

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.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE