

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred House Bill No. 573
3 entitled “An act relating to the first certification of an emergency examination”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 7110 is amended to read:

8 § 7110. ~~CERTIFICATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS~~

9 ~~A certification of mental illness by a licensed physician required by section~~
10 ~~7504 of this title shall be made by a board-eligible psychiatrist, a board-~~
11 ~~certified psychiatrist, or a resident in psychiatry, under penalty of perjury. In~~
12 ~~areas of the State where board-eligible psychiatrists, board-certified~~
13 ~~psychiatrists, or residents in psychiatry are not available to complete admission~~
14 ~~certifications to the Vermont State Hospital or its successor in interest, the~~
15 ~~Commissioner may designate other licensed physicians as appropriate to~~
16 ~~complete certification for purposes of section 7504 of this title. [Repealed.]~~

17 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 7504 is amended read:

18 § 7504. APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATE FOR EMERGENCY

19 EXAMINATION

20 (a) Upon written application by ~~an interested party~~ a qualified mental
21 health professional made under the pains and penalties of perjury and

1 accompanied by a certificate by a ~~licensed physician~~ health care professional
2 who is not the applicant, a person shall be held for admission to a hospital for
3 an emergency examination to determine if ~~he or she~~ the person is a person in
4 need of treatment. The application and certificate shall set forth the facts and
5 circumstances that constitute the need for an emergency examination and that
6 show that the person is a person in need of treatment.

7 (b) The application and certificate shall be authority for transporting the
8 person to a hospital for an emergency examination, as provided in section 7511
9 of this title.

10 (c) ~~For the purposes of admission~~ Admission of an individual to a
11 designated hospital for care and treatment under this section, shall be overseen
12 by a head of a hospital, ~~as provided in subsection (a) of this section,~~ who may
13 ~~include a person designated~~ designate a person in writing ~~by the head of the~~
14 ~~hospital~~ to discharge the authority granted in this ~~section~~ subsection. A
15 designated person must be an official hospital administrator, supervisory
16 personnel, or a licensed physician on duty on the hospital premises other than
17 the certifying ~~physician~~ health care professional under subsection (a) of this
18 section.

19 (d) Prior to issuing a certificate pursuant to this section, a health care
20 professional shall successfully complete a training developed and administered
21 by the Department.

1 (e) As used in this section, “health care professional” means a physician
2 licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an advanced practice
3 registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, or a physician
4 assistant licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 31.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE