

Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

Third Reading

H. 275.

An act relating to the recently deployed veteran tax credit.

**PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT TO H. 275 TO BE OFFERED BY
SENATOR GALBRAITH BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator Galbraith moves that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 11N, § 5930nn, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read:

(a) A recently deployed veteran shall be eligible for a refundable credit against the income tax liability imposed under this chapter in an amount up to \$2,000.00 for expenses related to education or job-related training received from an accredited postsecondary school, a postsecondary school licensed or approved by a Vermont occupational licensing board, or a nondegree-granting or noncredit-granting postsecondary vocational school approved or recognized by the department of labor; provided, however, to be eligible for the credit, the expense shall be incurred before December 31, 2012.

Second: In Sec. 1, 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 11N, § 5930nn, subsection (b), by striking out the words “new full-time employee’s date of hire and may be carried forward one year” and inserting in lieu thereof the words date the expense was incurred

Third: In Sec. 1, 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 11N, § 5930nn, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read:

(c) “Recently deployed veteran” means an individual who:

(1)(A) was a resident of Vermont at the time of entry into military service; or

(B) was mobilized to active, federal military service while a member of the Vermont National Guard or other reserve unit located in Vermont, regardless of the resident’s home of record;

(2) received an honorable or general discharge from active, federal military service within the two-year period preceding the date of incurring the expense related to the credit; and

(3) who at the time of incurring the expense related to the credit:

(A) is collecting or eligible to collect unemployment benefits; or

(B) has exhausted his or her unemployment benefits.

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 17.

An act relating to medical marijuana dispensaries.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 86, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

Subchapter 2. Marijuana for Medical Symptom Use by Persons
with Severe Illness

§ 4472. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this subchapter:

(1) “Bona fide ~~physician-patient~~ health care professional-patient relationship” means a treating or consulting relationship of not less than six months duration, in the course of which a physician has completed a full assessment of the registered patient’s medical history and current medical condition, including a personal physical examination.

(2) “Clone” means a plant section from a female marijuana plant not yet root-bound, growing in a water solution, which is capable of developing into a new plant.

(3) “Criminal history record” means all information documenting an individual’s contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and supervision.

(4) “Debilitating medical condition,” provided that, in the context of the specific disease or condition described in subdivision (A) or (B) of this subdivision ~~(2)~~(4), reasonable medical efforts have been made over a reasonable amount of time without success to relieve the symptoms, means:

(A) cancer, multiple sclerosis, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or the treatment of these conditions, if the disease or the treatment results in severe, persistent, and intractable symptoms; or

(B) a disease, medical condition, or its treatment that is chronic, debilitating, and produces severe, persistent, and one or more of the following intractable symptoms: cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe pain; severe nausea; or seizures.

(5) “Dispensary” means a nonprofit entity registered under section 4474e of this title which acquires, possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, supplies, sells, or dispenses marijuana, and marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered patient who has designated it as his or her center, and to his or her registered caregiver, for the registered patient’s medical use. Notwithstanding the ability of a dispensary to deliver marijuana for therapeutic purposes to registered patients, a dispensary may provide marijuana for therapeutic purposes to registered patients at only one facility or location, but may have a second location associated with the dispensary where the marijuana is cultivated. Both locations are considered to be part of the same dispensary.

(6) “Health care professional” means an individual licensed to practice medicine under chapter 23 or 33 of Title 26, an individual certified as a physician’s assistant under chapter 31 of Title 26, or an individual licensed to practice nursing under chapter 28 of Title 26, and who is authorized to prescribe regulated drugs. This definition includes individuals who are professionally licensed and authorized to prescribe regulated drugs under comparable provisions in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, or New York.

(7) “Immature marijuana plant” means a female marijuana plant that has not flowered, and which does not have buds that may be observed by visual examination.

~~(3)~~(8) “Marijuana” shall have the same meaning as provided in subdivision 4201(15) of this title.

(4) “Physician” means a person who is:

~~(A) licensed under chapter 23 or chapter 33 of Title 26, and is licensed with authority to prescribe drugs under Title 26; or~~

~~(B) a physician, surgeon, or osteopathic physician licensed to practice medicine and prescribe drugs under comparable provisions in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, or New York.~~

(9) “Mature marijuana plant” means a female marijuana plant that has flowered and which has buds that may be observed by visual examination.

~~(5)~~(10) “Possession limit” means the amount of marijuana collectively possessed between the registered patient and the patient’s registered caregiver which is no more than two mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and two ounces of usable marijuana.

~~(6)~~(11) “Registered caregiver” means a person who is at least 21 years old who has never been convicted of a drug-related crime and who has agreed to undertake responsibility for managing the well-being of a registered patient with respect to the use of marijuana for symptom relief.

~~(7)~~(12) “Registered patient” means a person who has been issued a registration card by the department of public safety identifying the person as having a debilitating medical condition pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.

~~(8)~~(13) “Secure indoor facility” means a building or room equipped with locks or other security devices that permit access only by a registered caregiver ~~or~~, registered patient, or a principal officer or employee of a dispensary.

~~(9)~~(14) “Usable marijuana” means the dried leaves and flowers of marijuana, and any mixture or preparation thereof, and does not include the seeds, stalks, and roots of the plant.

~~(10)~~(15) “Use for symptom relief” means the acquisition, possession, cultivation, use, transfer, or transportation of marijuana or paraphernalia relating to the administration of marijuana to alleviate the symptoms or effects of a registered patient’s debilitating medical condition which is in compliance with all the limitations and restrictions of this subchapter. For the purposes of this definition, “transfer” is limited to the transfer of marijuana and paraphernalia between a registered caregiver and a registered patient.

§ 4473. REGISTERED PATIENTS; QUALIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

(a) To become a registered patient, a person must be diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition by a ~~physician~~ health care professional in the course of a bona fide ~~physician-patient~~ health care professional-patient relationship.

(b) The department of public safety shall review applications to become a registered patient using the following procedures:

(1) A patient with a debilitating medical condition shall submit, under oath, a signed application for registration to the department. If the patient is under the age of 18, the application must be signed by both the patient and a parent or guardian. The application shall require identification and contact information for the patient and the patient’s registered caregiver applying for authorization under section 4474 of this title, if any, and the patient’s

designated dispensary under section 4474e of this title, if any. The applicant shall attach to the application a medical verification form developed by the department pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) The department of public safety shall develop a medical verification form to be completed by a ~~physician~~ health care professional and submitted by a patient applying for registration in the program. The form shall include:

(A) A cover sheet which includes the following:

(i) A statement of the penalties for providing false information.

(ii) Definitions of the following statutory terms:

(I) “Bona fide physician-patient relationship” as defined in subdivision 4472(1) of this title.

(II) “Debilitating medical condition” as defined in subdivision ~~4472(2)~~ 4472(4) of this title.

(III) “~~Physician~~ Health care professional” as defined in subdivision ~~4472(4)~~ 4472(6) of this title.

(B) A verification sheet which includes the following:

(i) A statement that a bona fide ~~physician-patient~~ health care professional-patient relationship exists under subdivision 4472(1) of this title, or that under subdivision (3)(A) of this subsection (b), the debilitating medical condition is of recent or sudden onset, and the patient has not had a previous physician who is able to verify the nature of the disease and its symptoms.

(ii) A statement that reasonable medical efforts have been made over a reasonable amount of time without success to relieve the symptoms.

(iii) A statement that the patient has a debilitating medical condition as defined in subdivision ~~4472(2)~~ 4472(4) of this title, including the specific disease or condition which the patient has and whether the patient meets the criteria under subdivision ~~4472(2)(A) or (B)~~ 4472(4).

(iv) A signature line which provides in substantial part: “I certify that I meet the definition of “~~physician~~” under ~~18 V.S.A. § 4472(4)(A) or 4472(4)(B)~~ “health care professional” under 18 V.S.A. § 4472(6), that I am a ~~physician~~ health care professional in good standing in the state of, and that the facts stated above are accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.”

(v) The ~~physician’s~~ health care professional’s contact information.

(3)(A) The department of public safety shall transmit the completed medical verification form to the ~~physician~~ health care professional and contact him or her for purposes of confirming the accuracy of the information

contained in the form. The department may approve an application, notwithstanding the six-month requirement in subdivision 4472(1) of this title, if the department is satisfied that the medical verification form confirms that the debilitating medical condition is of recent or sudden onset, and that the patient has not had a previous physician health care professional who is able to verify the nature of the disease and its symptoms.

(B) If the physician health care professional is licensed in another state as provided by subdivision ~~4472(4)(B)~~ 4472(6) of this title, the department shall ~~contact the state's medical practice board and~~ verify that the physician health care professional is in good standing in that state.

(4) The department shall approve or deny the application for registration in writing within 30 days from receipt of a completed registration application. If the application is approved, the department shall issue the applicant a registration card which shall include the registered patient's name and photograph, ~~as well as the registered patient's designated dispensary, if any,~~ and a unique identifier for law enforcement verification purposes under section 4474d of this title.

(5)(A) A review board is established. The medical practice board shall appoint three physicians licensed in Vermont to constitute the review board. If an application under subdivision (1) of this subsection is denied, within seven days the patient may appeal the denial to the board. Review shall be limited to information submitted by the patient under subdivision (1) of this subsection, and consultation with the patient's treating physician health care professional. All records relating to the appeal shall be kept confidential. An appeal shall be decided by majority vote of the members of the board.

(B) The board shall meet periodically to review studies, data, and any other information relevant to the use of marijuana for symptom relief. The board may make recommendations to the general assembly for adjustments and changes to this chapter.

(C) Members of the board shall serve for three-year terms, beginning February 1 of the year in which the appointment is made, except that the first members appointed shall serve as follows: one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, and one for a term of four years. Members shall be entitled to per diem compensation authorized under ~~section 1010 of Title 32~~ 32 V.S.A. § 1010. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term vacated.

§ 4474. REGISTERED CAREGIVERS; QUALIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

(a) A person may submit a signed application to the department of public safety to become a registered patient's registered caregiver. The department

shall approve or deny the application in writing within 30 days. The department shall approve a registered caregiver's application and issue the person an authorization card, including the caregiver's name, photograph, and a unique identifier, after verifying:

(1) the person will serve as the registered caregiver for one registered patient only; and

(2) the person has never been convicted of a drug-related crime.

(b) Prior to acting on an application, the department shall obtain from the Vermont criminal information center a Vermont criminal record, an out-of-state criminal record, and a criminal record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the applicant. For purposes of this subdivision, "criminal record" means a record of whether the person has ever been convicted of a drug-related crime. Each applicant shall consent to release of criminal records to the department on forms substantially similar to the release forms developed by the center pursuant to ~~section 2056c of Title 20~~ 20 V.S.A. § 2056c. The department shall comply with all laws regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy. The Vermont criminal information center shall send to the requester any record received pursuant to this section or inform the department of public safety that no record exists. If the department disapproves an application, the department shall promptly provide a copy of any record of convictions and pending criminal charges to the applicant and shall inform the applicant of the right to appeal the accuracy and completeness of the record pursuant to rules adopted by the Vermont criminal information center. No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal record information to any person who would not be eligible to receive the information pursuant to this subchapter.

(c) A registered caregiver may serve only one registered patient at a time, and a registered patient may have only one registered caregiver at a time.

§ 4474a. REGISTRATION; FEES

(a) The department shall collect a fee of \$50.00 for the application authorized by sections 4473 and 4474 of this title. The fees received by the department shall be deposited into a registration fee fund and used to offset the costs of processing applications under this subchapter.

(b) A registration card shall expire one year after the date of issue, with the option of renewal, provided the patient submits a new application which is approved by the department of public safety, pursuant to section 4473 or 4474 of this title, and pays the fee required under subsection (a) of this section.

§ 4474b. EXEMPTION FROM CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PENALTIES;
SEIZURE OF PROPERTY

(a) A person who has in his or her possession a valid registration card issued pursuant to this subchapter and who is in compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including the possession limits in subdivision ~~4472(4)~~ 4472(10) of this title, shall be exempt from arrest or prosecution under subsection 4230(a) of this title.

(b) A physician who has participated in a patient's application process under subdivision 4473(b)(2) of this title shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or disciplinary action under chapter 23 of Title 26, penalized in any manner, or denied any right or privilege under state law, except for giving false information, pursuant to subsection 4474c(f) of this title.

(c) No person shall be subject to arrest or prosecution for constructive possession, conspiracy, or any other offense for simply being in the presence or vicinity of a registered patient or registered caregiver engaged in use of marijuana for symptom relief.

(d) A law enforcement officer shall not be required to return marijuana or paraphernalia relating to its use seized from a registered patient or registered caregiver.

(e) A dispensary may donate marijuana to another dispensary in Vermont provided that no consideration is paid for the marijuana and that the recipient does not exceed the possession limits specified in this subchapter.

§ 4474c. PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS
REGARDING THE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR SYMPTOM RELIEF

(a) This subchapter shall not exempt any person from arrest or prosecution for:

(1) Being under the influence of marijuana while:

(A) operating a motor vehicle, boat, or vessel, or any other vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power;

(B) in a workplace or place of employment; or

(C) operating heavy machinery or handling a dangerous instrumentality.

(2) The use or possession of marijuana by a registered patient or a registered caregiver:

(A) for purposes other than symptom relief as permitted by this subchapter; or

(B) in a manner that endangers the health or well-being of another person.

(3) The smoking of marijuana in any public place, including:

(A) a school bus, public bus, or other public vehicle;

(B) a workplace or place of employment;

(C) any school grounds;

(D) any correctional facility; or

(E) any public park, public beach, public recreation center, or youth center.

(b) This chapter shall not be construed to require that coverage or reimbursement for the use of marijuana for symptom relief be provided by:

(1) a health insurer as defined by ~~section 9402~~ subdivision 9402(7) of this title, or any insurance company regulated under Title 8;

(2) Medicaid, Vermont health access plan, and any other public health care assistance program;

(3) an employer; or

(4) for purposes of workers' compensation, an employer as defined in 21 V.S.A. § 601(3).

(c) A registered patient or registered caregiver who elects to grow marijuana to be used for symptom relief by the patient may do so only if the marijuana is cultivated in a single, secure indoor facility.

(d) A registered patient or registered caregiver may not transport marijuana in public unless it is secured in a locked container.

(e) Within 72 hours after the death of a registered patient, the patient's registered caregiver shall return to the department of public safety for disposal any marijuana or marijuana plants in the possession of the patient or registered caregiver at the time of the patient's death. If the patient did not have a registered caregiver, the patient's next of kin shall contact the department of public safety within 72 hours after the patient's death and shall ask the department to retrieve such marijuana and marijuana plants for disposal.

(f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person who knowingly gives to any law enforcement officer false information to avoid arrest or prosecution, or to assist another in avoiding arrest or prosecution, shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00 or both. This penalty shall be in addition to any other penalties that may apply for the possession or use of marijuana.

§ 4474d. LAW ENFORCEMENT VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION;
RULEMAKING

(a) The department of public safety shall maintain and keep confidential, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section and except for purposes of a prosecution for false swearing under 13 V.S.A. § 2904, the records of all persons registered under this subchapter or registered caregivers in a secure database accessible by authorized department of public safety ~~employee's~~ employees only.

(b) In response to a person-specific or property-specific inquiry by a law enforcement officer or agency made in the course of a bona fide investigation or prosecution, the department may verify the identities and registered property addresses of the registered patient and the patient's registered caregiver, a dispensary, and the principal officer, board members, or employees of a dispensary.

(c) The department shall maintain a separate secure electronic database accessible to law enforcement personnel 24 hours a day that uses a unique identifier system to allow law enforcement to verify that a person or entity is a registered patient, ~~or a registered caregiver, a dispensary, or the principal officer, board members, or employees of a dispensary~~.

(d) The department of public safety shall implement the requirements of this act within 120 days of its effective date. The department may adopt rules under chapter 25 of Title 3 and shall develop forms to implement this act.

§ 4474e. DISPENSARIES; CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

(a) A dispensary registered under this section may:

(1) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, sell, and dispense marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered patient who has designated it as his or her dispensary and, to his or her registered caregiver, for the registered patient's medical use.

(A) Marijuana-infused products shall include tinctures, oils, solvents, and edible or potable goods. Only the portion of any marijuana-infused products that is attributable to marijuana shall count toward the possession limits of the dispensary and the patient.

(B) Marijuana-related supplies shall include pipes, vaporizers, and other items classified as drug paraphernalia under chapter 69 of this title.

(2) Acquire marijuana seeds or parts of the marijuana plant capable of regeneration from registered patients or their caregivers or from the other registered Vermont dispensary.

(3) Cultivate and possess at any one time up to 28 mature marijuana plants, 98 immature marijuana plants, and 28 ounces of usable marijuana. However, if a dispensary is designated by more than 14 registered patients, the dispensary may cultivate and possess at any one time two mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and two ounces of usable marijuana for every registered patient for which the dispensary serves as the designated dispensary.

(b)(1) A dispensary shall be operated on a nonprofit basis for the mutual benefit of its patients, but need not be recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

(2) A dispensary shall have a sliding scale fee system that takes into account a registered patient's ability to pay.

(c) A dispensary may not be located within 1,000 feet of the property line of a preexisting public or private school or licensed child care facility.

(d)(1) A dispensary shall implement appropriate security measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft of marijuana, and shall ensure that each location has an operational security alarm system. All cultivation of marijuana shall take place in an enclosed, locked facility which is either indoors or otherwise not visible to the public and which can only be accessed by principal officers and employees of the dispensary who have valid registry identification cards. The department of public safety may perform on-site assessments of a dispensary without limitation for the purpose of determining compliance with this subchapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter, and may enter a dispensary at any time for such purpose. During an inspection, the department may review the dispensary's confidential records, including its dispensing records, which shall track transactions according to registered patients' registry identification numbers to protect their confidentiality.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, a registered patient or registered caregiver may obtain marijuana for therapeutic purposes from the dispensary facility by appointment only.

(3) A dispensary may deliver marijuana for therapeutic purposes to a registered patient or a registered caregiver. The dispensary shall take appropriate security measures to deter and prevent theft during a delivery, except that no person may possess or carry a firearm in the act of delivering or transporting marijuana for therapeutic purposes. Only employees of a dispensary may be present in a vehicle that is being used at the time of deliveries. In addition to the record keeping requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, records shall clearly track any marijuana that leaves the premises of a dispensary for delivery to a registered patient or a registered caregiver. A registered patient or a registered caregiver who receives a

delivery from a dispensary shall present his or her identification card to the person who makes the delivery, and shall sign for the delivery.

(4) The operating documents of a dispensary shall include procedures for the oversight of the dispensary and procedures to ensure accurate record keeping.

(5) A dispensary shall submit the results of an annual financial audit to the department of public safety no later than 60 days after the end of the dispensary's fiscal year. The annual audit shall be conducted by an independent certified public accountant, and the costs of any such audit shall be borne by the dispensary. The department may also periodically require, within its discretion, the audit of a dispensary's financial records by the department.

(6) A dispensary shall destroy or dispose of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, clones, seeds, parts of marijuana that are not usable for therapeutic purposes or are beyond the possession limits provided by this subchapter, and marijuana-infused supplies only in a manner approved by rules adopted by the department of public safety.

(e) A registered patient shall not consume marijuana for therapeutic purposes on dispensary property.

(f) No person who has been convicted of a drug-related offense or who has a pending charge of a drug-related offense shall be a principal officer, board member, or employee of a dispensary unless the department of public safety has determined that the person's conviction was for the medical use of marijuana or for assisting a registered patient with the medical use of marijuana.

(g)(1) A dispensary shall notify the department of public safety within 10 days of when a principal officer, board member, or employee ceases to be associated with or work at the dispensary. His or her registry identification card shall be deemed null and void, and the person shall be liable for any other penalties that may apply to the person's nonmedical use of marijuana.

(2) A dispensary shall notify the department of public safety in writing of the name, address, and date of birth of any proposed new principal officer, board member, or employee and shall submit a fee in an amount established by the department for a new registry identification card before a new employee begins working at the dispensary, and shall submit a complete set of fingerprints for the prospective principal officer, board member, or employee.

(h) A dispensary shall include labels on all marijuana that is dispensed. The labels shall identify the particular strain of marijuana contained therein. Cannabis strains shall be either pure breeds or hybrid varieties of cannabis and

shall reflect properties of the plant.

(i) Each dispensary shall develop, implement, and maintain on the premises employee policies and procedures to address the following requirements:

(1) A job description or employment contract developed for all employees which includes duties, authority, responsibilities, qualification, and supervision; and

(2) Training in and adherence to confidentiality laws.

(j) Each dispensary shall maintain a personnel record for each employee that includes an application for employment and a record of any disciplinary action taken. Each dispensary shall provide each employee, at the time of his or her initial appointment, training in the following:

(1) The proper use of security measures and controls that have been adopted; and

(2) Specific procedural instructions on how to respond to an emergency, including robbery or violent incident.

(k)(1) A dispensary or principal officer, board member, or employee of a dispensary shall not:

(A) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, sell, or dispense marijuana for any purpose except to assist registered patients with the medical use of marijuana directly or through the qualifying patients' designated caregiver.

(B) Acquire usable marijuana or marijuana plants from any source other than registered dispensary principal officers, board members, or employees who cultivate marijuana in accordance with this subchapter.

(C) Dispense more than two ounces of usable marijuana to a registered patient directly or through the qualifying patient's registered caregiver during a 30-day period. A principal officer, board member, or employee of a dispensary may dispense seeds or clones to a registered patient, provided that records are kept concerning the amount and the recipient.

(D) Dispense an amount of usable marijuana to a qualifying patient or a designated caregiver that the principal officer, board member, or employee knows would cause the recipient to possess more marijuana than is permitted under this subchapter.

(E) Dispense marijuana to a person other than a registered patient who has designated it or such patient's registered caregiver.

(2) A person found to have violated subdivision (1) of this subsection may no longer serve as a principal officer, board member, or employee of any

dispensary, and such person's registry identification card shall be immediately revoked by the department of public safety.

(3) The board of a dispensary shall be required to report to the department of public safety any information regarding a person who violates this section.

(1)(1) A registered dispensary shall not be subject to the following:

(A) Prosecution for the acquisition, possession, cultivation, manufacture, delivery, transfer, transport, supply, sale, or dispensing of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, or marijuana-related supplies for medical purposes in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter and any rule adopted by the department of public safety pursuant to this subchapter.

(B) Inspection and search, except pursuant to this subchapter or upon a search warrant issued by a court or judicial officer.

(C) Seizure of marijuana, except upon valid order issued by a court or judicial officer.

(D) Imposition of any penalty or denied any right or privilege, including imposition of a civil penalty or disciplinary action by an occupational or professional licensing board or entity, solely for acting in accordance with this subchapter to assist registered patients or registered caregivers with the medical use of marijuana.

(2) No principal officer, board member, or employee of a dispensary shall be subject to arrest, prosecution, search, seizure, or penalty in any manner, or denied any right or privilege, including civil penalty or disciplinary action by a business, occupational, or professional licensing board or entity, solely for working for or with a dispensary to engage in acts permitted by this subchapter.

§ 4474f. DISPENSARY APPLICATION, APPROVAL AND REGISTRATION

(a)(1) The department of public safety shall adopt rules on the following:

(A) The form and content of dispensary registration and renewal applications.

(B) Minimum oversight requirements for a dispensary.

(C) Minimum record-keeping requirements for a dispensary.

(D) Minimum security requirements for a dispensary, which shall include a fully operational security alarm system. This provision shall apply to each location where marijuana will be grown, cultivated, harvested, or otherwise prepared for distribution by the dispensary, or distributed by the

dispensary.

(E) Procedures for suspending or terminating the registration of a dispensary that violates the provisions of this subchapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter.

(F) The ability of a dispensary to advertise in any appropriate medium or manner.

(G) Procedures to guide reasonable determinations as to whether an applicant would pose a demonstrable threat to public safety if he or she were to be associated with a dispensary.

(2) The department of public safety shall adopt such rules with the goal of protecting against diversion and theft without imposing an undue burden on a registered dispensary or compromising the confidentiality of registered patients and their registered caregivers. Any dispensing records that a registered dispensary is required to keep shall track transactions according to registered patients' and registered caregivers' registry identification numbers, rather than the names, to protect confidentiality.

(b) Within 30 days of the adoption of rules, the department shall begin accepting applications for the operation of dispensaries. Within 180 days of the effective date of this section, the department shall grant registration certificates to two dispensaries, provided at least two applicants apply and meet the requirements of this section. Any time a dispensary registration certificate is revoked, is relinquished, or expires, the department shall accept applications for a new dispensary. If at any time after one year after the effective date of this section fewer than two dispensaries hold valid registration certificates in Vermont, the department of public safety shall accept applications for a new dispensary. No more than two dispensaries may hold valid registration certificates at one time. The total number of registered patients who have designated a dispensary shall not exceed 500 at any one time.

(c) Each application for a dispensary registration certificate shall include all of the following:

(1) A nonrefundable application fee in the amount of \$250.00 paid to the department of public safety.

(2) The legal name, articles of incorporation, and bylaws of the dispensary.

(3) The proposed physical address of the dispensary, if a precise address has been determined or, if not, the general location where it would be located.

(4) A description of the enclosed, locked facility where marijuana will be grown, cultivated, harvested, or otherwise prepared for distribution by the

dispensary.

(5) The name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and board member of the dispensary, and a complete set of fingerprints for each of them.

(6) Proposed security and safety measures, which shall include at least one security alarm system for each location and planned measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft of marijuana.

(7) Proposed procedures to ensure accurate record keeping.

(d) Any time one or more dispensary registration applications are being considered, the department of public safety shall solicit input from registered patients and registered caregivers.

(e) Each time a dispensary certificate is granted, the decision shall be based on the overall health needs of qualified patients. The following factors shall weigh heavily in the consideration of an application:

(1) Geographic convenience to patients from throughout the state of Vermont to a dispensary if the applicant were approved.

(2) The entity's ability to provide an adequate supply to the registered patients in the state.

(3) The entity's ability to demonstrate its board members' experience running a nonprofit organization or business.

(4) The comments, if any, of registered patients and registered caregivers regarding which applicant should be granted a registration certificate.

(5) The sufficiency of the applicant's plans for record keeping, which records shall be considered confidential health care information under Vermont law and are intended to be deemed protected health care information for purposes of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended.

(6) The sufficiency of the applicant's plans for safety and security, including the proposed location and security devices employed.

(f) The department of public safety may deny an application for a dispensary if it determines that an applicant's criminal history record indicates that the person's association with a dispensary would pose a demonstrable threat to public safety.

(g) After a dispensary is approved, but before it begins operations, it shall submit the following to the department of public safety:

- (1) The legal name and articles of incorporation of the dispensary.
- (2) The physical address of the dispensary.
- (3) The name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and board member of the dispensary, along with a complete set of fingerprints for each.

§ 4474g. DISPENSARY REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARD;
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the department of public safety shall issue each principal officer, board member, and employee of a dispensary a registry identification card or renewal card within 30 days of receipt of the person's name, address, and date of birth and a fee of \$25.00. A person shall not serve as principal officer, board member, or employee of a dispensary until that person has received a registry identification card issued under this section. Each card shall specify that the cardholder is a principal officer, board member, or employee of a dispensary and shall contain the following:

- (1) The name, address, and date of birth of the person.
- (2) The legal name of the dispensary with which the person is affiliated.
- (3) A random identification number that is unique to the person.
- (4) The date of issuance and the expiration date of the registry identification card.
- (5) A photograph of the person.

(b) Prior to acting on an application for a registry identification card, the department of public safety shall obtain a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the applicant. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the department on forms substantially similar to the release forms developed in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2056c.

(c) When the department of public safety obtains a criminal history record, the department shall promptly provide a copy of the record to the applicant and to the principal officer and board of the dispensary if the applicant is to be an employee. The department shall inform the applicant of the right to appeal the accuracy and completeness of the record pursuant to rules adopted by the department.

(d) The department of public safety shall comply with all laws regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy. No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal history

record information to any person who would not be eligible to receive the information pursuant to this subchapter.

(e) The department of public safety shall not issue a registry identification card to any applicant who has been convicted of a drug-related offense or a violent felony or who has a pending charge for such an offense. For purposes of this subchapter, “violent felony” means a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) or an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of chapter 64 of Title 13.

(f) The department of public safety shall adopt rules for the issuance of a registry identification card and set forth standards for determining whether an applicant should be denied a registry identification card because his or her criminal history record indicates that the person’s association with a compassion center would pose a demonstrable threat to public safety. The rules shall consider whether a person who has a conviction for an offense not listed in subsection (e) of this section has been rehabilitated. A conviction for an offense not listed in subsection (e) of this section shall not automatically disqualify a person for a registry identification card. A dispensary may deny a person the opportunity to serve as a board member or an employee based on his or her criminal history record. An applicant who is denied a registry identification card may appeal the department of public safety’s determination in superior court in accordance with Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(g) A registration identification card of a principal officer, board member, or employee shall expire one year after its issuance or upon the expiration of the registered organization’s registration certificate, whichever occurs first.

§ 4474h. PATIENT DESIGNATION OF DISPENSARY

(a) A registered patient may obtain marijuana only from the patient’s designated dispensary and may designate only one dispensary. The right of a registered patient to obtain marijuana for therapeutic purposes from a designated dispensary in compliance with this subchapter shall in no way limit the ability of the patient or his or her caregiver to grow marijuana for therapeutic purposes in compliance with this subchapter provided the patient or caregiver does not exceed the possession amounts provided in this subchapter. A registered patient who wishes to change his or her dispensary shall notify the department of public safety in writing on a form issued by the department and shall submit with the form a fee of \$25.00. The department shall issue a new identification card to the registered patient within 30 days of receiving the notification of change in dispensary. The registered patient’s previous identification card shall expire at the time the new identification card takes effect. A registered patient shall submit his or her expired identification card

to the department within 30 days of expiration. A registered patient shall not change his or her designated dispensary more than once in any 90-day period.

(b) The department of public safety shall track the number of registered patients who have designated each dispensary. The department shall issue a monthly written statement to the dispensary identifying the number of registered patients who have designated that dispensary and the registry identification numbers of each patient and each patient's designated caregivers, if any.

(c) In addition to the monthly reports, the department of public safety shall provide written notice to a dispensary whenever any of the following events occurs:

(1) A qualifying patient designates the dispensary to serve his or her needs under this subchapter.

(2) An existing registered patient revokes the designation of the dispensary because he or she has designated a different dispensary.

(3) A registered patient who has designated the dispensary loses his or her status as a registered patient under this subchapter.

(d) Nothing in this subchapter shall prevent a municipality from regulating the time, place, and manner of dispensary operation through zoning or other local ordinances.

