

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 572
3 entitled “An act relating to permitting public access to electronic criminal case
4 records” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

8 § 5. DISSEMINATION OF ELECTRONIC CASE RECORDS

9 (a) The Court shall not permit public access via the internet to ~~criminal,~~
10 family, or probate case records. ~~The Court may permit criminal justice~~
11 ~~agencies, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a, internet access to criminal case~~
12 ~~records for criminal justice purposes, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a.~~

13 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Court shall provide
14 licensed Vermont attorneys in good standing with access via the internet,
15 through the Judiciary’s public portal website or otherwise, to nonconfidential
16 ~~criminal,~~ family, and probate case records.

17 (c) Procedures governing public access via the internet to criminal case
18 records shall be set forth in rules promulgated by the Court.

19 (d) This section shall not be construed to prohibit the Court from providing
20 electronic access to:

1 (1) court schedules of the Superior Court ~~or opinions of the Criminal~~
2 ~~Division of the Superior Court;~~

3 (2) State agencies in accordance with data dissemination contracts
4 entered into under Rule 12 of the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court
5 Records; or

6 (3) decisions, recordings of oral arguments, briefs, and printed cases of
7 the Supreme Court.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE