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- The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
 Bill No. 472 entitled "An act relating to professions and occupations regulated
 by the Office of Professional Regulation" respectfully reports that it has
 considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that
 the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
 lieu thereof the following:
- 8 * * * OPR Fees and Fund Management * * *
- 9 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 118 is amended to read:

10 § 118. COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF REVENUE

- (a) There is hereby created a Secretary of State Services Fund. The Fund shall be used to provide appropriations for the operations of the Office of the Secretary of State, with the exception of those operations provided for in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title. The Fund shall be administered as a special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. At the end of each fiscal year, the unobligated balance in this Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.
 - (b) All revenues collected by the Secretary of State shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Services Fund except for the following revenues:
 - (1) any revenues collected by the Office of Professional Regulation set forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title; and

1	(2) any revenues collected pursuant to subsection 117(k) of this title.
2	(c) The Secretary of State shall have the authority to collect and deposit
3	into the Secretary of State Services Fund revenues generated from optional
4	services offered in the normal course of business, including for one-time or
5	periodic sales of data by subscription or other contractual basis.
6	Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:
7	§ 125. FEES
8	(a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board or advisor
9	profession may charge the following fees:
10	(1) Verification of license, \$20.00 <u>\$30.00</u> .
11	* * *
12	(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all
13	professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees
14	under Title 26:
15	* * *
16	(4) Biennial renewal, \$275.00, except biennial renewal for:
17	* * *
18	(W) Electrology shop, \$200.00.
19	* * *
20	(9) Apprenticeship application, \$50.00.
21	(10) Specialty or endorsement to existing license application, \$100.00.

1	(11) Disciplinary action surcharge, \$250.00.
2	(c) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, a board shall not
3	require payment of renewal fees for years during which a license was lapsed.
4	[Repealed.]
5	* * *
6	* * * 2027 Fee Increase; Peer Support Providers * * *
7	Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:
8	§ 125. FEES
9	* * *
10	(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all
11	professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees
12	under Title 26:
13	* * *
14	(4) Biennial renewal, \$275.00, except biennial renewal for:
15	* * *
16	(V) Peer support providers or peer recovery support specialists,
17	\$50.00 <u>\$75.00</u> .
18	* * *

1	* * * OPR Duties and Disciplinary Authority * * *
2	Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:
3	§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE
4	* * *
5	(k) For any profession attached to it, the Office shall provide a pre-
6	application determination of an individual's criminal background. This
7	determination shall not be binding on the Office in a future application if the
8	individual violates probation or parole or is convicted of another crime
9	following the determination.
10	* * *
11	(2) The individual shall submit this request online, accompanied by the
12	fee for preapplication determinations set forth in section 125 of this
13	subchapter. If the individual thereafter applies for licensure, this
14	preapplication fee shall be deducted from that license application fee.
15	* * *
16	(m) The provisions of subsection 116a(b) of this title shall not apply to the
17	Office. The Office shall utilize the procedures within 26 V.S.A. chapter 57 to
18	review whether regulation of a profession is still necessary.
19	Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 127 is amended to read:
20	§ 127. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE
21	* * *

1	(b)(1) A person practicing a regulated profession without authority or an
2	employer permitting such practice may, upon the complaint of the Attorney
3	General or a State's Attorney or an attorney assigned by the Office of
4	Professional Regulation, be enjoined therefrom by the Superior Court where
5	the violation occurred or the Washington County Superior Court and may be
6	assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000.00.
7	(2)(A) The Attorney General or an attorney assigned by the Office of
8	Professional Regulation may elect to bring an action seeking only a civil
9	penalty of not more than \$2,500.00 \$5,000.00 for practicing or permitting the
10	practice of a regulated profession without authority before the board having
11	regulatory authority over the profession or before an administrative law officer
12	* * *
13	Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:
14	§ 129. POWERS OF BOARDS OR OF DIRECTOR IN ADVISOR
15	PROFESSIONS; DISCIPLINE PROCESS
16	(a) In addition to any other provisions of law, a board or the Director, in the
17	case of professions that have advisor appointees, may exercise the following
18	powers:
19	* * *
20	(3) Issue warnings or reprimands, suspend, revoke, limit, condition,
21	deny, or prevent renewal of licenses, after disciplinary hearings or, in cases

1	requiring emergency action, immediately suspend, as provided by section 814
2	of this title. In a case involving noncompliance with a statute or rule relating
3	to administrative duties not related to patient, client, or customer care, a board
4	or hearing officer may determine that ordering a monetary civil penalty does
5	not constitute a finding of unprofessional conduct. After a finding of
6	unprofessional conduct, a respondent shall pay a disciplinary action surcharge
7	pursuant to subdivision 125(b)(12) of this title. The proceeds from the
8	disciplinary action surcharge shall be deposited into the Professional
9	Regulatory Fee Fund.
10	* * *
11	* * * Cosmetology Certificate of Approval * * *
12	Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 281 is amended to read:
13	§ 281. POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL OF BARBERING AND
14	COSMETOLOGY; CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
15	(a) A school of barbering or cosmetology shall not be granted a certificate
16	of approval unless the school:
17	* * *
18	(4) Requires a school term of training consistent with formal training
19	requirements established by rule, which shall include practical demonstrations
20	and theoretical studies in sanitation, sterilization, the use of antiseptics, and the
21	use of appliances, devices, treatments, and preparations relevant to the field of

I	licensure, and training on the care, styling, and treatment of textured hair. For
2	purposes of this subdivision, "textured hair" means hair that is coiled, curly, or
3	wavy. The training on the care, styling, and treatment of textured hair shall
4	include:
5	(A) techniques for cutting, styling, and chemical treatments for
6	textured hair;
7	(B) knowledge of products and tools specifically designed for
8	textured hair;
9	(C) best practices for hair health and scalp care for clients with
10	textured hair; and
11	(D) cultural competency and historical education on the significance
12	of textured hair in diverse communities.
13	* * *
14	* * * Nursing Assistants; License Renewal * * *
15	Sec. 8. 26 V.S.A. 1645 is amended to read:
16	§ 1645. RENEWAL
17	(a) To renew a license, a nursing assistant shall meet ongoing practice
18	requirements set by the Board by rule.
19	(b) The Board shall credit as ongoing practice those activities, regardless of
20	title or obligation to hold a license, that reasonably tend to reinforce the
21	training and skills of a licensee.

1	(c)(1) A licensee seeking to renew an expired or lapsed license after fewer
2	than five years of absence from practice shall repeat and pass the competency
3	examinations approved by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and
4	Independent Living before licensure renewal.
5	(2) A licensee who does not pass the competency examinations shall
6	repeat a nursing assistant education program and competency examination.
7	* * * Repeals; Funeral Service Escrow Agents; Motor Vehicle Racing * * *
8	Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:
9	§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
10	The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the
11	Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by
12	education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position.
13	The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified
14	position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or
15	professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:
16	* * *
17	(21) Motor Vehicle Racing [Repealed.]
18	* * *

1	Sec. 10. 26 V.S.A. § 1272 is amended to read:
2	§ 1272. RULES; PREPAID FUNERAL FUNDS
3	The Director shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this subchapter
4	to ensure the proper handling of all funds paid pursuant to a prepaid funeral
5	agreement and to protect consumers in the event of default. The rules shall
6	include provisions relating to the following:
7	* * *
8	(2) The appointment of an escrow agent who may be a bank or other
9	category of individual such as an attorney, a local elected official, next of kin,
10	or the executor of a buyer's estate. All prepaid arrangement funds shall be paid
11	directly to the escrow agent and not to the funeral director or establishment.
12	[Repealed.]
13	* * *
14	Sec. 11. REPEALS
15	(a) 26 V.S.A. § 1275 (prepaid funeral expenses; duties of escrow agents) is
16	repealed.
17	(b) 26 V.S.A. chapter 93 (motor vehicle racing) is repealed.

1	* * * Position; Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health
2	Professions * * *
3	Sec. 12. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; POSITION;
4	APPROPRIATION
5	(a) The position of one new, permanent, full-time, exempt Executive
6	Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions is created in the Office
7	of Professional Regulation.
8	(b) The sum of \$170,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of Professional
9	Regulation from the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 for the creation of the
10	position of Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions
11	in the Office of Professional Regulation.
12	* * * Report; Massage Therapy Establishments * * *
13	Sec. 13. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; REPORT;
14	MASSAGE THERAPY ESTABLISHMENTS
15	On or before November 15, 2025, the Office of Professional Regulation, in
16	consultation with interested stakeholders, including representatives from the
17	Vermont Chapter of the American Association of Massage Therapists, the
18	Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Department of
19	State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and other Vermont law enforcement agencies,
20	shall submit to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military
21	Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations proposed

1	legislation for the regulation, which may include licensure, of massage therapy
2	establishments, as defined in 26 V.S.A. § 5401(2)(A).
3	* * * Licensure of Early Childhood Educators Serving in Programs Regulated
4	by the Child Development Division * * *
5	Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:
6	§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
7	The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the
8	Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by
9	education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position.
10	The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified
11	position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or
12	professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:
13	(1) Board of Architects
14	* * *
15	(53) Peer Recovery Support Specialists
16	(54) Early Childhood Educators
17	Sec. 15. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is added to read:
18	CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS EMPLOYED IN
19	PROGRAMS REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
20	§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD
21	(a) The Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators is created.

1	(b) The Board shall consist of nine members appointed for five-year terms
2	by the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004 as follows: two
3	public members; two each of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood
4	Educator I, an Early Childhood Educator II, and an Early Childhood Educator
5	III; and one Family Child Care Provider. All members shall be Vermont
6	residents. The members who are early childhood educators shall have been in
7	active practice in Vermont for not less than the preceding three years and shall
8	be in active practice during their incumbency. The public member shall be a
9	person who has no financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent,
10	child, or sibling in the activities regulated under this chapter, other than as a
11	consumer or a possible consumer of its services. Appointments shall be made
12	without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and
13	demonstrated ability.
14	(c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.
15	(d) Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.
16	§ 6212. BOARD PROCEDURES
17	(a) Annually, the Board shall meet to elect a chair, vice chair, and a
18	secretary.
19	(b) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A.
20	chapter 5.
21	(c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

1	(d) All business may be transacted by a majority vote of the members
2	present and voting, unless otherwise provided by statute.
3	§ 6213. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD
4	(a) The Board shall:
5	(1) adopt rules, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, that are necessary for
6	the performance of its duties in accordance with this chapter, including
7	activities that must be completed by an applicant in order to fulfill the
8	educational and experiential requirements established by this chapter;
9	(2) provide general information to applicants for licensure as early
10	childhood educators;
11	(3) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint
12	procedures to the public; and
13	(4) use the administrative and legal services provided by the Office of
14	Professional Regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.
15	(b) The Board may conduct hearings as provided in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.
16	Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is amended to read:
17	CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS EMPLOYED IN
18	PROGRAMS REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
19	Subchapter 1. General Provisions
20	§ 6201. DEFINITIONS
21	As used in this chapter:

1	(1) "Board" means the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators.
2	(2) "Early childhood educator" means an individual licensed under this
3	chapter to provide early childhood education pursuant to section 6202 of this
4	chapter in a program regulated by the Child Development Division.
5	(3) "Family child care provider" means an individual approved to
6	operate a family child care home regulated by the Child Development Division
7	at the time of application and who is responsible for providing
8	developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision for
9	children from birth through eight years of age at the family child care home.
10	(4) "Guidance" means direct or indirect consultative support in which an
11	Early Childhood Educator III provides feedback to an Early Childhood
12	Educator II.
13	(5) "Supervision" means on-site, direct oversight in which an Early
14	Childhood Educator II or III observes the practice of an Early Childhood
15	Educator I and provides feedback, support, and direction to an Early Childhood
16	Educator I.
17	§ 6202. SCOPE OF PRACTICE
18	(a)(1) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall
19	provide care and educational instruction to children from birth through eight
20	years of age in a variety of programs regulated by the Child Development
21	Division, including:

1	(A) planning and implementing intentional, developmentally
2	appropriate learning experiences that promote the social-emotional, physical,
3	language, and cognitive development and health of each child served;
4	(B) establishing and maintaining a safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy
5	<u>learning environment;</u>
6	(C) observing, documenting, and assessing children's learning and
7	development;
8	(D) developing reciprocal, culturally responsive relationships with
9	families and communities; and
10	(E) engaging in reflective practice and continuous learning.
11	(2) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter does
12	not include exempt teachers licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the
13	Agency of Education with an early childhood endorsement, early childhood
14	special education endorsement, or elementary education endorsement as
15	provided in section 6204 of this chapter.
16	(b) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall have
17	the following responsibilities as determined by license type:
18	(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall be authorized to be on an early
19	childhood education team in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A.
20	§ 3511 or a center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the
21	Department for Children and Families in rule for children from birth through

1	eight years of age. Early Childhood Educator I shall serve under the
2	supervision of an Early Childhood Educator II or III or a teacher who is
3	exempt from this chapter and licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the
4	Agency of Education with an early childhood education endorsement or early
5	childhood special education endorsement.
6	(2) Early Childhood Educator II, in addition to the responsibilities and
7	authorities of an Early Childhood Educator I, shall be authorized to be in a lead
8	educator role in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or a
9	center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the Department
10	for Children and Families in rule for children from birth through eight years of
11	age, providing supervision to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood
12	Educator I and receiving guidance from individuals licensed as an Early
13	Childhood Educator III.
14	(3) Early Childhood Educator III, in addition to the responsibilities and
15	authorities of an Early Childhood Educator I and II, shall be authorized to be a
16	lead educator role in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511
17	or a center-based child care and preschool program as defined by the
18	Department for Children and Families in rule for children from birth through
19	eight years of age, providing supervision to individuals licensed as an Early
20	Childhood Educator I and guidance to individuals licensed as an Early
21	Childhood Educator II.

1	(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall be authorized to be a lead
2	educator role in a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 for
3	children from birth through eight years of age.
4	(c) An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter may serve
5	in a supporting role only, and not as a lead educator, in the provision of
6	prekindergarten services provided in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 829.
7	§ 6203. PROHIBITIONS
8	(a) An individual shall not hold themselves out as an early childhood
9	educator in this State unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or
10	exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6204 of this chapter.
11	(b) An individual shall not use in connection with the individual's name
12	any letters, words, or insignia indicating that the individual is an early
13	childhood educator unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or
14	exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6204 of this chapter.
15	§ 6204. EXEMPTIONS
16	(a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following persons
17	acting within the scope of their respective professional practices:
18	(1) a teacher actively licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the
19	Agency of Education with an early childhood education endorsement, an early
20	childhood special education endorsement, or an elementary education
21	endorsement;

1	(2) an individual who provides care in an afterschool child care program
2	that is regulated by the Child Development Division or any other child care
3	program that is exempt from regulation by the Child Development Division;
4	<u>and</u>
5	(3) an individual who provides consultation services in this State,
6	performs research, or participates in or instructs regular or continuing
7	education courses, provided the individual does not otherwise practice in this
8	State.
9	(b) This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any manner the
10	right of a practitioner of another profession or occupation from carrying on in
11	the usual manner any of the functions incidental to that profession or
12	occupation.
13	Subchapter 2. Board of Early Childhood Educators
14	§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD
15	* * *
16	Subchapter 3. Licensure Requirements
17	§ 6221. QUALIFICATIONS
18	(a) To qualify for licensure as an early childhood educator in a program
19	regulated by the Child Development Division, an applicant shall have attained
20	the age of majority and shall have a high school diploma or successful
21	completion of a General Education Development (GED) test or an equivalent

