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**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ATTORNEYS & SHERIFFS**

To: Vermont Sheriffs 
Fr: Timothy Lueders-Dumont, Executive Director, Dept. of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs
Re: Court Transport Orders
Date: November 19, 2025

24 V.S.A. § 290(b) created full time SAS state paid deputy sheriff positions with a primary responsibility of transporting prisoners throughout the State, 24 V.S.A. § 290(b). Regardless, 24 V.S.A. § 290(b) does not obviate a Sheriff, or any other person or entity listed in the statute, from their duty to comply with a court order to transport a prisoner pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 296 ("All commitments to a State correctional facility or to any other place named by the Commissioner of Corrections or committing court shall be made by any sheriff, deputy sheriff, State Police officer, police officer, or constable in the State, or the Commissioner of Corrections or his or her authorized agent.") (Emphasis added.)

The fact that a Sheriff's Department does not have an SAS state paid transport deputy "in-house" does not mean that the Sheriffs' Department has neither the obligation nor the authority to transport prisoners when so ordered, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 296.

The state paid transport deputies serve a vital role in moving prisoners throughout the State, However, the SAS state paid transport deputies are not solely responsible for Title 24 transportation. As outlined in 24 V.S.A. § 296, the Legislature created a wide pool of resources for the Judiciary to draw upon to move incarcerated persons throughout the State. This list of authorized persons – "sheriff, deputy sheriff, State Police officer, police officer, or constable in the State, or the Commissioner of Corrections or his or her authorized agent" – has not been amended by the Legislature during significant periods of legislative amendments to Chapter 5, subchapter 5 in general and 24 V.S.A. § 290(b) (state paid transport deputies) specifically indicating that the Legislature's expectation is that all persons and entities listed in 24 V.S.A. § 296 are authorized, and expected to comply with court orders, to transport prisoners.