§ 4474i. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION REGARDING DISPENSARIES AND REGISTERED PATIENTS

The confidentiality provisions in section 4474d of this title shall apply to records of all registered patients and registered caregivers within dispensary records in the department of public safety.

§ 4474j. ANNUAL REPORT

(a)(1) There is established a marijuana for therapeutic purposes oversight committee. The committee shall be composed of the following members:

(A) one registered patient appointed by each dispensary;

(B) one registered nurse and one registered patient appointed by the governor;

(C) one physician appointed by the Vermont medical society;

(D) one member of a local zoning board appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns; and

(E) the commissioner of the department of public safety or his or her designee.

(2) The oversight committee shall meet at least two times per year for the purpose of evaluating and making recommendations to the general assembly regarding:

(A) The ability of qualifying patients and registered caregivers in all areas of the state to obtain timely access to marijuana for therapeutic purposes.

(B) The effectiveness of the registered dispensaries individually and together in serving the needs of qualifying patients and registered caregivers, including the provision of educational and support services.

(C) Sufficiency of the regulatory and security safeguards contained in this subchapter and adopted by the department of public safety to ensure that access to and use of cultivated marijuana is provided only to cardholders authorized for such purposes.

(D) The definition of “qualifying medical condition.”

(E) Research studies regarding health effects of marijuana for therapeutic purposes for patients.

(b) On or before January 1 of each year, beginning in 2012, the oversight committee shall provide a report to the department of public safety, the house committee on health care, the senate committee on health and welfare, the house and senate committees on judiciary, and the house and senate committees on government operations on its findings.

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The department of public safety shall take measures to improve the quality and security of identification cards required pursuant to chapter 86 of Title 18. The department shall consider the feasibility of a “swipe card” that could be used by law enforcement or a dispensary.

Sec. 3. SURVEY

(a) By July 1, 2011, the department of public safety shall develop a survey of patients registered to possess and use marijuana for therapeutic purposes and send the survey to such patients. The department shall request that patients return the survey by August 1, 2011.

(b) The survey shall make the following inquiries:

(1) Please describe your medical diagnosis and the “debilitating medical condition” that qualifies you to be a registered patient under Vermont law. Please describe the symptoms that are aided by your use of marijuana for therapeutic purposes.

(2) Please describe how much marijuana you typically use in one month for therapeutic purposes and the strain or strains of marijuana that you use or that are particularly helpful in alleviating symptoms of your medical condition.

(3) Would you purchase marijuana for therapeutic purposes from a state-regulated dispensary if it was available to you at an affordable price? How much do you typically spend in one month on marijuana for therapeutic purposes?

(c) The department of public safety shall clearly state on the survey that the information is being gathered solely for the purpose of assessing the needs of registered medical patients in order to facilitate a safer, more reliable means for patients to obtain marijuana for therapeutic purposes. The completed surveys will remain confidential and will not be subject to public inspection; however, summary information will be available as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

(d) The department of public safety shall summarize the survey responses in a manner that protects the identity of patients, providing information that will assist state decision-makers, the department of public safety, and potential dispensary applicants to better understand the needs of registered patients. This summary shall not be confidential and shall be provided with other information about the medical marijuana registry on the Vermont criminal information website. The department of public safety shall ensure that any patient identifiers are not included in the summary.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Government Operations be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474f(b), by striking out each of the four instances of the word “two” and inserting in lieu thereof in each instance the word four, and by striking out “500” and inserting in lieu thereof 1,000

Second: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474f(c)(1), by striking out “\$250.00” and inserting in lieu thereof \$2,500.00

Third: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474f(g), by adding a subdivision (4) to read:

(4) An annual license fee of not more than \$32,000.00.

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474g(a), by striking out “\$25.00” and inserting in lieu thereof \$50.00

Fifth: In Sec. 1. by adding 18 V.S.A. § 4474j to read:

§ 4474j. FEES; DISPOSITION

Of the fees collected under this subchapter, no more than \$156,500.00 shall be retained by the department annually for the performance of its responsibilities under this subchapter. All fees collected by the department in a year under this subchapter in excess of \$156,500.00 shall be deposited in the general fund.

(Committee vote: 5-1-1)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations, with the following amendment thereto:

First: In Sec. 1, by adding 18 V.S.A. § 4474k to read:

§ 4474k. FEES; DISPOSITION

All fees collected by the department of public safety in a year relating to dispensaries and pursuant to this subchapter shall be deposited in the registration fee fund as referenced in section 4474a of this title.

Second: By adding a Sec. 3a to read:

Sec. 3a. APPROPRIATION

The department of public safety shall receive an appropriation of \$156,500.00 from the registry fee fund in fiscal year 2012 for the performance of the department’s responsibilities under this act.

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

AMENDMENT TO S. 17 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR WHITE, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator White, on behalf of the Committee on Government Operations moves to amend the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Government Operations as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474e(a)(1), by striking out the following: “deliver,”

Second: In Sec. 1, by striking out 18 V.S.A. § 4474e(d)(3) in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subdivisions

Third: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474e(k)(1)(A), by striking out the following: “deliver,”

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474e(l)(1)(A), by striking out the following: “delivery.”

Fifth: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474f(b), in the second sentence, by striking out the following: “180” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 365

Sixth: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474h(a), by striking out the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following: A registered patient and his or her caregiver may not grow marijuana for therapeutic purposes if the patient designates a dispensary.

Seventh: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 4474j(a)(1) in subparagraph (D) after the following: “Towns;” by striking out the word “and” and by striking out subparagraph (E) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new subparagraphs to be lettered (E) and (F) to read as follows:

(E) one representative appointed jointly by the Vermont sheriffs’ association and the Vermont association of chiefs of police; and

(F) the commissioner of public safety or his or her designee.

Eighth: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 2a to read as follows:

Sec. 2a. REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The department of public safety shall report to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2012 on the following:

(1) The actual and projected income and costs for administering this act.

(2) Recommendations for how dispensaries could deliver medical marijuana to registered patients and their caregivers in a safe manner.

(3) Whether prohibiting growing marijuana for therapeutic purposes by patients and their caregivers if the patient designates a dispensary interferes with patient access to marijuana for therapeutic purposes, and if so, recommendations for regulating the ability for patients and caregivers to grow marijuana at the same time the patient has designated a dispensary.

And that after passage of the bill that the title of the bill be amended to read:

“An act relating to licensing a nonprofit organization to dispense marijuana for therapeutic purposes.”