1	credential. An applicant shall have additional education and experience in
2	accordance with this subsection for each of the following license types:
3	(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall have completed an approved
4	certificate or credential program in early childhood education requiring a
5	minimum of 120 hours and field experience.
6	(2) Early Childhood Educator II shall have completed an approved
7	associate's degree program in:
8	(A) early childhood education or a related field:
9	(i) requiring a minimum of 60 college credits and field experience:
10	<u>and</u>
11	(ii) offering college credit based upon an assessment of the
12	individual's competencies acquired through experience working in the
13	profession; or
14	(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college
15	credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in
16	rule in addition to field experience.
17	(3) Early Childhood Educator III shall have completed an approved
18	bachelor's degree program in:
19	(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum
20	of 120 college credits and field experience; or

1	(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college
2	credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in
3	rule in addition to field experience.
4	(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall currently operate a family child
5	care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 that is regulated and in good
6	standing with the Child Development Division as of January 1, 2028. The
7	Board shall not accept Family Child Care Provider applications after January
8	<u>1, 2028.</u>
9	(b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
10	applicants shall pass any examination that may be required by rule.
11	§ 6222. LICENSE RENEWAL
12	(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and
13	payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this
14	section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license
15	beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license that has lapsed shall
16	be reinstated upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal
17	penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127, except a Family Child Care Provider
18	license shall not be renewed after a lapse of two or more years.
19	(b) The Board may adopt rules necessary for the protection of the public to
20	assure the Board that an applicant whose license has lapsed for more than five
21	years is professionally qualified before reinstatement may occur. Conditions

1	imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of
2	subsection (a) of this section.
3	(c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an
4	applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education
5	as required by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, the Board may
6	require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a
7	condition of renewal.
8	§ 6223. FEES
9	Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following
10	fees:
11	(1) Early Childhood Educator I:
12	(A) Application for initial license, \$125.00.
13	(B) Biennial renewal, \$225.00.
14	(2) Early Childhood Educator II:
15	(A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.
16	(B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.
17	(3) Early Childhood Educator III:
18	(A) Application for initial license, \$225.00.
19	(B) Biennial renewal, \$275.00.
20	(4) Family Child Care Provider:
21	(A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.

1	(B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.
2	§ 6224. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
3	As used in this chapter, "unprofessional conduct" means:
4	(1) conduct prohibited by this section, by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, or by other
5	statutes relating to early childhood education, whether that conduct is by a
6	licensee, an applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant;
7	(2) conduct that results in a licensee, applicant, or an individual who
8	later becomes an applicant being placed on the Child Protection Registry
9	pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49; or
10	(3) conduct that is not in accordance with the professional standards and
11	competencies for Early Childhood Educators published by the National
12	Association for the Education of Young Children.
13	§ 6225. VARIANCES; TRANSITIONAL LICENSURE
14	(a) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II and III
15	license to a teacher or director operating a registered or licensed family child
16	care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511 or licensed center-based child care
17	and preschool program as defined by the Department for Children and Families
18	in rule and who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure
19	requirements in this chapter. Transitional licenses shall be valid for a two-year
20	period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise qualified applicant
21	for an additional two-year period with satisfactory supporting documentation

