine optimization, paid advertising, URLs, or search engine monetization, unless the secondary ticket exchange, reseller, or website has the express written consent of the venue, team, or artist.

(e) Prohibition on speculative ticket sales. A person shall not sell or offer for sale speculative tickets.

(f) Violations. A person that violates a provision of this section commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

Sec. 2. REPEAL

9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 2B is repealed on July 1, 2028.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of February 27, 2026, pages 3143-3145)

**H. 941.**

An act relating to municipal regulation of agriculture.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Ingalls for the Committee on Agriculture.**

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT; MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF AGRICULTURE

(a) For purposes of Sec. 2 of this act, the General Assembly finds that:

(1) Since at least the enactment of 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 115, it has been both the intent of the General Assembly and the controlling law that a municipality shall not regulate farming, including the construction of farm structures.

(2) The Vermont Supreme Court's decision in *In re 8 Taft Street DRB & NOV Appeals*, 2025 VT 27, reversed application of at least the past 20 years of law to hold that municipalities may regulate farming by municipal bylaw.

(3) To avoid the unintended consequences of the decision in *In re 8 Taft Street DRB & NOV Appeals*, 2025 VT 27, it is necessary for the General Assembly to clarify and restate that municipalities under ordinance or bylaw shall not regulate farming or the construction of farm structures as set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4413(d).

(4) In addition, municipalities shall not regulate by bylaw the growing of plants and the raising of a small backyard poultry flock, excluding roosters,

and may reasonably regulate swine waste in designated downtowns or village centers.

(5) Farming livestock requires an adequate land base and that raising livestock on small parcels in densely populated areas may create unique concerns. As a result, municipalities may regulate livestock on farms that do not have at least 1.0 contiguous acre of land. Other farming activities subject to regulation by the Required Agricultural Practices Rule on farms with less than 1.0 contiguous acre remain exempt from municipal zoning.

(b) For purposes of Sec. 2 of this act, it is the intent of the General Assembly to overturn the holding in *In re 8 Taft Street DRB & NOV Appeals*, 2025 VT 27, and to clarify that municipalities lack authority to regulate farming or the construction of farm structures as set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4413(d).

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 4413(d) is amended to read:

(d)(1) A bylaw under this chapter shall not regulate:

(A) required agricultural practices, including the construction of farm structures, as those practices are defined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Farming that meets the minimum threshold criteria in the Required Agricultural Practices Rule (RAPs Rule) and is therefore required to comply with the RAPs Rule, except:

(i) notwithstanding subdivision (C) of this subdivision (1), that the raising, feeding, or managing of livestock on a farm with less than 1.0 contiguous acre is subject to applicable municipal zoning bylaws, including when a person is engaged in other farming activities that are subject to the RAPs Rule;

(ii) notwithstanding subdivision (C) of this subdivision (1), that the raising, feeding, or managing of livestock on a farm with at least 1.0 contiguous acre and less than 4.0 contiguous acres shall have a sufficient land base for appropriate nutrient and waste management as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets to be exempt from regulation by municipal zoning bylaws; and

(iii) for swine waste in downtowns or village centers as follows:

(I) Municipalities shall not prohibit swine or swine waste, or regulate swine waste-related farm structures on a farm subject to the RAPs Rule.

(II) Municipalities may set a performance standard related to swine waste pursuant to section 4414 of this title to reasonably regulate swine

waste in downtowns or village centers if the waste is causing a significant adverse impact to the community, and the municipality has determined that the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets is unable to provide redress through application of the RAPs Rule. A performance standard shall not have the effect of prohibiting swine or swine waste in a municipality.

(III) Municipalities shall provide at least 30 days' notice with opportunity to cure to the Secretary and the farm prior to enforcing a performance standard related to swine waste.

(IV) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, for purposes of this section, swine waste includes animal manure and absorbent bedding of the animal.

(B) The cultivation or other use of land for growing plants, including for food, fiber, Christmas trees, maple sap, or horticultural, viticultural, and orchard crops. Cannabis is separately regulated and is excluded from this exception.

(C) The raising, feeding, or managing of a small backyard poultry flock, excluding roosters.

(D) The construction of farm structures, including as defined in the RAPs Rule.

~~(B)(E)~~ ~~accepted~~ Accepted silvicultural practices, as defined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, including practices that are in compliance with the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; ~~or.~~

~~(C)(F)~~ ~~forestry~~ Forestry operations.

(2) As used in this section:

(A) "Downtown" means an area designated pursuant to chapter 76A or chapter 139 of this title.

(B) "Farm structure" means a building, enclosure, or fence for housing livestock, raising horticultural or agronomic plants, or carrying out other practices associated with ~~accepted~~ agricultural or farming practices, including a silo, as "farming" is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22), but excludes a dwelling for human habitation.

(C) "Farming" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22) or the Required Agricultural Practices Rule.

~~(B)~~(D) “Forestry operations” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 2602.

(E) “Poultry” has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 1459(4).

(F) “Village center” means an area designated pursuant to chapter 76A or chapter 139 of this title.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. Section 3 of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Vermont Required Agricultural Practices Rule for the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program is amended to read:

Section 3. Required Agricultural Practices Activities and Applicability  
3.1

(a) Persons engaged in farming and the agricultural practices as defined in Section 3.2 of this rule and who meet the minimum threshold criteria for applicability of this rule as found in Section 3.1~~(a)~~~~(g)(c)(1)–(8)~~ must meet all applicable Required Agricultural Practices conditions, restrictions, and operating standards.

(b) Persons engaged in farming and agricultural practices subject to this rule are not subject to municipal zoning bylaws except that the raising, feeding, or managing livestock on a farm with:

(1) at least 1.0 acre and less than 4.0 contiguous acres shall meet the requirements of subdivision (c)(5) of this section to be exempt from regulation by municipal zoning bylaws; or

(2) less than 1.0 contiguous acre is subject to applicable municipal zoning bylaws even when a person is engaged in other farming activities that are subject to this rule.

(c) Persons engaged in farming who are in compliance with these conditions, restrictions, and operating standards, as applicable, shall be presumed to not have a discharge of agricultural wastes to waters of the State. ~~Compliance~~ Unless otherwise stated, compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices Rule is required if a person meets one of the following requirements:

~~(a)(1)~~ is required to be permitted or certified by the Secretary, consistent with the requirements of 6 V.S.A. Chapter 215 and this rule; ~~or.~~

~~(b)(2)~~ has produced an annual gross income from the sale of agricultural products of \$2,000.00 or more in an average year; ~~or.~~

~~(e)(3)~~ is Is preparing, tilling, fertilizing, planting, protecting, irrigating, and harvesting crops for sale or for charitable contributions of farm crops that are allowable under 26 U.S.C. § 170(c) and that are made to an organization that is unrelated to the owner of the land on a farm that is no less than 4.0 contiguous acres in size; or.

~~(d)(4)~~ is Is raising, feeding, or managing at least the following number of adult livestock on a farm that is no less than 4.0 contiguous acres in size:

~~(1)(A)~~ four equines;

~~(2)(B)~~ five cattle, cows, or American bison;

~~(3)(C)~~ 15 swine;

~~(4)(D)~~ 15 goats;

~~(5)(E)~~ 15 sheep;

~~(6)(F)~~ 15 cervids;

~~(7)(G)~~ 50 turkeys;

~~(8)(H)~~ 50 geese;

~~(9)(I)~~ 100 laying hens;

~~(10)(J)~~ 250 broilers, pheasant, Chukar partridge, or Coturnix quail;

~~(11)(K)~~ three camelids;

~~(12)(L)~~ four ratites;

~~(13)(M)~~ 30 rabbits;

~~(14)(N)~~ 100 ducks;

~~(15)(O)~~ 1,000 pounds of cultured trout; or

~~(16)(P)~~ other livestock types, combinations, or numbers as designated by the Secretary based upon or resulting from the impacts upon water quality consistent with this rule; or.

~~(e)(5)~~ is Is raising, feeding, or managing other livestock types, combinations, and numbers, or managing crops or engaging in other agricultural practices on a farm that is at least 1.0 contiguous acre and less than 4.0 contiguous acres in size that the Secretary has determined, after the opportunity for a hearing, to be causing adverse water quality impacts and in a municipality where no ordinances are in place to manage the activities causing the water quality impacts; or and has sufficient land base for appropriate nutrient and waste management. The Secretary has the discretion to determine, after consultation with the appropriate municipal authority, if the

land base is adequate to properly manage the number and type of livestock while evaluating whether compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices is reasonable or impractical.

~~(f)~~(6) Is raising, feeding, or managing livestock on less than 1.0 contiguous acre or on between 1.0 and 4.0 contiguous acres in a municipality that lacks ordinances or bylaws to regulate livestock, and the Secretary determines, after an opportunity for a hearing, that the livestock are causing significant adverse water quality impacts and the Required Agricultural Practices should apply to protect water quality.

~~(g)~~(7) is Is managed by a farmer filing with the Internal Revenue Service a 1040(F) income tax statement in at least one of the past two years; ~~or~~.

~~(g)~~(8) has Has a prospective business or farm management plan, approved by the Secretary, describing how the farm will meet the threshold requirements of this section.

3.2 The agricultural practices on farms ~~meeting~~ that meet the minimum threshold criteria set forth in Section 3.1 that are governed by this rule and are not subject to municipal zoning bylaws include:

- (a) the confinement, feeding, fencing, and watering of livestock;
- (b) the storage and handling of agricultural wastes principally produced on the farm;
- (c) the collection of maple sap principally produced from trees on the farm and/or production of maple syrup from sap principally produced on the farm;
- (d) the preparation, tilling, fertilization, planting, protection, irrigation, and harvesting of crops;
- (e) the ditching and subsurface drainage of farm fields and the construction of farm ponds;
- (f) the stabilization of farm fields adjacent to banks of surface water, and the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffer zones and riparian buffer zones;
- (g) the construction and maintenance of farm structures, farm roads, and associated infrastructure;
- (h) the on-site storage, preparation, production, and sale of fuel or power from agricultural products or wastes principally produced on the farm;
- (i) the on-site storage, preparation, and sale of agricultural products principally produced on the farm from raw agricultural commodities principally produced on the farm;

(j) the on-site storage of agricultural inputs for use on the farm including, but not limited to, lime, fertilizer, pesticides, compost and other soil amendments, and the equipment necessary for operation of the farm; and

(k) the management of livestock mortalities produced on the farm.

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 31, 2026, pages 3715-3718)

#### **Amendments to proposal of amendment of the Committee on Agriculture to H. 941 to be offered by Senator Vyhovsky**

Senator Vyhovsky moves to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Agriculture as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 24 V.S.A. § 4413(d), in subdivision (1)(A), by striking out subdivision (iii) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (iii) to read as follows:

(iii) notwithstanding subdivision (C) of this subdivision (1), the raising, feeding, or managing of livestock on farms in downtowns, village centers, or in census tracts with a population density of 800 people per square mile or greater as reported in data published by the U.S. Census Bureau is subject to municipal zoning bylaws, including when a person is engaged in other farming activities that are subject to the RAPs Rule.

Second: In Sec. 2, 24 V.S.A. § 4413(d), in subdivision (1)(C), after “backyard poultry flock” by inserting “of not more than six birds”

Third: In Sec. 3, Section 3 of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Vermont Required Agricultural Practices Rule for the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, in subdivision (c)(2), by striking out “\$2,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “~~\$2,000.00~~ \$5,000.00”

#### **House Proposal of Amendment**

##### **S. 255.**

An act relating to establishing a pilot Law Enforcement Governance Council in Windham County.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill in Sec. 7, reporting and evaluation, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) On or before September 30, 2030, and again on or before December 31, 2033, the Council, in consultation with the Windham County Sheriff and Windham County Assistant Judges, shall submit a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations, including:

(1) an assessment of cost-effectiveness compared to alternative service delivery models;

(2) an analysis of service quality improvements;

(3) an evaluation of the governance model's effectiveness;

(4) recommendations regarding continuation, modification, or expansion of the program; and

(5) a proposed framework for statewide replication, if warranted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Third Reading**

#### **H. 534.**

An act relating to community action agencies.

#### **H. 648.**

An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities.

### **Second Reading**

#### **Favorable**

#### **H. 814.**

An act relating to neurological rights and the use of artificial intelligence technology in health and human services.

**Reported favorably by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 17, 2026, pages 3313-3316)

**Reported favorably by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Appropriations.**

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

## Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

### H. 536.

An act relating to toxic heavy metals in baby food products.

#### **Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

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

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 82 is amended to read:

#### CHAPTER 82. LABELING OF FOODS, DRUGS, COSMETICS, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

##### Subchapter 1. ~~Labeling for Marketing and Sale~~ General Provisions

\* \* \*

##### Subchapter 3. Testing and Labeling of Certain Products

#### § 4091. BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Baby food product” means any food manufactured, packaged, and labeled in a jar, pouch, tub, or box sold specifically for babies and children younger than two years of age. “Baby food product” does not include infant formula.

(2) “Final baby food product” means the finished baby food product and not the constituent ingredients.

(3) “Infant formula” means a commercially available milk-based or soy-based powder, concentrated liquid, or ready-to-feed substitute for human breast milk that is intended for infant consumption.

(4) “Production aggregate” means a quantity of product that is intended to have a uniform composition, character, and quality and is produced according to a master manufacturing order.

(5) “Proficient laboratory” means a laboratory that:

(A) is accredited under the standards of the International Organization for Standardization or the International Electrotechnical Commission pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017;

(B) uses an analytical method as sensitive as the analytical method described in the U.S. FDA’s Elemental Analysis Manual for Food and Related Products; and

(C) demonstrates proficiency in quantifying each toxic element to at least six micrograms of the toxic element to kilogram of food through an independent proficiency test by achieving a z-score that is less than or equal to plus or minus two.

(6) “QR code” means a two-dimensional matrix barcode consisting of blocks arranged in a grid that can be read by an imaging device.

(7) “Representative sample” means a sample that consists of a number of units that are drawn based on rational criteria, including random sampling, and intended to ensure that the sample accurately portrays the material being sampled.

(8) “Toxic heavy metal” means arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.

(9) “URL” means a uniform resource locator.

(10) “U.S. FDA” means the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(b) A person shall not sell, distribute, or offer for sale any baby food product in the State that contains a toxic heavy metal that exceeds the regulatory limits established by the U.S. FDA. The provisions of this subsection shall not restrict the continued sale of inventory in stock before January 1, 2027.

(c) A manufacturer of a baby food sold or distributed in the State shall test a representative sample of each production aggregate of the manufacturer’s final baby food product for toxic heavy metals. Testing of a baby food product shall be conducted by a proficient laboratory at least once a month. A manufacturer of baby food may test the final baby food product before packaging individual units for sale or distribution. Upon request of the Office of the Attorney General, a manufacturer shall provide the results of the test conducted pursuant to this subsection.

(d)(1) Without requiring the provision of a universal product code or proof of purchase, for each baby food product sold, manufactured, delivered, held, or offered for sale in the State, a manufacturer of baby food shall make publicly available on its website for the duration of the product shelf life of a final baby food product, plus one month:

(A) the name and level of each toxic heavy metal in the final baby food product as determined by the testing conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section;

(B) sufficient information, including the product name, universal product code, or lot or batch number, to enable consumers to identify the final baby food product; and

(C) a link to the U.S. FDA's website that provides the most recent U.S. FDA guidance and information about the health effects of toxic heavy metals on children.

(2) A baby food product that is sold online to a consumer in Vermont by either a retailer or directly by the manufacturer shall contain on the product's web page a clearly labeled link to an information page containing the information required pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(e) If a baby food product sold or distributed in the State is tested for a toxic heavy metal subject to an action level, regulatory limit, or tolerance established by the U.S. FDA under 21 C.F.R. § 109, the manufacturer shall display on the baby food product:

(1) a label stating in a clear, legible, and conspicuous manner that more information about toxic element testing on the product is available by scanning the QR code; and

(2) a QR code or other machine-readable code that directs the consumers to the manufacturer's website or the baby food product information page providing:

(A) the test results for the toxic heavy metal; and

(B) a URL to the web page on the U.S. FDA's website that includes the most recent guidance and information about the health effects of toxic heavy metals on children.

(f) If a consumer reasonably believes, based on the information provided on the baby food product, that the baby food product is being sold in the State in violation of this section, the consumer may report the baby food product to the Office of the Attorney General.

(g) A violation of this section shall be deemed a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63. The Attorney General has the same authority, and private parties have the same rights and remedies, as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1.

(h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with federal law or regulation.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4091 is amended to read:

§ 4091. BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Baby food product” means any infant formula or food manufactured, packaged, and labeled in a jar, pouch, tub, or box sold specifically for babies and children younger than two years of age. ~~“Baby food product” does not include infant formula.~~

\* \* \*

(g) The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, shall suspend the application of this section to infant formula if the Attorney General verifies that there is insufficient infant formula in the State to meet the need or evidence of a declining supply. If the Attorney General suspends application, the Attorney General shall post notice on the Office of the Attorney General’s website containing specific dates that the suspension is in effect.

(h) A violation of this section shall be deemed a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63. The Attorney General has the same authority, and private parties have the same rights and remedies, as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1.

~~(h)~~(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with federal law or regulation.

### Sec. 3. INFANT FORMULA; STOCK SUPPLY

The provisions of Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 4091) of this act shall not restrict the continued sale of infant formula inventory in stock in Vermont prior to the effective date of Sec. 2 of this act pursuant to Sec. 4(b) of this act.

### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 1 (18 V.S.A. chapter 82), and Sec. 3 (infant formula; stock supply) shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

(b) Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 4091) shall take effect upon the Attorney General’s written confirmation to the Speaker of the House and to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, which shall be posted on the General Assembly’s website, that a law has taken effect in California or two other states with requirements substantially comparable to the requirements of this act regarding all of the following:

(1) the prohibition on the sale and distribution of infant formula that contains a toxic heavy metal exceeding U.S. Food and Drug Administration limits;

(2) the required testing of infant formula sold or distributed in the state for toxic heavy metals; and

(3) the labeling of infant formula and the provision of information about toxic heavy metals in infant formula.

(Committee vote: 3-2-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 18, 2026, pages 3381-3385)

### **H. 639.**

An act relating to genetic data privacy.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 9 V.S.A. chapter 61A, in section 2421b, in subsection (d), by striking out subdivisions (2) and (3) in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) Genetic data and biological samples of consumers shall:

(A) not be stored within the territorial boundaries of any country currently sanctioned in any way by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control or designated as a foreign adversary under 15 C.F.R. § 7.4(a); and

(B) only be transferred or stored outside the United States with the express consent of the consumer.

Second: In Sec. 1, 9 V.S.A. chapter 61A, in section 2421c, by adding a new subsection to be subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)(1) A consumer pursuing a civil action pursuant to subsection 2461(b) of this title against a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company or service provider for an alleged violation of this subchapter shall, before initiating the civil action, send a written notice to the company or service provider that includes as many details as possible of the alleged violation.

(2) If the company or service provider does not cure the alleged violation within 60 days after the notice is received by the company or service provider or if there is a disagreement as to whether the alleged violation has been cured, the consumer shall have the right to initiate a civil action against the company or service provider pursuant to subsection 2461(b) of this title.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of February 24, 2026, pages 3108-3118)

### H. 739.

An act relating to prohibiting the use and sale of the herbicide paraquat.

#### **Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Major for the Committee on Agriculture.**

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

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 1105d is added to read:

#### § 1105d. USE AND SALE OF PARAQUAT; REPORT

(a) Definition. As used in this section, “paraquat” means an herbicide:

(1) known as paraquat, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number 4685-14-7;

(2) known as paraquat dichloride, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride and the CAS registry number 1910-42-5;

(3) known as paraquat dimethyl sulfate, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dimethyl sulfate and the CAS registry number 2074-50-2; or

(4) known as paraquat, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and all salts thereof.

(b) Prohibition. No person shall sell, use, or apply paraquat except when authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Authorized use. The Secretary may issue a written permit for the sale, use, or application of paraquat within fruit-producing tree orchards or for growing any crop listed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Crop Group 13-07: Berry and Small Fruit Crop Group on or before December 31, 2030. The Secretary shall ensure that any authorized certified applicator of paraquat has received all training required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets not more than one year prior to

receiving a permit for authorized use of paraquat. A written exemption order under this subsection shall:

(1) be valid for not more than three years or until December 31, 2030, whichever comes first;

(2) specify the name on the label of the paraquat, uses, and crops or plants to which the permit applies; the date the permit takes effect; the permit's duration; and the permit's geographic scope, which may include specific farms, fields, or properties; and

(3) include permit conditions that minimize drift based on drift mitigation measures identified by the Environmental Protection Agency, require adherence to label directions to minimize applicator exposure, and exclusively limit applications to tree rows or vine rows for necessary weed control.

(d) Reporting. The Secretary shall report annually on all data regarding any use of paraquat in the State. The report shall include the amount of paraquat used and the date and location where the paraquat was used. The Secretary shall submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture on or before December 15 of each year.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on November 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 19, 2026, pages 3418-3421)

**Reported favorably by Senator Norris for the Committee on Appropriations.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Agriculture.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

## **H. 816.**

An act relating to regulating the use of artificial intelligence in the provision of mental health services.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Benson for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

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

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this act to safeguard individuals seeking mental health services in Vermont from psychological harm, including death by suicide, by ensuring that these services are delivered by mental health professionals and not independently by artificial intelligence systems.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items or any combination of items, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

\* \* \*

(30) For any mental health professional, engaging in the prohibited use of artificial intelligence pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7115.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 7115 is added to read:

§ 7115. PROHIBITED USES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Artificial intelligence” means an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments.

(2) “Mental health professional” means an individual licensed, certified, or rostered, respectively, to provide mental health services as a physician pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33; an advanced practice registered nurse specializing in psychiatric mental health pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28; a psychologist pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 55; a peer support provider or peer recovery support specialist pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 60; a social worker pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 61; an alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 62; a clinical mental health counselor pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 65; a marriage and family therapist pursuant to 26 V.S.A.

chapter 76; a psychoanalyst pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 77; an applied behavior analyst pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 95; a nonlicensed or noncertified psychotherapist or a noncertified psychoanalyst; or any other professional who provides mental health services.

(3) “Mental health services” means counseling, therapy, or psychotherapy services used to diagnose or treat an individual’s mental or behavioral health or provide ongoing recovery support, including providing therapeutic decisions, issuing direct therapeutic communications, generating treatment plans or recommendations, or detecting or interpreting emotion or mental states.

(4) “Therapeutic communication” means a written, verbal, or nonverbal interaction intended to diagnose or treat any type of mental or behavioral health concern, provide ongoing recovery support, or provide any advice related to diagnosis, treatment, or recovery, such as:

(A) engaging in direct interactions with clients or patients for the purpose of understanding or reflecting the client’s or patient’s thoughts;

(B) providing guidance, therapeutic strategies, or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;

(C) offering emotional support, reassurance, or empathy in response to emotional or psychological distress;

(D) collaborating with a patient or client to develop or modify treatment plans or therapeutic goals; and

(E) delivering feedback intended to promote growth or address mental health outcomes.

(5) “Therapeutic decision” means the final clinical determination regarding diagnosis or the selection, modification, or termination of treatment or care.

(b) An individual, corporation, or other entity shall not offer or provide mental health services through artificial intelligence without the review and approval of a mental health professional.

(c)(1) A violation of this section by a corporation; an entity; or an individual who is not licensed, certified, or rostered as a mental health professional shall be deemed a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63. The Attorney General has the same authority, and private parties have the same rights and remedies, as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1. Each violation of this section shall carry a civil penalty of \$10,000.00 as set forth in 9 V.S.A. § 2461.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude or supplant any other statutory or common law remedies.

(d) Nothing in this section shall preclude a mental health professional who is operating within the professional's scope of practice from utilizing artificial intelligence tools that are compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, provided that the mental health professional reviews and approves any mental health services.

Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:

§ 1354. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) Prohibited conduct. The Board shall find that any one of the following, or any combination of the following, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, constitutes unprofessional conduct:

\* \* \*

(3) engaging in the prohibited use of artificial intelligence pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7115;

\* \* \*

Sec. 5. REPORT; USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN REGULATED PROFESSIONS

On or before January 15, 2027, the Office of Professional Regulation and the Board of Medical Practice shall jointly submit a written report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Health and Welfare containing recommendations for the regulation of the use of artificial intelligence by regulated professionals, including recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 17, 2026, pages 3316-3321)

**H. 952.**

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Harrison for the Committee on Institutions.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 1, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 1, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~\$111,965,288.44~~ \$123,564,624.67 authorized in Secs. 2-16 this act, not more than ~~\$61,969,761.44~~ \$61,569,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

\* \* \*

Second: By striking out Sec. 2, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 2, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

\* \* \*

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026:

\* \* \*

(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$1,100,000.00

\* \* \*

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027:

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: ~~\$8,500,000.00~~ \$8,538,413.18

\* \* \*

(4) ~~Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,100,000.00~~  
[Repealed.]

\* \* \*

(7) Montpelier, State House replacement of ~~historie~~ interior finishes:  
\$50,000.00

(8) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation: ~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$1,000,000.00

\* \* \*

(12) Montpelier, State House entryway upgrades, design documents, including comprehensive parking plan and delivery truck access, and second-floor egress design: \$1,325,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$13,726,680.44 \$13,326,680.44

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$15,925,000.00 \$15,188,413.18

Total Appropriation – Section 2 \$28,951,680.44 \$28,515,093.62

Third: By striking out Sec. 3, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 3, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

\* \* \*

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: \$1,000,000.00 \$9,426,254.21

\* \* \*

~~(5) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00 [Repealed.]~~

~~(6) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) boiler replacement: \$700,000.00~~

~~(7) Recovery House, Inc., residential treatment center, renovations: \$220,000.00~~

~~(8) Maintenance, replacement, and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility or other facilities serving the incarcerated women's population: \$598,850.00~~

\* \* \*

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$4,800,000.00 \$14,245,104.21

Total Appropriation – Section 3 \$13,025,000.00 \$22,470,104.21

Fourth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 4a to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

\* \* \*

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 for the Building Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00 \$400,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00 \$400,000.00

\* \* \*

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$2,100,000.00 \$2,300,000.00  
Total Appropriation – Section 5 \$4,200,000.00 \$4,400,000.00

Fifth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 5a to read as follows:

Sec. 5a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

\* \* \*

(g) The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for technical support to municipalities to design and implement stormwater utilities.

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$5,805,000.00  
Appropriation – FY 2027 \$5,319,360.00 \$5,419,360.00  
Total Appropriation – Section 9 \$11,124,360.00 \$11,224,360.00

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 8, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 17, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

Sec. 17. REALLOCATION AND REVERSION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums ~~are reallocated~~ appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

\* \* \*

(12) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(b)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 10 (CJTC East Cottage): \$43,190.08

(13) of the amounts appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$1,624,241.12

(14) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$393,854.32

(15) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 3(a)(2) (women's correctional facilities): \$97,890.12

(16) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$618,000.00

(17) of the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$350,420.67

(18) of the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$150,000.00

(19) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 3(b)(1) (women's correctional facilities, replacement): \$868,850.00

(b) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

\* \* \*

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 4(a)(4) (Unmarked Burial Fund): \$31,320.70

\* \* \*

(h) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(7) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(7) (design for the renovation of the Brandon and Cardinal units), \$1,500,000.00 is ~~reallocated~~ reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(i) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(9) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec.

18(d)(10) (111 State Street; renovation of the stack area), \$200,000.00 is ~~reallocated~~ reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

\* \* \*

(n) Of the amount appropriated to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(2) (elevator upgrade), \$500,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 6 of this act.

(o) Of the amount appropriated to the Enhanced 911 Board in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 6(b)(9), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 5 (Enhanced 911 Compliance Grants Program), \$63,413.15 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(p) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 11(j), as added by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 7 (State-owned forest and recreational access points), \$0.03 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(q) The following sums appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1105(a) are reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act:

(1) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(1) (planning, reuse, and contingency): \$119,114.60

(2) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(6) (120 State Street renovation): \$1,000,000.00

(3) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(8) (CJTC administration building and West Cottage): \$450,000.00

(4) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(10) (DCF short-term stabilization facility): \$372,557.10

(5) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(11) (Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre): \$750,000.00

(6) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(13) (planning and design of the Rutland Field Station): \$250,000.00

(7) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(15) (EV charging stations): \$995,040.00

(r) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the

Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(3) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(3), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 11 (120 State Street renovation), \$1,500,000.00 is reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

Bonded Dollars	\$5,074,938.48	\$9,816,118.67
Cash	\$1,700,000.00	\$7,136,711.70
Total Reallocations, <u>Reversions</u> , and Transfers – Section 17	\$6,774,938.48	\$16,083,980.37

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 9, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read as follows:

Sec. 9. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19 is amended to read:

Sec. 19. FY 2026 AND 2027; CAPITAL PROJECTS; FY 2026 AND FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS ~~ACT~~ ACTS; INTENT; AUTHORIZATIONS

\* \* \*

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize certain capital projects eligible for funding by 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in this act but appropriate the funds for these projects in the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Appropriations ~~Aet~~ Acts. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Appropriations ~~Aet~~ appropriate Acts transfer funds to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b for projects in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

(c) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

\* \* \*

(7) to the Vermont Veterans’ Home for the design and construction of the American unit and sprinkler system installation: \$1,500,000.00

\* \* \*

(f) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2027, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

- (1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: \$1,281,173.60
- (2) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide physical security enhancements: \$225,000.00
- (3) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,000,000.00
- (4) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Asa Bloomer roof replacement: \$3,600,000.00
- (5) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Rutland multimodal garage renovation: \$900,000.00
- (6) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs: \$3,000,000.00
- (7) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for HVAC upgrades at correctional facilities:  
\$1,050,000.00
- (8) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for statewide correctional facilities security upgrades: \$225,000.00
- (9) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for door control upgrades at correctional facilities: \$2,700,000.00
- (10) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the Northern State Correctional Facility boiler replacement: \$1,000,000.00
- (11) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00
- (12) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for maintenance and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility: \$500,000.00
- (13) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the Department for Children and Families' youth short-term stabilization facility: \$772,557.10
- (14) to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match for federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$2,498,000.00

(15) to the Department of Environmental Conservation for Waterbury Dam Penstock project cost overruns: \$150,000.00

(16) to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: \$400,000.00

(17) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for dam maintenance and safety planning: \$200,000.00

(18) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facility: \$500,000.00

(19) to the Judiciary for the Essex County Courthouse connector project: \$500,000.00

(20) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the White River Junction courthouse: \$1,600,000.00

(21) to the Vermont Historical Society for the replacement of a climate control unit: \$566,724.00

(22) to the Department of Corrections to work with the Agency of Digital Services to install a Wi-Fi system in State correctional facilities that is appropriately designed to address the safety, security, and confidentiality risks of the correctional environment: \$250,000.00

Eighth: In Sec. 13, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; Little River State Park lease, following “Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166, in fiscal year 2027, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is authorized to” by striking out the words “enter into” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “negotiate”

Ninth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 14a to read as follows:

Sec. 14a. REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO SELL 110 STATE STREET

2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22(a) (authority for BGS to sell 110 State Street, Montpelier) is repealed.

Tenth: By striking out Sec. 18, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new reader assistance headings and three new sections to be Secs. 18–20 to read as follows:

\* \* \* Stormwater Utilities \* \* \*

Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4414(9) is amended to read:

(9) Stormwater management and control. Any municipality may adopt bylaws to implement stormwater management and control consistent with the program developed by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1264. The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from regulating stormwater under this subdivision, including adoption by the municipality of a bylaw establishing a municipal stormwater utility. Municipalities shall not charge an impervious surface fee or other stormwater fee under this subdivision or under other provisions of this title on property regulated under the Required Agricultural Practices for discharges of agricultural waste or agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Sec. 19. 24 V.S.A. § 3626 is added to read:

§ 3626. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE AND OPERATE  
STORMWATER UTILITY

The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from regulating stormwater under this chapter, including adoption by the municipality of a bylaw authorizing the operation of a municipal stormwater utility that establishes an assessment on an equivalent residential unit or impervious surface.

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House Amendments)

**Reported favorably by Senator Mattos for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Institutions.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Perchlik for the Committee on Appropriations.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposals of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Institutions,

with further recommendation of proposal of amendment by adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec. 19a to read as follows:

\* \* \* General Assembly \* \* \*

Sec. 19a. STATE HOUSE; ENTRYWAY DESIGN; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

(a) A special committee consisting of the Joint Legislative Management Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions (special committee) is hereby established. The special committee is authorized to meet to review, approve, or recommend alterations to the State House entryway design at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting.

(b) The special committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

### **House Proposal of Amendment**

#### **S. 173.**

An act relating to vocational rehabilitation.

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

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 641 is amended to read:

§ 641. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

(a) When as a result of an injury covered by this chapter, an employee is unable to perform work for which the employee has previous training or experience, the employee shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation services, including retraining and job placement, as may be reasonably necessary to restore the employee to suitable employment. Vocational rehabilitation services shall be provided as follows:

\* \* \*

(2) The Department shall provide an injured worker with a form that includes information and employee rights. The form shall clearly and simply explain the worker's rights, including the choice of provider, the right to challenge a determination, the right to request vocational rehabilitation services in the future if the work injury affects the worker's ability to earn the worker's preinjury wage, and reimbursement for related expenses. The worker shall sign the form and return it to the Department.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Vocational Rehabilitation Working Group to provide recommendations to the General Assembly on how to improve the current vocational rehabilitation system to ensure that it meets the needs of eligible injured workers in a timely and cost-effective manner.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of House, who shall be a member of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development;

(2) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees, who shall be a member of the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs;

(3) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee;

(5) two representatives on behalf of workers' compensation claimants, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(6) two representatives on behalf of employers and workers' compensation insurance carriers, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(7) two vocational rehabilitation counselors currently certified in Vermont, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

(c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall meet over the summer and fall to discuss and develop recommendations on how to improve the current vocational rehabilitation system and prepare recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly. The Working Group shall consider the following topics:

(1) Initial screening.

(A) Is the current initial screening requirement relevant and helpful or a hindrance to accessing vocational rehabilitation services?

(B) Do other states require an initial screening before a claimant receives a vocational rehabilitation assessment? What are other possible approaches that Vermont may wish to consider?

(C) Should the three questions currently asked as part of the initial screening be modified? Are there additional or different questions that should be asked?

(D) What improvements could be made to ensure that those conducting the initial screenings and vocational rehabilitation providers who provide services to workers' compensation claimants are familiar with Vermont's workers' compensation system?

(E) Who has current oversight over the initial screening process to ensure that the system is working as intended?

(2) Vocational rehabilitation generally.

(A) What mechanisms could better and earlier identify which claimants are likely to require vocational rehabilitation services?

(B) Are claimants being adequately and timely informed of their right to request a vocational rehabilitation assessment? Is information about the workers' compensation system and benefits as a whole being clearly conveyed in plain, easily understood language?

(C) Are some of the current requirements for providing vocational rehabilitation services too onerous and administratively unnecessary?

(D) How could vocational rehabilitation services be provided in a way that is more cost-effective for the workers' compensation system?

(E) How could the Department of Labor's oversight of vocational rehabilitation be improved?

(3) Wage replacement benefits.

(A) Could utilization of vocational services be improved by enabling claimants to access vocational rehabilitation benefits while receiving wage replacement benefits?

(B) Could the workers' compensation system take into account the diminished earning capacity of those claimants who are unable to earn a preinjury wage but are not eligible to receive permanent total disability benefits?

(C) Should the average weekly wage be indexed to the cost of living for vocational rehabilitation purposes?

(d) Meetings. The Commissioner of Labor or designee shall serve as the chair of the Working Group and shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before August 14, 2026.

(e) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Labor.

(f) Report. On or before December 15, 2026, the Working Group shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. The Working Group shall cease to exist upon submission of the report.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) Except for those members regularly employed by the State, members of the Working Group shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than five meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Labor.

(2) A legislative member of the Working Group 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 five meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. chapter 13 is amended to read:

#### CHAPTER 13. APPRENTICESHIP

##### § 1111. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(22) “Nontraditional apprenticeship population” means a group of individuals who have historically been excluded from various occupations, such as individuals from the same gender, race, or ethnicity, the members of which comprise fewer than 25 percent of the program participants in an apprenticeable occupation.

(23) “Nontraditional apprenticeship industry or occupation” refers to an industry sector or occupation that represents fewer than 10 percent of apprenticeable occupations or the programs under the national apprenticeship system, using the calendar year 2023 as the benchmark.

\* \* \*

(33) “Underserved communities” means the populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, who have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. This term includes individuals who ~~belong to~~

~~communities of color, such as Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, Alaskan Native and Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and North African persons. It also includes individuals who belong to communities that face discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, gender non-conforming, and non-binary (LGBTQ+ persons); persons who face discrimination based on pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions; parents; and caregivers. It also includes individuals who belong to communities that face discrimination based on their religion and disability; first-generation professionals or first-generation college students; individuals with limited English proficiency; immigrants; individuals who belong to communities that may face employment barriers based on older age or former incarceration; persons who live in rural areas; veterans and military spouses; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequality:~~

~~(A) face employment barriers based on age or former incarceration;~~

~~(B) live in rural areas;~~

~~(C) lack access to transportation options or high-speed internet;~~

~~(D) are veterans or spouses of veterans; and~~

~~(E) are otherwise adversely affected by poverty, discrimination, or inequality. Individuals may belong to more than one underserved community and face intersecting barriers.~~

~~\* \* \*~~

#### ~~§ 1113. VERMONT REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM~~

~~\* \* \*~~

~~(e) Strategic planning and reporting. The Vermont Registered Apprenticeship Program shall:~~

~~(1) develop and disseminate a strategic plan once every five years, beginning on July 1, 2024 2026, which shall include information on how the Program will implement the requirements of this chapter;~~

~~(2) prepare and submit to the Vermont General Assembly an annual report on the status of the Vermont Registered Apprenticeship Program on or before December 1 of each year that includes:~~

~~(A) general ~~program~~ Program statistics, including a list of programs by county;~~

(B) an analysis of apprentices in the ~~program~~ Program disaggregated by age, race, sex, gender identity, ~~New American status~~ language access needs, Veteran status, disability, industry, and education status, including participation in career ~~and~~ technical education;

(C) nontraditional occupations by gender and race;

(D) new occupations approved;

(E) an analysis of the average starting and ending wage by occupation;

(F) new sponsors, employers, or industries involved with programs over the previous period;

(G) a summary of how allocated funds were used and analysis of the impact of those funds, including uses of any federal funds awarded during the year; and

(H) a summary of significant activities of the ~~program~~ Program.

#### § 1114. VERMONT APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY BOARD

\* \* \*

(c) Duties. The Board shall:

\* \* \*

(6) Create and convene working groups that are tasked with specific activities related to improving the quality, safety, diversity, and alignment of apprenticeship programs. Working group membership is not limited to appointed members of the Board and shall be selected and serve at the discretion of the Chair.

(7) Ensure that the registered apprenticeship program addresses barriers to participation and completion of the program, including underserved populations.

(8) Strengthen relationships with community partners that serve:

(A) underserved populations and historically marginalized communities that have not previously accessed apprenticeship programs; and

(B) individuals who face systemic barriers to participation in the program as evidenced by a disproportionate lack of participation in apprenticeship programs.

\* \* \*

§ 1119. APPRENTICES REGISTERED; AGREEMENT

\* \* \*

(c) An apprenticeship agreement shall contain:

(1) the names and signatures of the apprentice, of the program sponsor or employer, and of a parent or guardian of the apprentice if the apprentice is a minor;

(2) the date of birth ~~and Social Security number~~ of the apprentice;

(3) the contact information of the program sponsor and the Vermont Registered Apprenticeship Program;

(4) a statement of the occupation in which the apprentice is to be trained and the beginning date and duration of apprenticeship;

\* \* \*

(12) to conform to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C. chapter 21, subchapter VI and for affirmative action compliance in apprenticeship programs, and for compliance with reporting and analysis of the Vermont Registered Apprenticeship Program, the voluntary disclosure of the apprentice's race, color, national origin, place of birth, sex, gender, gender identity, primary language spoken, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and disability status; and

(13) if the apprentice completed secondary school in Vermont and is between 18 and 25 years of age, the name of the secondary school from which the apprentice is a graduate, and if the apprentice attended a regional CTE center, the name of the center where the apprentice received technical education while in secondary school;

(14) a statement that the apprentice will be accorded equal opportunity in all phases of apprenticeship employment and training, without discrimination because of race, color, national origin, place of birth, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, primary language spoken, genetic information, veteran status, and disability status; and

(15) optional fields for:

(A) the Social Security number of the apprentice; and

(B) the demographic characteristics of the apprentice.

(d) An apprenticeship agreement shall not be modified unless it is in writing and signed by the parties.

\* \* \*

§ 1123. PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

\* \* \*

(b) A pre-apprenticeship program may be ~~registered~~ certified by the Department after successfully demonstrating:

\* \* \*

§ 1124. YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

(a) A youth apprenticeship program is one that prepares a youth apprentice for acceptance into an apprenticeship program and is designed for youth apprentices who ~~start the program while still enrolled in high school~~:

(1) have not completed secondary education;

(2) are in an educational program approved by the Agency of Education; and

(3) are enrolled in a career technical education program.

(b) A youth apprenticeship program may be registered by the Department after submitting a regional CTE center submits the following information to the Department:

(1) a written plan that articulates the work processes and how a youth apprentice will receive supervised work experience and on-the-job training or training in an experiential setting;

(2) how time spent by a youth apprentice in each major work process will be spent or that specifies how competencies or proficiencies are aligned between ~~their~~ the youth's high school education and the youth apprenticeship program, and that states which graduation requirements will be met;

(3) a description of the mentoring that will be provided to the youth apprentice;

(4) a description or timeline explaining the periodic reviews and evaluations of the youth ~~apprentices~~ apprentice's performance on the job and in related technical instruction;

(5) a process for maintaining appropriate progress records, including the reviews and evaluations;

(6) a description of related classroom-based instruction, which may be fulfilled through dual or concurrent enrollment ~~in secondary or post-secondary courses~~;

(7) whether and how the program is aligned with high school diploma requirements ~~and career clusters~~;

(8) whether the program meets the related technical instruction requirements for an apprenticeship program;

(9) if a program includes paid work during or outside the school year and outside the school day, a progressively increasing, clearly defined schedule of wages to be paid to the youth apprentice as skills are mastered;

(10) how the program prepares the youth apprentice for placement in further education, employment, or an a registered apprenticeship program; and

(11) ~~the terms by which the program grants advanced standing or credit to individuals applying for the youth apprenticeship with demonstrated competency or acquired experience, training, or skills~~ the procedure for advanced standing that grants credit for demonstrated competency, acquired experience, training, or skills to youths who are interested in transferring to full apprenticeship registration upon completion of the youth apprenticeship program;

(12) an accounting of costs for the program covered by the participating partners, grants, or other sources of funds; and

(13) an assurance that school staff, employer partners, and others involved in the program are aware of youth legal protections regarding child labor, wage payment, and youth apprenticeship and other applicable laws and regulations.

(c) An apprenticeship plan submitted in conformity with subsection (b) of this section shall be developed in partnership with apprenticeship sponsors for specific occupational areas and sending high schools.

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to vocational rehabilitation and apprenticeships”

#### **Joint Resolution For Action**

#### **J.R.H. 10.**

Joint resolution authorizing the 2026 Green Mountain Girls State educational program to use the State House.

**PENDING QUESTION:** Shall the resolution be adopted in concurrence?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of May 1, 2026, page 855.)

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable**

**H. 270.**

An act relating to confidentiality in peer support sessions for emergency service providers.

**Reported favorably by Senator Benson for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of January 28, 2026, pages 2886-2889)

**H. 385.**

An act relating to remedies and protections for victims of coerced debt.

**Reported favorably by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Finance.**

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 17, 2026, pages 3292-3309)

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 329.**

An act relating to criminal procedures involving firearms.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Judiciary.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 4017 is amended to read:

§ 4017. PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING FIREARMS;  
CONVICTION OF VIOLENT CRIME

(a) A person shall not possess a firearm if the person has been convicted of a violent crime.

(b) A person who violates this section shall:

(1) for a first offense, be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both; or

(2) for a second or subsequent offense, be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to a person who is exempt from federal firearms restrictions under 18 U.S.C. § 925(c).

(d) As used in this section:

(1)(A) “Firearm” means:

(i) any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;

(ii) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; or

(iii) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer.

(B) “Firearm” ~~shall~~ does not include an antique firearm.

(2) “Antique firearm” means:

(A) Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898.

(B) Any replica of any firearm described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) if the replica:

(i) is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; or

(ii) uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

(C) Any muzzle loading rifle, muzzle loading shotgun, or muzzle loading pistol that is designed to use black powder or a black powder substitute and that cannot use fixed ammunition. As used in this subdivision (C), “antique firearm” ~~shall~~ does not include a weapon that incorporates a firearm frame or receiver, a firearm that is converted into a muzzle loading weapon, or any muzzle loading weapon that can be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the barrel, bolt, breechblock, or any combination thereof.

(3) “Violent crime” means:

(A)(i) A listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title other than:

(I) lewd or lascivious conduct as defined in section 2601 of this title;

(II) recklessly endangering another person as defined in section 1025 of this title;

(III) operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance with either death or serious bodily injury resulting as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1210(f) and (g);

(IV) careless or negligent operation resulting in serious bodily injury or death as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1091(b);

(V) leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious bodily injury or death as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1128(b) or (c); or

(VI) a misdemeanor violation of chapter 28 of this title, relating to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults; or

(ii) a comparable offense and sentence in another jurisdiction if the offense prohibits the person from possessing a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(20).

(B) An offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of chapter 64 of this title, or a comparable offense and sentence in another jurisdiction if the offense prohibits the person from possessing a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(20).

(C) A violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4231(b)(2), (b)(3), or (c) (selling, ~~dispensing,~~ or trafficking cocaine); 4232(b)(2) or (b)(3) (selling ~~or dispensing~~ LSD); 4233(b)(2), (b)(3), or (c) (selling, ~~dispensing,~~ or trafficking heroin); 4234(b)(2) or (b)(3) (selling ~~or dispensing~~ depressants, stimulants, and narcotics); 4234a(b)(2), (b)(3), or (c) (selling, ~~dispensing,~~ or trafficking methamphetamine); 4235(c)(2) or (c)(3) (selling ~~or dispensing~~ hallucinogenic drugs); 4235a(b)(2) or (b)(3) (selling ~~or dispensing~~ Ecstasy), or a comparable offense and sentence in another jurisdiction if the offense prohibits the person from possessing a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(20).

(D) A conviction of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance other than cannabis in another jurisdiction if the offense prohibits the person from possessing a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) or 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(20).

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 4017a is amended to read:

§ 4017a. FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE; PERSONS SUBJECT TO FINAL RELIEF FROM ABUSE OR STALKING ORDER; PERSONS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN OFFENSES; PROHIBITION ON POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

(a) A person shall not possess a firearm if the person:

(1) is a fugitive from justice;

(2) is the subject of a final relief from abuse order issued pursuant to 15 V.S.A. § 1103;

(3) is the subject of a final order against stalking issued pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 5133 if the order prohibits the person from possessing a firearm;  
or

(4) is a person against whom charges are pending for:

(A) carrying a dangerous weapon while committing a felony in violation of section 4005 of this title;

(B) trafficking a regulated drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. chapter 84, subchapter 1; or

(C) human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in violation of section 2652 or 2653 of this title; or

(5)(A)(i) has been found by the court to be a person in need of treatment or a patient in need of further treatment pursuant to section 4822 of this title and:

(I) not guilty by reason of insanity of a violent crime as defined in section 4017 of this title; or

(II) incompetent to stand trial for a violent crime as defined in section 4017 of this title; or

(ii) is the subject of a hospitalization order issued by the court pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7617(b)(1) or (2) or a nonhospitalization order issued by the court pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7617(b)(3).

(B) Subdivision (A) of this subdivision (5) shall not apply to a person if the Family Division grants a petition for relief from firearms disability for the person pursuant to section 4825 of this title.

(b) A person who violates this section shall:

(1) for a first offense, be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both; or

(2) for a second or subsequent offense, be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Firearm" has the same meaning as in section 4017 of this title.

(2) “Fugitive from justice” means a person who has fled:

(A) to avoid prosecution for a crime Vermont criminal offense or for an offense that would be a crime if committed in Vermont; or

(B) to avoid giving testimony in a criminal proceeding.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 4019a is amended to read:

§ 4019a. FIREARMS TRANSFERS; WAITING PERIOD

(a)(1) A person shall not transfer a firearm to another person until 72 hours after the licensed dealer facilitating the transfer is provided with a unique identification number for the transfer by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) or seven business days have elapsed since the dealer contacted NICS to initiate the background check, whichever occurs first.

(2) If a firearm is transferred by mail, the 72-hour waiting period required by subdivision (1) of this subsection shall commence when the order is placed. This subdivision shall not apply unless the transferee provides the licensed dealer facilitating the transfer with a receipt and documentation of a verified tracking number indicating the date the firearm was purchased and mailed. If the transferee fails to provide a receipt and documentation of a verified tracking number that satisfactorily indicates the purchase and mailing dates to the dealer, the dealer shall refuse to transfer the firearm to the transferee until completion of the waiting period required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) A person who transfers a firearm to another person in violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to a firearm transfer that does not require a background check under 18 U.S.C. § 922(t) or section 4019 of this title.

(d) As used in this section, “firearm” has the same meaning as in subsection 4017(d) of this title.

(e) [Repealed.]

(f) This section shall not apply to the return of a firearm, frame, or receiver to a person by a licensed dealer after the dealer has serialized it pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title if the dealer returns the firearm, frame, or receiver to the same person from whom it was received.

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 4022 is amended to read:

§ 4022. BUMP-FIRE STOCKS; MACHINE GUNS; POSSESSION PROHIBITED

(a) As used in this section,:

(1) ~~“bump-fire stock”~~ “Bump-fire stock” means a butt stock designed to be attached to a semiautomatic firearm and intended to increase the rate of fire achievable with the firearm to that of a fully automatic firearm by using the energy from the recoil of the firearm to generate a reciprocating action that facilitates the repeated activation of the trigger.

(2) “Machine gun” means any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one shot without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term also includes the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun; and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if the parts are in the possession or under the control of a person. The term does not include any weapon or other item that is registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or that is otherwise not subject to that registration requirement.

(b) A person shall not possess a bump-fire stock or a machine gun. A person who violates this subsection shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall develop, promote, and execute a collection process that permits persons to voluntarily and anonymously relinquish bump-fire stocks prior to ~~the effective date of this section~~ October 1, 2018.

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 4028 is added to read:

§ 4028. POSSESSION OF FIREARMS PROHIBITED ON PREMISES LICENSED TO SERVE ALCOHOL

(a) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm on premises where alcohol is licensed to be served.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1)(A) a second-class licensed premises, including a premises used for a retail alcoholic beverage tasting permit;

(B) sidewalks or public highways that pass through an outside premises for which a licensee holds an outside consumption permit;

(C) the premises for which a licensee holds a limited event permit, special event permit, or special event serving permit; or

(D) a dining car for which a licensee holds a promotional railroad tasting permit; or

(2) a firearm possessed by:

(A) a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358 for legitimate law enforcement purposes;

(B) a law enforcement officer of another state who is authorized to carry a firearm by the officer's state or local law enforcement agency and is carrying the firearm for legitimate law enforcement purposes;

(C) a member of the Vermont National Guard, of the National Guard of another state, or of the U.S. Armed Forces who is on duty and acting under state or federal orders;

(D) any government officer, agent, or employee authorized to carry a weapon and acting within the scope of that person's duties; or

(E) the holder of the license for the premises, provided that person is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law.

(d) The owner or operator of a premises where alcohol is licensed to be served shall cause notice of the provisions of this section to be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to the premises.

(e) As used in this section, "firearm" has the same meaning as in subsection 4017(d) of this title.

Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 4824 is amended to read:

§ 4824. REPORTING; NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL  
BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

(a) If the court finds that a person is a person in need of treatment or a patient in need of further treatment pursuant to section 4822 of this title, the Court Administrator shall within 48 hours report the name of the person subject to the order to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, established by Section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993. The report shall include only information sufficient to identify the person, the reason for the report, and a statement that the report is made in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(4).

\* \* \*

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 3-2-0)

**Favorable with Proposal of Amendment**

**H. 577.**

An act relating to establishing the Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 7, in section 4691, by striking out subsection (e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) On or before January 15, 2028, and annually thereafter, the State Treasurer shall submit a report to the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Governor detailing the activities of the Program during the previous calendar year, including the number of Vermont residents and pharmacies participating in the Program; the amount of savings on prescription drug costs achieved; and the impact, if any, of the Program on the viability of Vermont's pharmacies.

Second: In Sec. 3a, 32 V.S.A. § 111, in subsection (b), in the second sentence, following "Drug Discount", by inserting "Card" preceding "Program"

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 24, 2026, pages 3491-3499)

**Reported favorably by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

**H. 588.**

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

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Vyhovsky for the Committee on Government Operations.**

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

\* \* \* General Powers \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

(a) The Office shall provide administrative, secretarial, financial, investigatory, inspection, and legal services to the boards. The services provided by the Office shall include:

\* \* \*

(2) Issuing, recording, renewing, and reinstating all licenses as ordered by the boards, an appellate officer, the Director, an administrative law officer, or a court.

(3) Revoking, rescinding, or suspending licenses as ordered by the boards, the Director, an administrative law officer, or a court.

\* \* \*

(14) Adopting rules to establish a program to serve as an alternative to the disciplinary process for regulated professionals with substance use disorders or other professional practice issues as designated by the boards or Director.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:

§ 129. POWERS OF BOARDS OR OF DIRECTOR IN ADVISOR PROFESSIONS; DISCIPLINE ~~PROCESS~~ AND RESCISSION PROCESSES

\* \* \*

(d) A board or the Director shall notify parties, in writing, of their right to appeal final decisions of the board. A board or the Director shall also notify complainants in writing of the result of any disciplinary investigation made

with reference to a complaint brought by them to the board or Director. When a disciplinary investigation results in a stipulation filed with the ~~board~~ docket clerk, the board or the Director shall provide the complainant with a copy of the stipulation and notice of the stipulation review scheduled before the board or hearing authority. The complainant shall have the right to be heard at the stipulation review.

\* \* \*

(j) Hearings involving denials or rescissions of licensure or disciplinary matters concerning persons in professions that have advisor appointees shall be heard by an administrative law officer appointed by the Secretary of State.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 129c is added to read:

§ 129c. RESCISSIONS

(a) The Director may rescind a license or compact privilege issued by the Office of Professional Regulation under the following circumstances:

(1) it is discovered that an administrative mistake has occurred resulting in the erroneous issuance of the license;

(2) payment is not remitted for any application fee pursuant to section 125 of this title; or

(3) if, for a compact license or privilege:

(A) either:

(i) this State or the compact license or privilege holder's home state of licensure ceases participating in the relevant licensing compact; or

(ii) the compact license or privilege holder ceases to hold an unencumbered home-state license; and

(B) the compact license or privilege holder does not obtain a full Vermont license within 30 days.

(b) The rescission process shall be as set forth in this subsection.

(1) License active for less than 30 days.

(A) If the individual's license has been active for less than 30 days, the Director shall initially rescind the license for any reason enumerated in subsection (a) of this section.

(B) The individual shall be immediately notified of the rescission, the reason for rescission, and procedural rights.

(C) The individual shall be provided an opportunity to have the rescission reviewed by either an administrative law officer or the relevant board. In any review, the Director shall have the burden of proving the rescission is merited. Any review shall commence not later than 30 days after the rescission, and a decision in any review shall be rendered within 40 days following the rescission. The decision shall either reverse the Director's rescission, in which case the license shall be immediately reinstated, or affirm the Director's rescission and be deemed a final decision of the administrative law officer or board.

(D) In the event of an administrative law officer or board affirming the Director's rescission, the individual shall be provided notice and the ability to appeal the Director's rescission in accordance with section 130a of this title; however, the individual shall have the burden of proving the rescission is not merited.

(2) License active for 30 days or more.

(A) If the individual's license has been active for 30 days or more, and the Director determines there is a reason for rescission as enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, the Director shall provide notice to the individual that, after 30 days from issuing the notice, the Director intends to rescind the individual's license. The notice shall also include the reason for rescission and the individual's procedural rights.

(B) The individual shall be provided an opportunity to have a hearing to determine the merits of a rescission. The individual shall have 30 days from when the Director's notice was issued to indicate if the individual elects to have a hearing. In the event the individual either elects not to have a hearing or declines to answer within the allotted 30 days, Director shall rescind the individual's license and the individual shall be foreclosed from appealing the decision pursuant to subdivision (D) of this subdivision (b)(2). In the event the individual elects to have a hearing, any rescission shall be stayed until a hearing decision is rendered.

(C) Any hearing shall be held in accordance with section 129 of this title and the resulting decision shall either affirm or reverse the Director's rescission of the individual license.

(D) In the event of a hearing decision finding that the Director's rescission of the individual's license is merited, the individual shall be provided notice and the ability to appeal the Director's rescission in accordance with section 130a of this title; however, the individual shall have the burden of proving the rescission is not merited.

(c) A rescission of a license shall not be recorded as an adverse action taken against the individual or any other misconduct or unprofessional conduct for purposes of the individual's other currently held licenses or future licensure applications.

(d) Upon becoming aware of the State either withdrawing from any licensure compact described in Title 26 or when a licensure compact described in Title 26 becomes no longer binding on the State, the Office of Professional Regulation shall notify as soon as practicable all affected licensees practicing in the State. An individual's license may not be rescinded if the Office fails to provide the notice.

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 128 is amended to read:

§ 128. DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO BE REPORTED TO THE OFFICE

(a)(1) Any hospital, clinic, community mental health center, or other health care institution in which a licensee performs professional services shall report to the Office, along with supporting information and evidence, any disciplinary action taken by it or its staff that limits or conditions the licensee's privilege to practice or leads to suspension or expulsion from the institution.

\* \* \*

(3) This section shall ~~not~~ apply to cases of resignation, separation from service, or changes in privileges that are ~~unrelated~~ related to:

- (A) a disciplinary or adverse action;
- (B) an adverse action report to the National Practitioner Data Bank;
- (C) an unexpected adverse outcome in the care or treatment of a patient;
- (D) misconduct or allegations of misconduct;
- (E) the initiation or process of an action to limit, condition, or suspend a licensee's privilege to practice in an institution;
- (F) an action to expel the licensee from an institution; or
- (G) any other action that could lead to an outcome described in subdivisions (A) through (F) of this subdivision (3).

\* \* \*

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items or any combination of items, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

(1) Fraudulent or deceptive procurement or use of a license or attempted fraudulent or deceptive procurement or use of a license by making or causing to be made a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or representation.

\* \* \*

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other law to the contrary, the Director may adopt rules permitting a licensee to enter, at the Director's discretion, into a program serving as an alternative to the disciplinary process for regulated professionals with substance use disorders or other professional practice issues as designated by the boards or Director.

Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 129b is amended to read:

#### § 129b. BOARD MEMBER AND ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary relating to terms of office and appointments for members of boards attached to the Office of Professional Regulation, all board members appointed by the Governor shall be the age of majority, appointed for staggered five-year terms, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Appointments under this section shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor may remove any member of a board as provided in section 2004 of this title. Vacancies created other than by expiration of a term shall be filled in the same manner that the initial appointment was made for the unexpired portion of the term. Terms shall begin on January 1 of the year of appointment and run through December 31 of the last year of the term. The Governor may request nominations from any source but shall not be bound to select board members from among the persons nominated. As provided in section 2004 of this title, board members shall hold office and serve until a successor has been appointed.

\* \* \*

Sec. 7. 3 V.S.A. § 137 is amended to read:

#### § 137. UNIFORM PROCESS FOR FOREIGN CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION

\* \* \*

(d) The provisions relating to ~~preliminary~~ license denials set forth in subsection 129(e) of this subchapter shall apply to a license application that is ~~preliminarily~~ denied for nonequivalence under this section.

\* \* \* Accountants \* \* \*

Sec. 8. 26 V.S.A. § 13 is amended to read:

§ 13. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(7) ~~“Good character” means fiscal integrity, and a lack of any history of acts involving dishonesty, false statements, or fraud. [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

(11) ~~“Principal place of business” means the office location designated by the licensee for the purposes of substantial-equivalency~~ mobility and reciprocity.

\* \* \*

Sec. 9. 26 V.S.A. § 71a is amended to read:

§ 71a. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

(a) ~~A license~~ To qualify for licensure as a “certified public accountant” shall be granted by the Board to any person certified public accountant, an applicant must:

(1) ~~who is of good character;~~

(2) ~~who completes~~ complete any one of the following requirements for education and experience:

(A) a postbaccalaureate degree from a college or university recognized by the Board with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and one year of experience in public accounting, meeting the requirements prescribed by Board rule;

(B) 150 or more semester hours of college credit at a college or university recognized by the Board, including a baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 42 semester hours of accounting, auditing, and related subjects as the Board determines to be appropriate, and one year of experience in public accounting, meeting the requirements prescribed by Board rule ~~or other experience or employment that the Board in its discretion considers substantially equivalent; and~~ or

(C) a baccalaureate degree from a college or university recognized by the Board with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and two years of experience in public accounting, meeting the requirements prescribed by Board rule; and

~~(3)(2) who has passed~~ pass the examination required under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Board shall administer an examination using a nationally recognized uniform certified public accountants' examination and advisory grading service.

(c) An applicant who has not yet completed a baccalaureate degree may sit for the exam upon the completion of 120 semester hours at an institution recognized by the Board, including a minimum of 30 semester hours of accounting, auditing, and related subjects as the Board determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 10. 26 V.S.A. § 74c is amended to read:

§ 74c. SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY MOBILITY

(a) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this State shall ~~be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this State's requirements and shall have the privileges of licensure of this State, without the need to obtain a license under section 72b of this title, if the individual:~~

~~(1) holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from a any state the Board determines has licensure requirements substantially equivalent to the requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act; or and~~

~~(2) holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from any state, and the individual obtains verification from the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service that the individual's qualifications are substantially equivalent to the licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act. An individual who passed the uniform CPA examination and holds a valid license issued by any state prior to January 1, 2012 shall be exempt from the education requirements of subdivision 5(c)(2) of the Uniform Accountancy Act for purposes of this section. has passed the uniform CPA examination and has met any one of the following requirements for education and experience in accordance with rules adopted by the Board:~~

(A) a post-baccalaureate degree from a college or university with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and one year of experience in public accounting;

(B) 150 or more semester hours of college credit at a college or university, including a baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 42 semester hours of accounting, auditing, and related subjects, and one year of experience in public accounting; or

(C) a baccalaureate degree from a college or university with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent and two years of experience in public accounting.

\* \* \*

(g) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this State, who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant from any state, and who, as of December 31, 2024, had practice privileges in this State under this section shall continue to have all the privileges of licensees in this State without the need to obtain a license under section 71a of this title, pursuant to all other requirements of this chapter.

\* \* \* Dentists \* \* \*

Sec. 11. 26 V.S.A. § 603 is added to read:

§ 603. LIMITED ACADEMIC DENTIST LICENSE

(a) Scope of dentist practice. A limited academic dentist license is a credential that authorizes the practice of dentistry only:

(1) at a teaching facility operated by a dental program that is accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation to grant doctoral degrees in dental medicine or dental surgery; and

(2) under the general supervision of a dentist who is fully licensed in good standing in Vermont.

(b) Eligibility. To qualify for a limited academic dentist license, an applicant must:

(1) be appointed as a full-time dental instructor of an accredited dental program;

(2) hold a dental degree sufficient for licensure by examination under section 601 of this title; and

(3) complete any courses in emergency office procedures or cardiopulmonary resuscitation required for a licensed dentist.

(c) Specialties unavailable. A limited academic dentist license holder who is not otherwise licensed as a dentist in this State is ineligible for sedation and general anesthesia specialties.

(d) Notification of termination required. A limited academic dentist license holder must notify the Office within 48 hours after any termination as a full-time dental instructor. Continued practice after termination constitutes unauthorized practice under 3 V.S.A. § 127.

(e) Renewal. For license renewal, a limited academic dentist license holder must:

(1) meet all renewal requirements set forth in subsections 661(a)–(d) for a licensed dentist, except no fee is required; and

(2) continue to be a full-time dental instructor of an accredited dental program.

Sec. 12. 26 V.S.A. § 662 is amended to read:

§ 662. FEES

(a) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application

(A) Dentist \$285.00

(B) Limited academic dentist \$0.00

(C) Dental therapist \$215.00

~~(C)~~(D) Dental hygienist \$200.00

~~(D)~~(E) Dental assistant \$80.00

(2) Biennial renewal

(A) Dentist \$655.00

(B) Limited academic dentist \$0.00

(C) Dental therapist \$310.00

~~(C)~~(D) Dental hygienist \$245.00

~~(D)~~(E) Dental assistant \$105.00

(b) The licensing fee for a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist or the registration fee for a dental assistant who is otherwise eligible for licensure or registration and whose practice in this State will be limited to providing pro bono services at a free or reduced-fee clinic or similar setting approved by the Board shall be waived.

\* \* \* Funeral Services \* \* \*

Sec. 13. 26 V.S.A. § 1211 is amended to read:

§ 1211. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this chapter, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context:

\* \* \*

(6) “Practice of funeral service” means arranging, directing, or providing for the care, preparation, or disposition of dead human bodies for a fee or other compensation. This includes:

(A) meeting with the public to select a method of disposition or funeral observance and merchandise;

(B) entering into contracts, either at-need or pre-need, for the provision of dispositions, funeral observances, and merchandise;

(C) arranging, directing, or performing the removal or transportation of a dead human body;

(D) securing or filing certificates, permits, forms, or other documents;

(E) supervising or arranging a funeral, memorial, viewing, or graveside observance; ~~and~~

(F) holding oneself out to be a licensed funeral director by using the words or terms “funeral director,” “mortician,” “undertaker,” or any other words, terms, title, or picture that, when considered in context, would imply that such person is engaged in the practice of funeral service or is a licensed funeral director; and

(G) providing for the disposition of dead human bodies by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction.

\* \* \*

(c) Notwithstanding this section, owners of a disposition facility and their personnel may engage in the listed activities in subdivision (a)(6) of this section only to the extent such functions are necessary to the performance of their duties. Specifically, personnel at a disposition facility may:

(1) provide for the disposition of dead human bodies by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction and meet with the public to arrange ~~and provide~~ for the disposition;

(2) enter into contracts, without taking prepaid funds, for the ~~provision of dispositions~~ disposition by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction;

(3) arrange, direct, or perform the removal or transportation of a dead human body, provided that removals are performed by licensed removal personnel; and

(4) secure and file certificates, permits, forms, or other documents.

\* \* \* Nursing; Advanced Practice Registered Nurses \* \* \*

Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. § 1614 is amended to read:

§ 1614. APRN RENEWAL

An APRN license renewal application shall include:

(1) documentation of ~~completion of the APRN practice requirement;~~

(2) ~~possession of~~ a current certification by a national APRN specialty certifying organization; and

(3)(2) a current collaborative provider agreement if required for transition to practice.

\* \* \* Pharmacists \* \* \*

Sec. 14a. 26 V.S.A. § 2023 is amended to read:

§ 2023. CLINICAL PHARMACY; PRESCRIBING AND TESTING

(a) In accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Board, a pharmacist may engage in the practice of clinical pharmacy, including prescribing as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, provided that a pharmacist shall not:

\* \* \*

(3) initiate antibiotic therapy, except pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement or state protocol.

(b) A pharmacist may prescribe in the following contexts:

\* \* \*

(2) State protocol.

(A) A pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer in a manner consistent with valid State protocols that are approved by the Commissioner of Health after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board and the ability for public comment:

\* \* \*

(x) emergency prescribing of albuterol or glucagon while contemporaneously contacting emergency services;

~~(xi) tests for COVID-19 for individuals by entities holding a Certificate of Waiver pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. § 263a). If a test for COVID-19, prescribed, ordered, or administered by a pharmacist in accordance with this section and the resulting State protocol incidentally detects influenza or human respiratory syncytial virus, a pharmacist shall advise the individual tested that the results indicate influenza or human respiratory syncytial virus infection and recommend to the individual to seek further care from an appropriate health care provider;~~

~~(xii) tests for SARS-CoV for asymptomatic individuals or related serology for individuals by entities holding a Certificate of Waiver pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. § 263a); and~~

~~(xiii)~~(xi) emergency contraception;

(xii) tests waived under 42 C.F.R. § 493.15 for COVID-19, influenza, and streptococcal pharyngitis and subsequent drug treatment; and

(xiii) medications for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus, including those for pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis.

\* \* \*

Sec. 14b. 26 V.S.A. § 2022 is amended to read:

§ 2022. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(14) “Pharmacy technician” means an individual who, only while assisting and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, performs tasks relative to dispensing prescription drugs, administering immunizations, and performing tests for COVID-19, influenza, and streptococcal pharyngitis. Pharmacy technicians shall administer immunizations and perform authorized tests ~~for COVID-19~~ in compliance and accordance with section 2042a of this title.

\* \* \*

Sec. 14c. 26 V.S.A. § 2042a is amended to read:

§ 2042a. PHARMACY TECHNICIANS; QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR REGISTRATION

\* \* \*

(e) Pharmacy technicians performing authorized COVID-19 tests shall do so only:

(1) when a licensed pharmacist who is trained to perform authorized COVID-19 tests is present and able to assist with the test, as needed; and

(2) in accordance with a State protocol adopted under subdivision 2023(b)(2)(A)(~~x~~) of this title or pursuant to a standing order of the Commissioner of Health; and

~~(3) in accordance with rules adopted by the Board.~~

(f) The Board may adopt rules regarding the administration of immunizations and the performance of authorized COVID-19 tests by pharmacy technicians.

\* \* \* Psychologists \* \* \*

#### Sec. 15. TEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENTATION

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 26 V.S.A. chapter 55, 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, or any contrary rule, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation may develop and implement temporary policies permitting supplementation of a master's or doctoral degree, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3011a(a)(2), for the licensing of psychologists.

(b) Policies adopted pursuant to this section shall be:

(1) developed in consultation with the Board of Psychological Examiners and the Vermont Psychological Association;

(2) consistent with 26 V.S.A. chapter 57; and

(3) made available to the public.

(c) The Director's powers granted pursuant to this section and any temporary policies adopted pursuant to this section shall be in effect only until either July 1, 2029, or when the Board of Psychological Examiners adopts permanent rules regarding supplementation of a master's or doctoral degree, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3011a(a)(2), for the licensing of psychologists, whichever occurs first.

(d) On or before July 1, 2029, the Board shall adopt updated rules regarding the supplementation of a master's or doctoral degree, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3011a(a)(2), for the licensing of psychologists.

\* \* \* Midwives \* \* \*

Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 85. MIDWIVES

\* \* \*

§ 4185. DIRECTOR; DUTIES

\* \* \*

~~(e)(1) The Director shall appoint an advisory committee to study and report to the Director and to the Commissioner of Health on matters relating to midwifery, including recommendations if necessary for revisions to the administrative rules. The Committee shall focus on improving communication and collaboration among birth providers.~~

~~(2) The Committee shall be composed of at least six members: three midwives licensed under this chapter, two physicians licensed by the Board of Medical Practice or the Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and one advanced practice registered nurse midwife licensed by the Board of Nursing.~~

~~(3) Members of the Committee shall be entitled to compensation at the rate provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010.~~

\* \* \*

§ 4187. RENEWALS

~~(a)(1) Biennially, the Director shall forward a renewal form to each licensed midwife. A license shall be renewed every two years upon the filing of a renewal application, payment of the required fee, and proof of compliance with renewal requirements. The completed form renewal application shall include verification that during the preceding two years, the licensed midwife has:~~

~~(A) completed 20 hours of continuing education approved by the Director by rule;~~

~~(B) participated in at least four peer reviews;~~

~~(C) submitted individual practice data;~~

~~(D) maintained current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification;~~

~~and~~

~~(E)(D) filed a timely certificate of birth for each birth at which he or she the licensee was the attending midwife, as required by law; and~~

(E) maintained current certification by the North American Registry of Midwives.

(2) Upon receipt of the completed form and of the renewal fee, the Director shall issue a renewal license to applicants who qualify under this section.

(b) The Director shall renew a license that has lapsed for a period of three years or less upon receipt of the renewal fee and late renewal penalty, the reinstatement fee, and an application for renewal that shows that the person still meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter and that all the requirements for renewal, including continuing education, have been satisfied. A person shall not be required to pay renewal fees for lapsed years.

(c) The Director may adopt rules to assure that an applicant whose license has lapsed for a period greater than three years may be eligible for licensing, but such rules shall not establish requirements greater than the eligibility requirements of this chapter.

(d) The Director may, as a condition of license renewal, require that licensed midwives submit individual practice data to the Office or its designee. The required data may include information such as client demographics, complications of labor and delivery, breastfeeding and postpartum health, and such other information as the Director may require.

\* \* \* Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants; Sunrise Report \* \* \*

Sec. 17. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; SUNRISE REVIEW REPORT; SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

On or before November 15, 2026, the Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with speech language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and other interested stakeholders, shall submit to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations a written report, in accordance with 26 V.S.A. chapter 57, on the advised nature of regulation and suggested level of credentialing for speech-language pathologist assistants practicing in the State. In so doing, OPR shall take into consideration its sunrise report completed in 2015.

\* \* \* Massage Therapists, Bodyworkers, and Touch Professionals \* \* \*

Sec. 18. 26 V.S.A. chapter 105 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 105. MASSAGE THERAPISTS, BODYWORKERS, AND TOUCH PROFESSIONALS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(2)(A) “Establishment” means any ~~place of business that~~ location:

~~(i)(A) offers the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork or where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is conducted on the premises of the business where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is regularly engaged in; or~~

~~(ii)(B) that represents itself to the public by any title or description of services incorporating the words “touch professional,” “bodywork,” “massage,” “massage therapy,” “massage therapist,” “massage practitioner,” “massagist,” “masseur,” “masseuse,” “energy work,” or other words identified by the Director in rules.~~

~~(B) A “place of business” includes any office, clinic, facility, salon, spa, or other location not otherwise exempted under section 5404 of this chapter where a person or persons engage in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork.~~

\* \* \*

§ 5403. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE

Any individual who owns or operates an unregistered establishment or who engages in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork without a registration from the Office shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127 (~~unauthorized practice~~).

§ 5404. EXEMPTIONS

\* \* \*

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional from engaging in or offering the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork at a location that is not ~~an~~ a registered establishment, if:

~~(1) so long as prior to engaging in that practice at that location, the registrant massage therapist and his or her the client agree in advance that the location is acceptable; and~~

~~(2) the location is not an establishment as defined in subdivision 5401(2) of this title.~~

(d) Establishment registration is not required for a location where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is provided solely by:

(1) persons exempt from registration; or

(2) a single massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional.

\* \* \*

#### § 5411. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

\* \* \*

(b) Rules.

(1) The Director shall adopt rules requiring a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional to disclose to each new client before the first treatment the following information:

(A) the professional qualifications and experience of the registrant;

(B) actions that constitute unprofessional conduct;

(C) the method for filing a complaint against a registrant; and

(D) the method for making a consumer inquiry with the Office.

(2) The Director shall adopt rules regarding the display of:

(A) the registrations of employed or contracted massage therapists, bodyworkers, or touch professionals at an establishment; and

(B) information regarding unprofessional conduct and filing complaints with the Office.

(3) The rules described in this subsection shall include provisions relating to the manner in which the information disclosed shall be distributed or displayed and a requirement that a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional and ~~his or her~~ the client sign an acknowledgement that the information was disclosed.

(4) The Director may adopt other rules as necessary to perform ~~his or her~~ the Director's duties under this chapter.

(5) The Director may adopt rules limiting the applicability of this chapter as applied to establishments operated within private homes.

\* \* \*

#### § 5423. ESTABLISHMENTS; DESIGNEE AND INSPECTION

(a) An establishment shall ~~designate a massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional to be responsible for ensuring the establishment complies~~

with the requirements of this chapter and the rules adopted by the Director register with the Office of Professional Regulation. The operation of an establishment without registration shall constitute unauthorized practice under 3 V.S.A. § 127.

(b) An establishment is responsible for ensuring its lawful operation, regardless of whether the establishment's owner is on-site or has personal knowledge of its operations. The Office may prosecute an establishment for unprofessional conduct or unauthorized practice occurring at the establishment.

(c) The Director may require that an application for establishment registration include:

- (1) the management and ownership of the business;
- (2) the name, location, and licensing history of any past or present massage establishment under the same management or ownership;
- (3) the location and ownership of the establishment's premises;
- (4) proof of business registration with the Secretary of State; and
- (5) other information required by the Director in rule.

(d) The Director may deny an establishment registration of a location where unprofessional conduct, as defined in subdivision 5427(2) or (3) of this title, has previously occurred, even if under different ownership or management. A denial on this basis shall follow the same procedures as a denial for unprofessional conduct under 3 V.S.A. § 129.

(e) A person authorized by the Director may enter any establishment for the purpose of inspection when a complaint has been filed with the Office regarding the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork at that establishment. The Director may require an establishment to undergo inspection prior to registration. A fee shall not be charged for any inspection under this subsection.

\* \* \*

#### § 5425. FEES

(a) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay those fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 125(b).

(b) An establishment where the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork is provided by only two massage therapists, bodyworkers, or touch professionals shall pay reduced fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 125(b).

§ 5426. DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION

~~A massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional shall conspicuously display his or her registration in any establishment where the registrant is engaged in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork~~ An establishment must conspicuously display the registrations of:

(1) the establishment; and

(2) any massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional engaged in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork in the establishment.

§ 5427. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Unprofessional conduct means the conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a and the following:

(1) engaging in activities in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2605 (voyeurism);

(2) ~~engaging in a sexual act with a client~~ in sexual conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2821:

(A) at an establishment; or

(B) while engaging in, offering to engage in, or purporting to engage in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork;

(3) meeting a client at an establishment for the purpose of sexual conduct;

~~(3)~~(4) conviction of a crime committed while engaged in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork;

~~(4)~~(5) performing massage or bodywork that the massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional knows or has reason to know has not been authorized by a client or the client's legal representative; and

~~(5)~~(6) engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public; and

(7) engaging in the practice of massage or the practice of bodywork at an unregistered establishment.

Sec. 18a. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

§ 125. FEES

(a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board or advisor profession may charge the following fees:

(1) Verification of license, \$30.00.

(2) An examination fee established by the Secretary, which shall be not greater than the costs associated with examinations.

(3) Reinstatement fees for expired licenses pursuant to section 127 (unauthorized practice) of this title.

(4) Continuing, qualifying, or prelicensing education course approval:

(A) Provider, \$100.00.

(B) Individual, \$25.00.

(5) A preapplication criminal background determination, \$25.00.

(6) Limited temporary license or work permit, \$60.00.

(7) Apprenticeship application, \$50.00.

(8) Specialty or endorsement to existing license application, \$100.00.

(9) Disciplinary action surcharge, \$250.00.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees under Title 26:

(1) Application for registration, \$100.00, except application for:

\* \* \*

(D) Massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional, \$90.00.

(E) Massage establishment qualifying for a reduced fee under 26 V.S.A. § 5425(b), \$50.00.

(2) Application for licensure or certification, \$115.00, except application for:

\* \* \*

~~(M) Massage therapist, bodyworker, or touch professional, \$90.00.~~  
[Repealed.]

\* \* \*

(4) Biennial renewal, \$275.00, except biennial renewal for:

\* \* \*

(Y) Massage establishment qualifying for a reduced fee under 26 V.S.A. § 5425(b), \$75.00.

- (5) ~~Limited temporary license or work permit, \$60.00. [Repealed.]~~
- (6) Radiologic evaluation, \$125.00.
- (7) Annual renewal for appraisal management company registration, \$345.00.
- (8) Real estate appraiser trainee, \$115.00.
- (9) ~~Apprenticeship application, \$50.00. [Repealed.]~~
- (10) ~~Specialty or endorsement to existing license application, \$100.00. [Repealed.]~~
- (11) ~~Disciplinary action surcharge, \$250.00. [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

Sec. 19. 13 V.S.A. § 2638 is amended to read:

§ 2638. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Human trafficking” has the same meaning as in section 2651 of this title.

(2) “Prostitution” has the same meaning as in section 2631 of this title.

(b) A person who, in good faith and in a timely manner, reports to law enforcement that the person is a victim of or a witness to a crime that arose from the person’s involvement in prostitution or human trafficking shall not be cited, arrested, or prosecuted for a violation of the following offenses:

- (1) section 2632 of this title (prostitution);
- (2) section 2601a of this title (prohibited conduct);
- (3) 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a)(1)–(3) (cannabis possession);
- (4) 18 V.S.A. § 4231(a)(1) and (2) (cocaine possession);
- (5) 18 V.S.A. § 4232(a)(1) and (2) (LSD possession);
- (6) 18 V.S.A. § 4233(a)(1) and (2) (heroin possession);
- (7) 18 V.S.A. § 4234(a)(1) and (2) (depressant, stimulant, and narcotic drugs possession);
- (8) 18 V.S.A. § 4234a(a)(1) and (2) (methamphetamine possession);
- (9) 18 V.S.A. § 4235(b)(1) (hallucinogenic drugs possession); and

(10) 18 V.S.A. § 4235a(a)(1) (Ecstasy possession); and

(11) 26 V.S.A. § 5403 (unauthorized practice of massage or bodywork).

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Board of Medical Practice \* \* \*

Sec. 19a. 26 V.S.A. § 1353 is amended to read:

§ 1353. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The Board shall have the following powers and duties to:

\* \* \*

(8)(A) Inquire into the criminal history backgrounds of applicants for licensure and for biennial license renewal for all professionals licensed or certified by the Board. In obtaining these background checks, the Board may inquire directly of the Vermont Crime Information Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Crime Information Center, or other holders of official criminal record information, and may arrange for these inquiries to be made by a commercial service any Board-issued credential, including a license, certification, or registration for the following professions:

(i) medical doctors licensed pursuant to chapter 23 of this title;

(ii) podiatrists licensed pursuant to chapter 7 of this title;

(iii) anesthesiologist assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 29 of this title;

(iv) physician assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 31 of this title; and

(v) radiologist assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 52 of this title.

(B) Prior to acting on an initial or renewal application, the Board may obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Federal Bureau of Investigation background checks shall be fingerprint-supported, and fingerprints so obtained may be retained on file and used to notify the Board of future triggering events. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the Board on forms developed by the Vermont Crime Information Center.

(C) An applicant or licensee shall bear any cost of obtaining a required criminal history background check. Applicants subject to background checks shall be notified that a check is required, whether fingerprints will be

retained on file, and that criminal convictions are not an absolute bar to licensure. Applicants shall be provided other information as may be required by federal law or regulation.

~~(D) The Board shall comply with all laws regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy.~~

~~(E) No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal history record information to any person who would not be eligible to receive the information pursuant to this chapter. As used in this subdivision, "criminal history record" has the same meaning as in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a.~~

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

## Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Secs. 1–10 (general powers, accountants), Secs. 13–17 (funeral services, advanced practice registered nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, midwives, speech-language pathologist assistants report), Sec. 18a (3 V.S.A. § 125), and Sec. 19a (Board of Medical Practice) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 11 and 12 (dentists) shall take effect on September 1, 2026.

(c) Sec. 18 (massage therapists, bodyworkers, and touch professionals) and Sec. 19 (13 V.S.A. § 2638) shall take effect on December 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 13, 2026, pages 3214-3234)

**Reported favorably by Senator Hardy for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

## **H. 611.**

An act relating to miscellaneous provisions affecting the Department of Vermont Health Access.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Gulick for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 2, 18 V.S.A. § 4682, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4682 is amended to read:

§ 4682. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST 340B ENTITIES PROHIBITED

\* \* \*

(b) A manufacturer or its agent shall not directly or indirectly require a 340B covered entity to submit any claims, utilization, encounter, purchase, or other data as a condition for allowing the acquisition of a 340B drug by or delivery of a 340B drug to a 340B contract pharmacy or a 340B covered entity unless the claims or utilization data sharing is required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

\* \* \*

~~(d) A manufacturer or its agent shall offer or otherwise make available 340B drug pricing to a 340B covered entity or 340B contract pharmacy in the form of a discount at the time of purchase and shall not offer or otherwise make available 340B drug pricing in the form of a rebate. [Repealed.]~~

Second: In Sec. 9, amending 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 8, in subsection (a), by striking out “2026” both times it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “2026 2027”

Third: By striking out Sec. 10, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be Secs. 10 and 11 to read as follows:

Sec. 10. 8 V.S.A. § 4077 is amended to read:

§ 4077. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

\* \* \*

(h)(1) As used in this subsection:

(A) “HIV prevention drug” means any preexposure prophylaxis drug or postexposure prophylaxis drug, including oral and long-acting injectable formulations, that is approved by the FDA for HIV prevention or that is otherwise authorized for HIV prevention pursuant to FDA labeling or federal clinical guidelines.

(B) “Supportive health service” means any health service that is necessary to monitor a patient to ensure the safe and effective ongoing use of an HIV prevention drug and includes:

- (i) an office visit;
- (ii) laboratory testing;
- (iii) testing for a sexually transmitted infection;
- (iv) medication self-management and adherence counseling;
- (v) patient education and counseling by the patient's health care provider regarding the appropriate use of the HIV prevention drug; and
- (vi) any other health services that are components of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services as determined by the patient's health care provider.

(2) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for HIV preexposure prophylaxis drugs as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force as of August 22, 2023. This coverage shall be provided without any deductible, coinsurance, co-payment, or other cost-sharing requirement, except to the extent that such coverage would disqualify a high-deductible health plan from eligibility for a health savings account pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 223.

(3) Medicaid and any other public health care assistance program offered or administered by the State or by any subdivision or instrumentality of the State, except for any program funded in whole or in part by federal grants that include prohibitions on coverage of HIV prevention drugs, shall provide coverage of HIV prevention drugs and supportive health services and shall:

(A) not require any cost sharing, including co-payments;

(B) provide coverage without requiring prior authorization or any other protocol that may restrict or delay dispensing for at least one FDA-approved drug in each category of preexposure and postexposure prophylaxis drugs; and

(C) not deny coverage based on the type of health care professional issuing the prescription for any HIV prevention drug for which Medicaid does not require prior authorization, provided the health care professional is acting within the professional's authorized scope of practice and is enrolled as a participating provider in Vermont Medicaid.

#### Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of February 6, 2026, pages 3001-3007)

**H. 921.**

An act relating to alcoholic beverages.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Weeks for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose 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]."

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House Amendments)

**Reported favorably by Senator Brock for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

**H. 930.**

An act relating to addressing and preventing chronic absenteeism.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Bongartz for the Committee on Education.**

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Chronic absenteeism is primarily an issue that should be addressed through preventative, restorative, and assistance-based measures designed to identify barriers to attendance and reconnect students with school. Schools should respond to chronic absenteeism through written attendance support plans, outreach to families, and appropriate academic, behavioral, and

community-based supports.

(2) Truancy is distinct from chronic absenteeism and constitutes a student's failure to comply with compulsory attendance requirements under Vermont law. Truancy should serve as a legal enforcement mechanism only after reasonable school-based interventions have been attempted and have not resulted in improved attendance. Truancy proceedings should be reserved for circumstances in which school-based interventions have not been successful and formal legal enforcement is necessary to ensure compliance with compulsory attendance laws.

## Sec. 2. LEGSLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that student attendance policies in Vermont schools prioritize early identification, supportive intervention, and meaningful family engagement in order to produce consistent school attendance and student success.

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. chapter 25, subchapter 3 is amended to read:

### Subchapter 3. Compulsory Attendance

#### § 1120. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Absence" means a student who is, for at least half the school day when school is open, not physically on school grounds or who is not receiving or attending educational, cocurricular, or athletic services or programming elsewhere pursuant to a program or plan approved by:

(A) the district, if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

(B) an approved independent school, if the student is enrolled in an approved independent school.

(2) "Chronic absenteeism" means a student who is absent for any reason for 10 percent or more of a district's or approved independent school's student attendance days within one school year, regardless of whether the absences are considered excused or unexcused.

(3) "Excused absence" means an absence that is approved by the superintendent or designee, or the head of school or designee for an approved independent school, pursuant to section 1123 of this chapter, either before or after the date or dates of the student's absence. Excused absences shall include days of in- or out-of-school suspension.

(4) "Parent or guardian" shall have its ordinary meaning; provided, however, that it shall also mean a student in the following situations:

(A) the student has reached the age of majority;

(B) the student is an independent student as that term is defined under subsection 1075(h) of this chapter; or

(C) the student qualifies as an unaccompanied youth under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431–11435.

(5) “Truancy” means a student who accumulates 20 or more unexcused absences either within the same school year or within a district’s or approved independent school’s last 175 consecutive student attendance days, regardless of whether the absences were within the same school year.

(6) “Unexcused absence” means any student absence that does not fit one of the categories of excused absences. Failure of the parent or guardian to provide justification for the absence if requested by the superintendent or the head of school for an approved independent school shall also constitute an unexcused absence.

#### § 1121. ATTENDANCE BY CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE REQUIRED

~~A person having the control~~ The parent or guardian of a child between the ~~ages of six and 16 years of age~~ shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved or recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home study program for the full number of days for which that school is held, unless the child:

~~(1) per medical recommendation, is mentally or physically unable to attend; or~~

~~(2) has completed the tenth~~ 10th grade; ~~or~~

~~(3) is excused by the superintendent or a majority of the school directors designee or the head of school for an approved independent school or designee as provided in this chapter; or~~

~~(4) is enrolled in and attending a postsecondary school, as defined in subdivision 176(b)(1) of this title, which is approved or accredited in Vermont or another state.~~

#### § 1122. STUDENTS UNDER SIX AND OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE

~~A person having the control~~ The parent or guardian of a child ~~who is under six years of age or over 16 years of age who allows the child to become enrolled~~ enrolls the child in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school ~~or approved independent school shall cause~~ ensure that the child to attend ~~attends~~ the school continually for the full number of the school days of the term in which ~~he or she~~ the child is enrolled, ~~unless the child is mentally or~~

~~physically unable to continue or is excused in writing by the superintendent or a majority of the school directors. In case of such enrollment, the person and the teacher, child, parent or guardian and the superintendent, and school directors or designee or the head of school for an approved independent school or designee shall be under the laws and subject to the penalties relating to the attendance of children between the ages of six and 16 years of age.~~

§ 1123. ATTENDANCE SCHOOL ABSENCE MAY BE EXCUSED

~~(a) The In accordance with the chronic absenteeism and truancy policy required pursuant to section 1124 of this chapter, the superintendent of a public school or designee or the head of school of an approved independent school or designee may excuse, in writing, any student from attending the school for a definite time, but for not more than ten consecutive school days and only for emergencies or for absence from town a student's absence for all or part of the school day and may request justification for an absence.~~

~~(b) The superintendent of an elementary school held for more than 175 school days in a school year may excuse, in writing, a student of the school from attending more than 175 days. [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

§ 1124. RESPONSE TO CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

~~(a) The Agency of Education, in consultation with the Vermont School Boards Association; the Vermont Superintendents Association; the Vermont Principals' Association; the Vermont Independent Schools Association; the Vermont School Counselor Association; the National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter; the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs; and the Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division, shall develop, and review at least every three years, a model policy on the prevention of chronic absenteeism and truancy.~~

~~(1) The model policy shall:~~

~~(A) provide guidance for the reasons a superintendent or designee or head of school of an approved independent school or designee may excuse a student's absence for all or part of the school day;~~

~~(B) provide guidance for when a superintendent or designee or head of school of an approved independent school or designee may request justification for an absence;~~

~~(C) provide guidance for how to address the absence of a child with a disability, as that term is defined in subdivision 2942(1) of this title, in accordance with applicable State and federal law; and~~

(D) consider the impact incidents of hazing, harassment, and bullying may have on student attendance, including the importance of tailored responses to all students struggling with safety and emotional issues that provide such students with the emotional, academic, and social support to facilitate a successful reintegration for returning students.

(2) The Agency shall also develop model procedures to accompany the model policy, which shall include a template for documentation of actions taken according to the policy to address an absence, which shall constitute the truancy reporting protocol. The model procedures shall also include a template for standard documentation to be provided to parents or guardians pursuant to section 1127 of this chapter.

(b) To minimize each student's loss of educational and developmental opportunities, and to ensure equity in the treatment of absenteeism and truancy for all students and families, each school district and each approved independent school shall develop, adopt, ensure the enforcement of, and make available in the manner described under subdivision 563(1) of this title a policy that is designed to prevent and respond to chronic absenteeism and truancy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed by the Agency. Each superintendent and head of school of an approved independent school shall develop and implement procedures to carry out such policies. The policy shall be consistent with definitions in this chapter. A superintendent or a head of school for an approved independent school shall also ensure that data on student absences is collected and recorded in accordance with Agency of Education requirements. Any school board or approved independent school that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Agency.

\* \* \*

#### § 1126. FAILURE TO ATTEND; NOTICE

When a student between the ages of six and 16 years of age, who is not excused or exempted from school attendance by one of the authorized individuals in accordance with section 1121 of this chapter, fails to enter school at the beginning of the academic year or, being enrolled, fails to attend the school accumulates 20 or more unexcused absences within either the same school year or within the last 175 consecutive student attendance days, and when a student who is under six years of age or at least 16 years of age becomes enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 12 and fails to attend accumulates 20 or more unexcused absences either within the same school year or within the last 175 consecutive student attendance days, the teacher or principal shall notify the truant officer and either the superintendent

~~or the school board, unless the teacher or principal is satisfied that the student is absent on account of illness. For Vermont resident students, the head of school of an approved independent school or designee shall notify the superintendent of the student's district of residence. Upon review of the truancy reporting protocol, the superintendent shall notify the truant officer and Centralized Intake and Emergency Services of the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division.~~

§ 1127. NOTICE AND COMPLAINT BY TRUANT OFFICER; PENALTY

(a) ~~The truant officer, upon receiving the notice and truancy reporting protocol provided in section 1126 of this title, shall inquire into the cause of the nonattendance of the child. If he or she the truant officer finds that the child is absent without cause child's absences are not excusable under section 1123 of this chapter, the truant officer shall give written notice to the person having the control of the child that the child is absent from school without cause and shall also notify that person to cause the child to attend school regularly thereafter parent or guardian that the parent or guardian must comply with the obligations of section 1122 of this chapter.~~

(b) ~~When, after receiving notice, a person fails, without legal excuse, to cause a child to attend school as required by this chapter, he or she shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section If the parent or guardian continues to fail, without legal excuse, to cause a child to attend school as required by this chapter after having received the written notice required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the truant officer shall enter a complaint to the State's Attorney of the county and shall provide a statement of the evidence and truancy reporting protocol upon which the complaint is based.~~

(c) ~~The truant officer shall enter a complaint to the State's Attorney of the county and shall provide a statement of the evidence upon which the complaint is based. The State's Attorney shall may prosecute the person or may file a child in need of supervision petition in accordance with 33 V.S.A. § 5309. If a criminal information is filed under this section, a person shall not be fined more than \$1,000.00 if, after receiving notice, a person fails, without legal excuse, to cause a child to attend school as required by this chapter. In the a prosecution, the complaint, information, or indictment shall be deemed sufficient if it states that the respondent (naming the respondent) having the control of a child of school age parent or guardian (specifying if the applicable person is a parent or guardian and naming the person) of the child (naming the child) neglects to send that child to a public school or an approved or recognized independent school or a home study program as required by law.~~

§ 1128. LEGAL PUPIL TAKEN TO SCHOOL; NONRESIDENT CHILD  
LIVING IN DISTRICT

~~(a) A superintendent may and the truant officer shall stop a child between the ages of six and 16 years or a child 16 years of age or over and enrolled in public school, wherever found during school hours, and shall, unless such child is excused or exempted from school attendance, take the child to the school that she or he should attend.~~

~~(b) A child of legal school age who is not exempt from school attendance and who has not finished the elementary school course and is living in a district other than the place of legal residence shall, with the school board's approval, be admitted immediately to a school in the district where he or she is found. If the child is not admitted to school, then immediate action shall be taken by the truant officer to cause the return of the child to the district of his or her residence. [Repealed.]~~

§ 1129. JURISDICTION OF NONRESIDENTS

The superintendent of a school in which a nonresident pupil is enrolled and a truant officer having jurisdiction of the pupils in such school shall have the same authority and jurisdiction over such nonresident pupil and the person having the control of such pupil parent or guardian as they have over resident pupils and the persons having control parent or guardian of such pupils.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1162 is amended to read:

§ 1162. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

\* \* \*

(e) A public school or an approved independent school may provide access to alternative education, such as tutoring, instructional materials, and assignments to a student during any period of suspension of three or more days. A public school or an approved independent school may provide access to alternative education, such as tutoring, instructional materials, and assignments to a student who has been expelled, except that the school shall provide educational access to the extent otherwise required by law.

Sec. 5. PREVENTION OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM; AGENCY OF  
EDUCATION POLICY; IMPLEMENTATION

(a) On or before March 15, 2027, the Agency of Education shall submit a written update on the efforts made to develop the model policy required pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1124. The Agency shall include the most recent draft

model policy and most recent draft templates required to be developed as part of the model policy.

(b) The Agency of Education shall adopt and publish the model policy required pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1124 on or before July 1, 2027.

(c) School boards and the governing bodies of approved independent schools shall adopt and implement a chronic absenteeism policy as required by 16 V.S.A. § 1124 on or before July 1, 2028.

Sec. 6. REPEAL

16 V.S.A. § 1076 (penalties) is repealed.

Sec. 7. HOME STUDY PROGRAM; AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT

On or before December 1, 2026, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with recommendations for updates to Vermont's home study program law.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 20, 2026, page 3447)

**H. 932.**

An act relating to the regulation of forestry under Act 250.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Hardy for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6001, in subdivision (3), by striking out subdivision (F) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (F) to read as follows:

(F) When development is proposed to occur on a parcel or tract of land that is devoted to logging and forestry, only those portions of the parcel or the tract that support the development shall be subject to regulation under this chapter. Permits issued under this chapter shall not impose conditions on, apply to, restrict, or conflict with the *Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont* on other portions of the parcel or tract of land that do not support the development.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

#### H. 942.

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Heffernan for the Committee on Agriculture.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, 6 V.S.A. chapter 37, in section 681, after subdivision (3), by adding a new subdivision (4) to read as follows and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct:

(4) “Convenience store” means a type of retail establishment that sells a limited number of everyday items such as motor fuel, tobacco products, made-to-order food, snacks, and beverages that serve as a quick, accessible retail option for consumers who typically purchase a small number of products, and that does not offer a sufficient quantity of consumer commodities to make unit pricing as useful to consumers. “Convenience store” does not include a grocery store, drug store, dollar store, or any other type of store. The Secretary has the discretion to determine whether a retail establishment is a convenience store.

Second: In Sec. 3, 6 V.S.A. chapter 37, in section 686, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) The unit price requirements of this chapter shall not apply to sales of consumer commodities commodity sales as follows:

(1) At a retail store with less than 7,000 square feet of floor space dedicated to the sale of consumer commodities. This ~~exception~~ exemption shall not apply to the sales agencies or instrumentalities retail establishments of a company having two or more sales agencies or instrumentalities locations as parts of that company.

(2) For use or consumption on the premises where sold Convenience stores.

(3) When different brands or products are commingled in one receptacle for a limited-time one-priced sale.

(4) When commodities are individually marked with a clearance or sale tag and are located in a clearance or limited-time sale section of the store.

Clearance or limited-time sale sections may be on a shelf or multiple shelves, or in another defined area of the store.

(5) When the unit price is identical to the total selling price.

(6) When the item falls into one of the following categories:

(A) seasonal decorations; or

(B) beverages subject to the Federal Alcoholic Administration Act packing and labeling requirements.

Third: By striking out Sec. 4, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 and reader assistance heading to read as follows:

\* \* \* Equine Farming for Use Value Appraisal \* \* \*

Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 3752 is amended to read:

§ 3752. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Agricultural land” means any land, exclusive of any housesite, in active use to grow hay or cultivated crops, pasture livestock, cultivate trees bearing edible fruit, or produce an annual maple product, and that is 25 acres or more in size, except as provided in this subdivision (1). ~~Agricultural land shall include~~ includes buffer zones as defined and required in the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets’ Required Agricultural Practices rule adopted under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215. There shall be a presumption that the land is used for agricultural purposes if:

(A) it is owned by a farmer and is part of the overall farm unit;

(B) it is used by a farmer as part of the farmer’s operation under written lease for at least three years; or

(C) it has produced an annual gross income from the sale of farm crops or from equine farming in one of two, or three of the five, calendar years preceding of at least:

(i) \$2,000.00 for parcels of up to 25 acres; and

(ii) \$75.00 per acre for each acre over 25, with the total income required not to exceed \$5,000.00.

(iii) Exceptions to these income requirements may be made in cases of orchard lands planted to fruit-producing trees, bushes, or vines that are not yet of bearing age. As used in this section, the term “farm crops” also includes animal fiber, cider, wine, and cheese, produced on the enrolled land

or on a housesite adjoining the enrolled land, from agricultural products grown on the enrolled land.

\* \* \*

(7) "Farmer" means a person:

(A) who earns at least one-half of the farmer's annual gross income from the business of farming as that term is defined in Regulation 1.175-3 issued under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or from the business of equine farming; or

(B)(i) who produces farm crops that are processed in a farm facility situated on land enrolled by the farmer in a use value appraisal program or on a housesite adjoining the enrolled land;

(ii) whose gross income from the sale of the processed farm products pursuant to subdivision (i) of this subdivision (B), when added to other gross income from the business of farming as used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), equals at least one-half of the farmer's annual gross income; and

(iii) who produces on the farm a minimum of 75 percent of the farm crops processed in the farm facility.

(C) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall assist the Director in making determinations of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (7).

\* \* \*

(18) "Equine farming" means the raising, feeding, or management of four or more equines owned or boarded by the farmer, including training, showing, and providing instruction and lessons in riding, training, and the management of equines.

Fourth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 5 to read as follows:

\* \* \* Community Development Initiatives \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 325m is amended to read:

§ 325m. RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

(a) Definitions. As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Rural area" means a county of the State designated as "rural" or "mostly rural" by the U.S. Census Bureau in its most recent decennial census.

(2) “Small town” means a town in the State with a population of less than 5,000 at the date of the most recent U.S. Census Bureau decennial census.

(3) “Community development initiatives” means priority projects located throughout the State that support agriculture, historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and other critical economic development needs, which may be supported when State resources or staffing assistance is not available.

(b) Establishment. There is created the Rural Economic Development Initiative to be administered by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the purpose of promoting and facilitating community economic development in the small towns and rural areas of the State, and supporting community development initiatives. The Rural Economic Development Initiative shall collaborate with municipalities, businesses, regional development corporations, regional planning commissions, and other appropriate entities to access funding and other assistance available to small towns and businesses primarily in rural areas of the State when existing State resources or staffing assistance is not available.

(c) Services; access to funding. The Rural Economic Development Initiative shall provide the following services to small towns and businesses primarily in rural areas:

(1) identification of grant or other funding opportunities that facilitate business development, infrastructure development, or other economic development opportunities; or

(2) technical assistance in writing grants, accessing other funding, coordination with providers of grants or other funding, strategic planning for the implementation or timing of activities funded by grants or other funding, and compliance with the requirements of grant awards or awards of other funding.

(d) Priority. In providing services under this section, the Rural Economic Development Initiative shall give first priority to projects that have received necessary State or municipal approval and that are ready for construction or implementation.

(e) Priority projects. The Rural Economic Development Initiative shall ~~seek to assist~~ include the following priority types of projects:

(1) milk plants, milk handlers, or dairy products, as those terms are defined in 6 V.S.A. § 2672;

(2) outdoor recreation and equipment enterprises;

(3) value-added food and forest products enterprises;

(4) farm operations, including phosphorus removal technology for farm operations;

(5) coworking or business generator and accelerator spaces;

(6) commercial composting facilities; and

(7) restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings in community centers.

(f) Coordination. In providing services under this section, the Rural Economic Development Initiative shall coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, regional development corporations, and regional planning commissions.

(g) Report. Beginning on January 31, 2019, and annually thereafter, the Rural Economic Development Initiative shall submit to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Commerce and Economic Development a report regarding the activities and progress of the Initiative as part of the report of the Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program. The report shall summarize the Initiative's activities in the preceding year; evaluate the effectiveness of the services provided by the Initiative; provide an accounting of the grants or other funding that the Initiative facilitated or helped secure; and recommend any changes to the program to further economic development in small towns and rural areas of the State.

Fifth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 6 to read as follows:

\* \* \* Retail Sales Tax \* \* \*

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 9741 is amended to read:

§ 9741. SALES NOT COVERED

Retail sales and use of the following shall be exempt from the tax on retail sales imposed under section 9771 of this title and the use tax imposed under section 9773 of this title:

\* \* \*

(12) Motor vehicle purchases and use taxed under chapter 219 of this title and the transactions exempted therefrom that are listed in section 8911 of this title. Provided, however, that notwithstanding subdivision 8911(5) of this title, construction, earthmoving, logging, and motorized equipment that has not been registered as a motor vehicle is subject to tax under this chapter, and

further provided that power take off and other auxiliary equipment on motor vehicles, whether attached prior to or subsequent to registration, is not exempt under this section, except for equipment under subdivision (51) of this section. Motor vehicle parts purchased by a dealer registered under the provisions of 23 V.S.A. §§ 451–468 shall be exempt from the tax under this chapter when used to recondition a used motor vehicle owned by the dealer in its inventory for resale.

\* \* \*

(51) The following machinery, including repair parts, used for timber cutting, timber removal, and processing of timber or other solid wood forest products intended to be sold ultimately at retail: skidders with grapple and cable; feller bunchers; cut-to-length processors; forwarders; delimiters; loader slashers; log loaders; whole-tree chippers; stationary screening systems; firewood processors, elevators, and screens, semi-trailers, tractors, truck cranes, truck tractors, trailers, and motor trucks and motor vehicles with a manufacturer’s listed gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or more; and when sold for use on any machinery listed under this subdivision, traction enhancement accessories, tire chains, track systems, and winch cables. The Department of Taxes shall publish guidance relating to the application of this exemption. The Department of Taxes may require a purchaser at the time of purchase to certify that a motor vehicle or other equipment is exempt under this section. As used in this subdivision, “motor vehicle” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(21) and “motor truck” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(20).

\* \* \*

Sixth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 7 to read as follows:

\* \* \* Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund \* \* \*

Sec. 7. 6 V.S.A. § 4643(e) is amended to read:

(e) All administratively complete applications shall be evaluated by the Review Board. Within 15 days following receipt of an administratively complete application, the Review Board by majority vote shall recommend to the Secretary whether to issue a payment to the applicant. ~~If the Review Board recommends an award under this section, the~~ The Secretary shall issue the award make a final award determination within 15 days following the date of the Review Board’s recommendation.

Seventh: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 8 to read as follows:

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

**House Proposal of Amendment**

**S. 142.**

An act relating to a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians and medical graduates.

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

Sec. 1. PATHWAY TO LICENSURE FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Board of Medical Practice, shall provide to the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations a report detailing a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians. The report shall include the following information:

(1) a summary of other states' processes for licensing internationally trained physicians to practice medicine and, if available, data on the outcomes of these processes and related programs;

(2) a description of the external resources needed to evaluate the education, experience, and examinations of internationally trained physicians and the availability of these resources;

(3) a proposal for licensing internationally trained physicians to practice medicine in Vermont, including potential qualifications and supervision requirements for licensure, proposed requirements for recency of practice, a summary of any additional resources and statutory authority needed, and a plan and timeline for implementing the licensing program; and

(4) any additional information that the Department deems relevant to a robust consideration of the issues related to licensing internationally trained physicians to practice medicine in Vermont.

(b) In preparing the report required by this section, the Department shall consult with other states that have implemented licensing programs for internationally trained physicians; the Windham County Branch of the NAACP; third-party credentialing services; the Vermont Medical Society; the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems; and other advocacy organizations, researchers, and other entities whose expertise is relevant to developing the report.

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 1391 is amended to read:

§ 1391. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEDICAL LICENSURE

\* \* \*

(g) Internationally trained physicians. The Board may issue:

(1) a provisional license to practice at a participating health care facility, as defined in section 1397 of this chapter, to an internationally trained physician who meets the requirements for provisional licensure established by the Board by rule pursuant to section 1396 of this chapter; and

(2) a full license to an internationally trained physician who has successfully completed the pathway to licensure established by the Board by rule pursuant to section 1396 of this chapter.

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 1396 is added to read:

§ 1396. PATHWAY TO LICENSURE FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS; RULEMAKING

Pursuant to the authority of the Commissioner in subsection 1351(e) of this chapter, the Board shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to enable the licensure of internationally trained physicians as set forth in subsection 1391(g) of this chapter. The rules adopted by the Board shall reflect the least restrictive form of regulation necessary to protect the public interest and shall include:

(1) the qualifications necessary for an internationally trained physician to obtain a provisional license to practice at a participating health care facility, as defined in section 1397 of this chapter;

(2) the standards for participating health care facilities to use for the evaluation and assessment of the holder of a provisional license; and

(3) the additional qualifications necessary for an internationally trained physician to obtain a full license to practice medicine in this State following successful completion of the provisional licensure period.

Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 1397 is added to read:

§ 1397. PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Health care facility” means a hospital, federally qualified health center, or community health center.

(2) “Participating health care facility” means a health care facility that meets the requirements of this section and has the capacity to provide an assessment and evaluation program designed in accordance with rules adopted by the Board pursuant to section 1396 of this chapter to evaluate an internationally trained physician holding a provisional license issued pursuant to subdivision 1391(g)(1) of this chapter.

