

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2       The Committee on General and Housing to which was referred House Bill  
3       No. 548 entitled “An act relating to adding a mediator position to the office of  
4       the Vermont Labor Relations Board” respectfully reports that it has considered  
5       the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the  
6       enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7       Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 922 is amended to read:

8       § 922. OFFICE SPACE; EMPLOYEES; MEDIATOR

9           (a) The Secretary of Administration shall, upon request by the State Labor  
10          Relations Board, allow the Board the responsible use of public buildings under  
11          his or her the Secretary's control and furnish heat, light, and furniture for any  
12          meeting or hearing called by the Board.

13           (b) The Board may employ such employees and agents as it deems  
14          necessary; and may employ a reporter for taking and transcribing testimony in  
15          hearing before it.

16           (c)(1) The Board may employ a mediator to provide free mediation services  
17          to public and private sector collective bargaining units and employers upon  
18          reaching an impasse during collective bargaining.

19           (2) If the mediator has capacity, the mediator may provide free  
20          mediation services to public and private sector collective bargaining units and  
21          employers on grievances and unfair labor practice charges.

1                   (3) The Board shall develop policies and procedures to ensure that all  
2                   confidential mediation information is maintained separately and insulated from  
3                   access by members of the Board or other employees of the State Labor  
4                   Relations Board so as to protect the integrity of the mediation process.

5                   Sec. 2. VERMONT LABOR RELATIONS BOARD; POSITIONS;

6                   APPROPRIATION

7                   (a) The position of a full-time, permanent, classified mediator is created in  
8                   the office of the Vermont Labor Relations Board.

9                   (b) The position of a full-time, permanent, classified staff attorney is  
10                   created in the office of the Vermont Labor Relations Board.

11                   (c) In fiscal year 2027, the amount of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the  
12                   General Fund to the Vermont Labor Relations Board for salary and benefits for  
13                   the positions of mediator and staff attorney.

14                   Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15                   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

16

17

18

19

20

21

1 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Representative \_\_\_\_\_

4 FOR THE COMMITTEE