1	of the individual's ongoing work to obtain the required educational and
2	experiential qualifications for licensure under this chapter.
3	(b) At the conclusion of three two-year transitional licensure periods, the
4	Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license for an
5	otherwise qualified applicant if the licensee can demonstrate extenuating
6	circumstances for not having attained the educational and experiential
7	requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to attain these requirements.
8	§ 6226. DISCLOSURE BY LICENSEES
9	An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall post and
10	provide to current and prospective families the following:
11	(1) all available license types regulated by the Office of Professional
12	Regulation pursuant to this chapter:
13	(2) a description of the Office of Professional Regulation's regulatory
14	authority over licensees in programs regulated by the Child Development
15	Division and how to make complaints;
16	(3) a description of the Agency of Education's regulatory authority over
17	teachers providing prekindergarten services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 and
18	how to make complaints; and
19	(4) a description of the Child Development Division's regulatory
20	authority over regulated child care programs and how to make complaints.

1	Sec. 17. REPEAL; TRANSITIONAL LICENSE
2	26 V.S.A. § 6225 (variances; transitional licensure) is repealed on July 1,
3	<u>2035.</u>
4	Sec. 18. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; LICENSURE OF
5	EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS SERVING IN PROGRAMS
6	REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION;
7	APPROPRIATION
8	(a)(1) The establishment of the following two new permanent positions is
9	authorized in the Office of Professional Regulation in fiscal year 2026:
10	(A) one full-time, classified executive officer for the Vermont Board
11	of Early Childhood Educators; and
12	(B) one full-time, exempt staff attorney.
13	(2) In fiscal year 2026, the amount of \$262,000.00 is appropriated from
14	the General Fund to the Office of Professional Regulation to be used for the
15	licensure of early childhood educators in accordance with this act.
16	(b)(1) The establishment of the following three new permanent positions is
17	authorized in the Office of Professional Regulation in fiscal year 2027:
18	(A) one full-time, classified licensing staff;
19	(B) one full-time, classified enforcement staff; and
20	(C) one full-time, classified administrative staff.
21	(2) In fiscal year 2027, the amount of \$628,867.00 is appropriated from

1	the General Fund to the Office of Professional Regulation to be used for the
2	licensure of early childhood educators in accordance with this act.
3	(c) In fiscal year 2027, \$1,400,000.00 shall be distributed from the Child
4	Care Financial Assistance Program to the Office of Professional Regulation for
5	the first licensure and licensure renewal fees for early childhood educators
6	serving in programs regulated by the Child Development Division pursuant to
7	26 V.S.A. chapter 111.
8	* * * Accessibility and Confidentiality of Disciplinary Matters * * *
9	Sec. 19. 3 V.S.A. § 131 is amended to read:
10	§ 131. ACCESSIBILITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCIPLINARY
11	MATTERS
12	* * *
13	(c) The Secretary of State, through the Office of Professional Regulation,
14	shall prepare and maintain a register of all complaints, which shall be a public
15	record and which shall show:
16	(1) with respect to all complaints, the following information:
17	(A) the date and the nature of the complaint, but not including the
18	identity of the licensee or the complainant; and
19	(B) a summary of the completed investigation; and

1	(2) only with respect to complaints resulting in filing of disciplinary
2	charges or stipulations or the taking of disciplinary action, the following
3	additional information:
4	(A) the name and business addresses public address of the licensee
5	and complainant;
6	(B) formal charges, provided that they have been served or a
7	reasonable effort to serve them has been made, and all subsequent pleadings
8	filed by the parties;
9	(C) the findings, conclusions, rulings, and orders of the board or
10	administrative law officer;
11	(D) the transcript of the hearing, if one has been made, and exhibits
12	admitted at the hearing;
13	(E) stipulations filed with the board or administrative law officer; and
14	(F) final disposition of the matter by the appellate officer or the
15	courts.
16	* * *
17	* * * Effective Dates * * *
18	Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATES
19	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 3 (fees; peer
20	support providers), Sec. 16 (early childhood educators) and Sec. 17 (repeal;
21	transitional license) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

1		
2		
3		
4	(Committee vote:)	
5	(Committee vote:	
6		Senator
U		Senator

(Draft No. 2.1 – H.472)

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FOR THE COMMITTEE