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 46.

An act relating to youth athletes with concussions participating in athletic activities.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Education?

(Text of Report of the Committee on Education)

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. § 1431(a)(4)(D) at the end of the subparagraph by striking out the word “or” and in subparagraph (E) at the end of the subparagraph before the period by inserting the following: ; or

(F) a chiropractor licensed pursuant to chapter 10 of Title 26

Second: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. § 1431(b) by striking out the words “and the Vermont School Boards Association” and by striking out the words “those associations” and inserting in lieu thereof the words that association

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 9, 2011, page 207.)

PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT TO H. 46 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR SEARS

Senator Sears moves that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. § 1431, by striking out subsection (d) in its entirety

Second: In Sec. 3, subdivision (2), after the words “(notice and training)” by striking out “and (d) (participation)”

Third: By adding a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. STUDY

(a) There is created a committee to study participation in school athletic activities by athletes who have sustained concussions or other head injuries. The committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) One member appointed by the Vermont School Boards Association;

(2) One member appointed by the Vermont Superintendents Association;

(3) One member appointed by the Vermont Principals’ Association;

(4) One member appointed by the Vermont-NEA;

(5) One member appointed by the Vermont Association for Justice; and

(6) One member appointed by the Vermont Medical Society.

(b) The committee shall study best practices for protecting student-athletes from sports-related concussions and head injuries, including consideration of whether statutorily prohibiting certain conduct by coaches is the most appropriate method to ensure the health and welfare of student-athletes without unnecessarily increasing potential liability.

(c) On or before December 15, 2011, the committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for legislative action to the house and senate committees on education and on judiciary.

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 2

An act relating to sexual exploitation of a minor and the sex offender registry.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

§ 5401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(10) "Sex offender" means:

* * *

(B) A person who is convicted of any of the following offenses against a victim who is a minor, except that, for purposes of this subdivision, conduct which is criminal only because of the age of the victim shall not be considered an offense for purposes of the registry if the perpetrator is under the age of 18 and the victim is at least 12 years old:

* * *

(ix) sexual exploitation of a minor as defined in 13 V.S.A. § ~~3258(b)~~ 3258.

* * *

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 5411a is amended to read:

§ 5411a. ELECTRONIC POSTING OF THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

(a) Notwithstanding 20 V.S.A. §§ 2056a-2056e, the department shall electronically post information on the Internet in accordance with subsection (b) of this section regarding the following sex offenders, upon their release from confinement:

(1) Sex offenders who have been convicted of:

* * *

(I) ~~Sexual~~ A felony violation of sexual exploitation of a minor (13 V.S.A. § ~~3258(b)~~ 3258(c)).

* * *

(b) The department shall electronically post the following information on sex offenders designated in subsection (a) of this section:

* * *

~~(6) except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the offender's address or, if the offender does not have a fixed address, other information about where the offender habitually lives, if:~~ the date and nature of the offender's conviction;

* * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 255 is amended to read:

§ 255. PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES;
CONTRACTORS

(a) Superintendents, headmasters of recognized or approved ~~Vermont~~ independent schools, and their contractors shall request criminal record information for the following:

(1) The person a superintendent or headmaster is prepared to recommend for any full-time, part-time or temporary employment.

(2) Any person directly under contract to an independent school or school district who may have unsupervised contact with school children.

(3) Any employee of a contractor under contract to an independent school or school district who is in a position that may result in unsupervised contact with school children.

(4) Any student working toward a degree in teaching who is a student teacher in a school within the superintendent's or headmaster's jurisdiction.

(b) After signing a user agreement, a superintendent or a headmaster shall make a request directly to the Vermont criminal information center. A contractor shall make a request through a superintendent or headmaster.

(c) A request made under subsection (b) of this section shall be accompanied by a set of the person's fingerprints and a fee established by the Vermont criminal information center which shall reflect the cost of obtaining the record from the FBI. The fee shall be paid in accordance with adopted school board policy.

* * *

(h) A superintendent or headmaster shall request and obtain information from the child protection registry maintained by the department for children and families and from the vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation registry maintained by the department of disabilities, aging, and independent living (collectively, the "registries") for any person for whom a criminal record check is required under subsection (a) of this section. The department for children and families and the department of disabilities, aging, and independent living shall adopt rules governing the process for obtaining information from the registries and for disseminating and maintaining records of that information under this subsection.

(i) A person convicted of a sex offense that requires registration pursuant to chapter 167, subchapter 3 of Title 13 shall not be eligible for employment under this section.

(j) The board of trustees of a recognized or approved independent school shall request a criminal record check and a check of the registries pursuant to the provisions of this section prior to offering employment to a headmaster.

Sec. 4. 4 V.S.A. § 952 is amended to read:

§ 952. RULES OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

(a) The court administrator, subject to the approval of the supreme court, shall make rules regarding the qualifications, lists, and selection of all jurors and prepare questionnaires for prospective jurors. Each superior court clerk shall, in conformity with the rules, prepare a list of jurors from residents of its unit. The rules shall be designed to assure that the list of jurors prepared by the ~~jury commission~~ superior court clerk shall be representative of the citizens of its unit in terms of age, sex, occupation, economic status, and geographical distribution.

(b) Rules adopted under this section shall be consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 2 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR SEARS, ON
BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, BEFORE THIRD
READING**

Senator Sears, on behalf of the Committee on Judiciary, moves that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with a further proposal of amendment by adding a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2056b is amended to read:

**§ 2056b. DISSEMINATION OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS TO
PERSONS CONDUCTING RESEARCH**

(a) The Vermont criminal information center may provide Vermont criminal history records as defined in section 2056a of this title to bona fide persons conducting research related to the administration of criminal justice, subject to conditions approved by the commissioner of public safety to assure the confidentiality of the information and the privacy of individuals to whom the information relates. Bulk criminal history data requested by descriptors other than the name and date of birth of the subject may only be provided in a format that excludes the subject's name and any unique numbers that may reference the identity of the subject, except that court docket numbers and the state identification number may be provided. Researchers ~~must~~ shall sign a user agreement which specifies data security requirements and restrictions on use of identifying information.

(b) No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal history record information to any person other than the subject and properly designated employees of an organization who have a documented need to know the contents of the record.