(b) In order to be eligible to be a participating health care facility for purposes of subdivision 1391(g)(1) and section 1396 of this chapter, a health care facility shall:

(1) agree to provide medical mentoring, evaluation, assessment, and support in navigating the U.S. health care system by one or more fully licensed physicians employed by the health care facility to a provisionally licensed physician using an evaluation and assessment system that meets the standards established by the Board by rule pursuant to section 1396 of this chapter;

(2) ensure that the mentoring, evaluation, assessment, and support of a provisionally licensed physician is provided by one or more physicians who are licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 33 or this chapter and who are physically located in Vermont and that the provisionally licensed physician provides services only to patients physically located in Vermont;

(3) carry medical malpractice insurance covering the provisionally licensed physician for the duration of that physician’s employment by the participating health care facility; and

(4) not retaliate against or discipline a provisionally licensed physician for making a complaint or pursuing enforcement of an employment-related claim.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 1 (pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians; report) and this section shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 3 (26 V.S.A. § 1396; pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians; rulemaking) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

(c) Secs. 2 (26 V.S.A. § 1391; qualifications for medical licensure) and 4 (26 V.S.A. § 1397; participating health care facilities) shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians”

**S. 179.**

An act relating to the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 14 V.S.A. chapter 129, in subsection 4105(c), after the word “minor” by inserting the word “child”

**S. 227.**

An act relating to creating immigration protocols in Vermont schools.

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

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this act is to secure the right of every child to equal access to a free public education and to a school that is safe from intimidation and fear, regardless of immigration status. In order to ensure the right to educational equality, schools must take steps to protect the integrity of school learning environments for all children, so that no parent is discouraged from sending a child to, and no child is discouraged from attending, school, including due to the threat of immigration enforcement on a school campus.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. chapter 33 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 33. FIRE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS  
AND, SAFETY PATROLS, AND IMMIGRATION PROTOCOLS

\* \* \*

§ 1486. IMMIGRATION PROTOCOLS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1)(A) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in 20 V.S.A. § 2351a and includes any officer of a federal law enforcement agency or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

(B) “Law enforcement officer” does not include a school resource officer or safety officer who is stationed at a school.

(2) “Nonpublic area of a school” means an area of a school that normally requires authorization to enter, consistent with the policy required by section 1484 of this chapter, and includes any area a superintendent or head of school or designee determines to be nonpublic.

(3) “School” means a public school or an independent school approved under section 166 of this title.

(b) Immigration resources and support.

(1) A superintendent or head of school shall:

(A) distribute the immigration resource guide developed by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection (b) to staff, students, and family members of students;

(B) at each school the superintendent or head of school oversees, designate at least one individual to serve as a resource for immigration-related matters who shall receive on an ongoing basis updated information and training material as provided to the superintendent or head of school by the Office of the Attorney General; and

(C) provide support, to the greatest extent possible, to a student with regard to immigration-related concerns, including connecting the student and the student’s family with an immigration advocacy institution and similar resources.

(2)(A) The Office of the Attorney General, in consultation with the Agency of Education, shall develop an immigration resource guide that shall:

(i) include immigration- and civil rights–related resources; information regarding standby guardianships pursuant to 14 V.S.A § 2626a; and a list of immigration, human rights, and relevant advocacy organizations available to provide immigration assistance to students and staff; and

(ii) be developed in a manner that serves to protect the privacy and safety of students and staff.

(B) The Office of the Attorney General shall review the guide at least once annually and send any updates made to the guide to the Agency of Education for distribution to all superintendents and heads of schools not later than 30 days after completing the update.

(c) Student information privacy. School districts and independent schools are prohibited from:

(1) collecting or requesting information regarding citizenship or immigration status of a student or of a family member of the student except as

required by State or federal law or as required to administer a State- or federally supported educational program;

(2) disclosing a student's immigration status, citizenship, place of birth, nationality, or national origin:

(A) in any database that the school maintains; or

(B) as directory information, as that term is defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and 34 C.F.R. Part 99; and

(3) voluntarily sharing student information, including immigration status, citizenship, place of birth, nationality, national origin, sexual orientation, status as a survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault, status as a recipient of public assistance, or school discipline records, with a third party unless required to do so by State or federal law.

(d) Law enforcement on-site and requests for information.

(1) A superintendent or head of school shall:

(A) subject to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (1), be the sole authority to admit a law enforcement officer who appears on an immigration-related matter into a nonpublic area of school; and

(B) designate at least one individual who works at each school to serve as a designee of the superintendent or head of school in the event that the superintendent or head of school is not present when the law enforcement officer appears on-site.

(2) The superintendent or head of school or designee shall not allow a law enforcement officer appearing on an immigration-related matter into a nonpublic area of a school unless the officer provides official identification and a judicial warrant that authorizes entrance into a specific area of the school and names a specific individual located within the school who is subject to a search or arrest.

(3) Absent a judicial warrant pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, no school or individual working at a school shall reveal any information about a student or school staff member in response to an immigration-related request from a law enforcement officer unless otherwise required by law.

(4) As used in this subsection, "immigration-related matter" and "immigration-related request" mean an administrative warrant, civil warrant, immigration detainer, or any other document or request that pertains to an individual's immigration or citizenship status.

(e) Immigration agreements.

(1) Except as required by State or federal law, no school, school district, or supervisory union shall enter into an agreement with a State, local, or federal government entity that furthers the enforcement of any immigration law.

(2)(A) Any proposed agreement pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (e) that purports to be required by State or federal law shall be subject to review by the superintendent or head of school after the superintendent or head of school has consulted with the Office of the Attorney General.

(B) The superintendent or head of school shall provide a recommendation on the proposed agreement to the school's appropriate governing body after the superintendent's or head of school's review pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2).

(f) Applicability. Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit or impede any public agency from complying with the lawful requirements of 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 and 1644. To the extent any school, school district, or supervisory union policy or practice conflicts with the lawful requirements of 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 and 1644, the policy or practice is, to the extent of such conflict, abolished.

(g) Policy required.

(1) Model policy and recommended procedures. On or before January 1, 2027, the Agency of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, the Vermont Independent Schools Association, and the Vermont School Boards Association, shall develop, and review at least annually, a model policy along with recommended procedures that reflect the requirements set forth in subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

(2) Adoption of policy and procedures.

(A) Beginning with the 2027–2028 school year, each school board shall develop, adopt, ensure the enforcement of, and make available in the manner described under subdivision 563(1) of this title an immigration protocol policy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed by the Agency. Any school board that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Agency.

(B) Beginning with the 2027–2028 school year, each independent school shall develop, adopt, and ensure the enforcement of an immigration protocol policy that shall be at least as stringent as the model policy developed

by the Agency. Any approved independent school that fails to adopt a policy shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy published by the Agency.

### Sec. 3. IMMIGRATION RESOURCE GUIDE

The Office of the Attorney General shall complete the immigration resource guide required pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1486(b)(2) on or before August 1, 2026, and shall send the completed guide to the Agency of Education for distribution to all superintendents and heads of schools on or before August 31, 2026.

### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

#### **S. 230.**

An act relating to fair employment practices.

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

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

#### § 471. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

\* \* \*

(5) “Employee” means a person who, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, has been continuously employed by the same employer for a period of one year for an average of at least 30 hours per week or meets the service requirement set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.801 (airline flight crew employees) or 29 C.F.R. § 825.110(c)(3) (full-time teachers, as defined in 29 C.F.R. § 825.102, of an elementary or secondary school system or institution of higher education).

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 495d is amended to read:

#### § 495d. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

\* \* \*

(15) “Crime victim” means any of the following:

(A) a person who has obtained a relief from abuse order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103;

(B) a person who has obtained an order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. chapter 178;

(C) a person who has obtained an order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. chapter 69; or

(D)(i) a victim as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301, provided that the victim is identified as a crime victim in an affidavit filed by a law enforcement official with a prosecuting attorney of competent state or federal jurisdiction; and

(ii) shall include the victim’s child, foster child, parent, spouse, stepchild or ward of the victim who lives with the victim, or a parent of the victim’s spouse, provided that the individual is not identified in the affidavit as the defendant; or

(E) a person who is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who has supporting documentation from any one of the following sources:

(i) a court or law enforcement or other government agency;

(ii) a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking assistance program;

(iii) a legal, clerical, medical, or other professional from whom the person has received counseling or other assistance concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

(iv) a self-attestation by the person describing the circumstances supporting the person’s status as a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking for which no further corroboration shall be required unless otherwise mandated by law.

\* \* \*

(18) “Domestic violence” has the same meaning as in 15 V.S.A. § 1151 and includes the definition of “abuse” in 15 V.S.A. § 1101.

(19) “Sexual assault” has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

(20) “Stalking” has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 495g is amended to read:

§ 495g. ~~PROVISION APPLICABLE TO COLLEGE PROFESSORS~~

~~Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit any institution of higher education as defined by section 1201(a) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 from retiring any employee who is serving under a contract of unlimited tenure, who attains 70 years of age. Any employee whose tenure contract is terminated may, in the discretion of the institution, be allowed to continue in the employ of the institution on a nontenured basis. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 3a. 21 V.S.A. § 383 is amended to read:

§ 383. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Labor or designee.

(2) “Employee” means any individual employed or permitted to work by an employer except:

\* \* \*

(H) outside salespersons; ~~and~~

(I) students working during all or any part of the school year or regular vacation periods; ~~and~~

(J) elected and appointed municipal officers.

\* \* \*

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

§ 495q. AGREEMENTS NOT TO COMPETE; PROHIBITION

(a) Nonexempt employees. Agreements not to compete between an employer and a nonexempt employee, per the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201–219, are prohibited as presumptively coercive and a restraint on trade, unless bargained for as part of a collective bargaining agreement.

(b) Health care providers.

(1) 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:

(A) 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;

(B) 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;

(C) 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;

(D) is inconsistent with Vermont law; or

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

(2) The notice provided in subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection may include the following information:

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

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

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

(3) The provisions in subdivision (1) of this subsection 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.

(c) Retaliation and remedies. 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 provisions of section 495b of this subchapter shall apply to this section.

(d) Effective date. This section shall apply to agreements not to compete entered into on or after July 1, 2026.

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

### **S. 298.**

An act relating to creating the Vermont Voting Rights Act.

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

\* \* \* Voter Protections Act \* \* \*

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the “Voter Protections Act of 2026.”

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. chapter 35 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 35. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PURITY OF ELECTIONS

\* \* \*

Subchapter 2. Penalties Upon Voters

\* \* \*

§ 1972. ~~SHOWING BALLOT; INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER~~

~~(a) A voter who, except in cases of assistance as provided in this title, allows his or her the voter’s ballot to be seen by another person with an apparent intention of letting it be known how he or she the voter is about to vote or makes a false statement to the presiding officer at an election as to his or her the voter’s inability to mark his or her the voter’s ballot or places a distinguishing mark on his or her the voter’s ballot or a person who interferes with a voter when inside the guard rail or who, within the building in which the voting is proceeding, endeavors to induce a voter to vote for a particular candidate, shall be fined \$1,000.00.~~

~~(b) It shall be the duty of the election officers to see that the offender is duly prosecuted for a violation of this section.~~

\* \* \*

§ 1975. INTERFERENCE WITH VOTERS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

(a) No person shall intentionally or recklessly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce:

(1) any other person for the purpose of:

(A) obstructing the right of the other person to vote or to vote as the other person may choose; or

(B) causing the other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for public office or public question at any election; or

(2) a public servant, an election official, or a public employee for the purpose of obstructing the administration of an election.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

§ 1976. IMPAIRMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to deny, impair, or otherwise adversely affect the right to vote of any registered voter.

\* \* \*

Subchapter 4. Use of Synthetic Media in Elections

\* \* \*

Subchapter 5. Enforcement and Investigation

\* \* \*

Subchapter 6. Voter Protections

§ 2045. VOTE DENIAL OR DILUTION

(a) No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by the State or any municipality in a manner that results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote based on race or color, membership in a language minority group, or having a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section is established if, on the basis of the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the political processes leading to nomination or election in the State or a municipality are not equally open to participation by members of a protected class in that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political processes or to elect representatives of their choice. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected to office in the State or municipality is one circumstance that may be considered.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to establish a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "Municipality" means a town, city, village, school district, or other political subdivision that holds public elections.

(2) "Protected class" means a group of citizens protected from discrimination based on race or color, membership in a language minority group, or having a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501.

§ 2046. CIVIL ACTIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of this subchapter has occurred and that the rights of any voter or

group of voters have been affected by such violation, the Attorney General may initiate a civil action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which the alleged violation has occurred for appropriate relief.

(b) In such civil action, the court may:

(1) award such preventive relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order against the person responsible for a violation of this title, as is necessary to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights granted by this title;

(2) assess a civil penalty against the respondent of not more than \$5,000.00 for a first violation and of not more than \$25,000.00 for any subsequent violation; and

(3) issue an order requiring reimbursement to the State of Vermont for the reasonable value of its services and its expenses in investigating and prosecuting the action.

\* \* \* Voter Checklists \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2154 is amended to read:

§ 2154. STATEWIDE VOTER CHECKLIST

\* \* \*

(c)(1) Any person wishing to obtain a copy of all of the statewide voter checklist ~~must~~, a municipality's portion of the statewide voter checklist, or any other municipal voter checklist shall swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 65, that the person will not:

(A) use the checklist for commercial purposes; or

(B) knowingly disclose the checklist to any foreign government or to a federal agency or commission or to a person acting on behalf of a foreign government or of such a federal entity in circumvention of the prohibited purposes for using the checklist set forth in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

(2) ~~The~~ In the case of the statewide voter checklist, the affirmation shall be filed with the Secretary of State. In the case of a municipality's portion of the statewide voter checklist or any other municipal voter checklist, the affirmation shall be filed with the municipal clerk.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Disclosures for Candidates for State, Legislative, and  
County Office \* \* \*

Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2414 is amended to read:

§ 2414. CANDIDATES FOR STATE AND, LEGISLATIVE, AND  
COUNTY OFFICE; DISCLOSURE FORM

\* \* \*

(f)(1) The State Ethics Commission shall provide informational resources to candidates and answer candidates' questions regarding the requirements of this section, how to accurately complete and submit the disclosure form, and the penalties for failing to properly file the disclosure form pursuant to section 2415 of this title. The Commission shall make available on its web page the disclosure form, prepared responses to frequently asked questions, and any informational resources and materials that it deems necessary to adequately inform candidates of how to comply with the provisions of this section. Upon contact by a candidate, the Commission shall provide answers to the candidate's questions by email or by phone, whichever the candidate may prefer.

(2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide hyperlinks from its web page connecting to the disclosure form and other materials and resources required of the State Ethics Commission pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 5. SUSPENSION OF DISCLOSURE PENALTIES FOR  
CANDIDATES FOR STATE, LEGISLATIVE, AND COUNTY  
OFFICE

Notwithstanding 17 V.S.A. § 2415, through May 30, 2027, the State Ethics Commission shall not enforce against any delinquent filers, nor shall the Office of the Secretary of State notify the State Ethics Commission of the names of delinquent filers, nor shall the candidates for State office, county office, State Senator, and State Representative be otherwise penalized for delinquently filing a disclosure.

\* \* \* Safety Protections for Candidates \* \* \*

Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

§ 2901. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(7) "Expenditure" means a payment, disbursement, distribution, advance, deposit, loan, or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised to be paid, for the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on a public question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates.

(A) Expenditures may include those expenses that are necessary to allow a candidate to campaign, such as expenses for the care of a dependent family member that are incurred as a direct result of campaign activity or for the provision of monitoring systems, protective detail, and cybersecurity related to a candidate's security.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

#### Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to voter protections”

#### CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission and the Cannabis Control Board, underlined below, shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Dani Delaini of Brattleboro, VT – Public Member of the State Infrastructure Bank Board – By Senator Hardy for the Committee on Finance (April 28, 2026)

#### JFO NOTICE

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

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]*

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**CROSSOVER DATES**

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover deadlines:

(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.

**Note:** The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

**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).**