



# VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://jfo.vermont.gov>

## Fiscal Note

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Logan Mooberry, Senior Fiscal Analyst

### **H.937– An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures**

As recommended by the Senate Committee on Judiciary<sup>1</sup>

#### **Bill Summary**

This bill proposes to make a number of miscellaneous amendments related to civil and criminal procedure statutes.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The Joint Fiscal Office estimates this bill will have a de minimis fiscal impact.

*This bill is estimated to have a de minimis fiscal impact*

#### **Background and Details.**

##### **Section 2**

Individuals between the ages of 12-21 who knowingly violate subdivisions (1)(A)-(D) of 7 V.S.A. § 656 commit a civil violation and are enrolled in the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program. If an individual fails to complete this program successfully, they are subject to a monetary civil penalty and suspension of their operator's license. For a first offense, this suspension shall be 30 days, and for a second and subsequent offenses, the suspension shall be 90 days. Section 2 would allow for the automatic reinstatement of their operator's license after the period of suspension has concluded. Under current law before a person's operator's license can be reinstated, they must pay the commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles a fee of \$96. This section would effectively eliminate this fee for applicable individuals. In 2025, there were 84 violations that required a reinstatement fee that would be waived under this proposed section. Assuming a consistent number of violations in the future, this section would reduce revenues to the Transportation Fund by approximately \$8,000 per year.

##### **Section 39**

This section would make sections 32-37, regarding rapid accountability dockets, contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated in fiscal year 2027 and 2026. In fiscal year 2026, \$500,000 in one-time funding was appropriated to the Agency of Administration for reimbursement of Community Accountability Court Project expenses. There are no additional dedicated funds for this initiative in fiscal year 2027.

##### **Section 40e**

This section would amend 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 95 to state that the appropriation in that section shall carry forward each fiscal year until it is fully expended or reverted by the General Assembly. There are no new or additional appropriations associated with this section.

<sup>1</sup> The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.