(c) A person who violates the provisions of this section with respect to unauthorized disclosure of confidential criminal history record information obtained from the center under the authority of this section shall be fined not more than \$5,000.00. Each unauthorized disclosure shall constitute a separate civil violation.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 78.

An act relating to the advancement of cellular, broadband, smart grid, and other technology infrastructure in Vermont.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 78 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR ILLUZZI,
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND GENERAL AFFAIRS, BEFORE
THIRD READING**

Senator Illuzzi, on behalf of the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), in subdivision (b) (definitions), by striking out subdivision (2) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read:

(2) “De minimis modification” means the addition, modification, or replacement of telecommunications equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on a telecommunications facility or existing support structure, whether or not the structure was constructed as a telecommunications facility, or the reconstruction of such a facility or support structure, provided:

(A) The height and width of the facility or support structure, excluding equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements, are not increased;

(B) The total amount of impervious surface, including access roads, surrounding the facility or support structure is not increased by more than 300 square feet;

(C) The addition, modification, or replacement of an antenna or any other equipment on a facility or support structure does not extend vertically more than 10 feet above the facility or support structure and does not extend horizontally more than 10 feet from the facility or support structure; and

(D) The additional equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on the support structure, excluding cabling, does not increase the aggregate surface area of the faces of the equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on the support structure by more than 75 square feet.

Second: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), in subdivision (b) (definitions), in subdivision (3) (limited size and scope), by striking out subdivision (B) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (B) to read:

(B) For construction described in subdivision (3)(A) of this subsection to be of limited size and scope, it shall not disturb more than 10,000 square feet of earth. For purposes of this subdivision, “disturbed earth” means the exposure of soil to the erosive effects of wind, rain, or runoff.

Third: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), in subdivision (c) (findings), in subdivision (1), by striking out the second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof:

However, with respect to telecommunications facilities of limited size and scope, the board shall waive all criteria of this subdivision other than 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8) (aesthetics, scenic beauty, historic sites, rare and irreplaceable natural areas; endangered species; necessary wildlife habitat). Such waiver shall be on condition that the board may determine, pursuant to the procedures described in subdivision (j)(2)(A) of this section, that a petition raises a significant issue with respect to any criterion of this subdivision.

Fourth: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), in subdivision (c) (findings), in subdivision (2), by striking out the third and fourth sentences and inserting in lieu thereof:

A rebuttable presumption respecting compliance with the applicable plan shall be created by a letter from an affected municipal legislative body or municipal planning commission concerning compliance with the municipal plan and by a letter from a regional planning commission concerning compliance with the regional plan.

Fifth: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), after subdivision (e) (notice), by inserting subdivision (f) to read:

(f) Review period. ~~Unless~~ If the public service board ~~identifies~~ determines that an application ~~raises~~ does not raise a significant issue, the board shall issue a final determination on an application filed pursuant to this section within ~~90~~ 60 days of its filing or, if the original filing did not substantially comply with the public service board's rules, within ~~90~~ 60 days of the date on which the clerk of the board notifies the applicant that the filing is complete. If the board rules that an application raises a significant issue, it shall issue a final determination on an application filed pursuant to this section within 180 days of its filing or, if the original filing did not substantially comply with the public service board's rules, within 180 days of the date on which the clerk of the board notifies the applicant that the filing is complete.

Sixth: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), in subdivision (j)(1) (telecommunications facilities of limited size and scope), after the first sentence, by inserting:

The board may make findings based on the application and the supporting evidence submitted by the applicant.

Seventh: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), in subdivision (j) (telecommunications facilities of limited size and scope), in subdivision (2), by striking out subdivision (B) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (B) to read:

(B) Any An applicant seeking a waiver or modification of notice to adjoining landowners under this subsection shall file a request for such a waiver or modification with the public service board not later than 30 days prior to serving written notice under subsection 248a(e) of this section, together with a description of the project and its location, the applicant's reasons for seeking waiver or modification, and the applicant's demonstration that the standard for granting a waiver or modification is met. Any granting of such a waiver or modification shall be based on a determination that the landowners subject to the waiver or modification could not reasonably be affected by one or more of the proposed facilities, and that notice to such landowners would constitute a significant administrative burden without corresponding public benefit. The board shall rule on a waiver or modification request under this subsection within 21 days of the filing of the request.

Eighth: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), by striking out subdivision (k) (de minimis modifications) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (k) to read:

(k) De minimis modifications. An applicant intending to make a de minimis modification of a telecommunications facility shall provide written notice of its intent, including a description of the de minimis modification, its plans for the de minimis modification, and its certification that the project constitutes a de minimis modification under this section, to the following: the landowner of record of the property on which the facility is located; the legislative body of the municipality in which the applicant proposes to undertake such limited modifications to the facility; and the commissioner of public service and its director for public advocacy. Unless an objection to the classification of a proposed project as a de minimis modification is filed with the board within 21 days of this notice, a certificate of public good shall be issued. Objections may be filed only by persons entitled to notice of this proposed project pursuant to this subdivision. If an objection of the classification of the proposed project as a de minimis modification is timely filed with the board, the board may determine whether the intended project meets the definition of de minimis modification established in subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

Ninth: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 248a (certificate of public good for telecommunications facilities), by striking out subdivision (l) (rules) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (l) to read:

(l) Rules. The public service board may issue rules or orders implementing and interpreting this section. In developing such rules and orders, the board shall seek to simplify the application and review process as appropriate, and Subject to the provisions of subdivision (c)(1) of this section regarding waiver of the substantive criteria set forth in that subdivision, the board may by rule or

order waive the requirements of this section that the board determines are not applicable to telecommunications facilities of limited size or scope. Determination by the board that a ~~petition~~ an application raises a substantial issue with regard to one or more substantive criteria of this section shall not prevent the board from waiving other substantive criteria that it has determined are not applicable to such a telecommunications facility.

Tenth: In Sec. 3, 10 V.S.A. § 1264 (stormwater management), in subsection (j), in the first sentence, by striking out “and is filed before July 1, 2014”

Eleventh: In Sec. 3a (stormwater management rule; agency of natural resources; prospective repeal), by striking out subsection (c) (prospective repeal) and, in the catchline, by striking out “; PROSPECTIVE REPEAL”

Twelfth: By striking out Sec. 4a (prospective repeal)

Thirteenth: In Sec. 12, 30 V.S.A. § 227e (leasing or licensing of state land; public notice), in subsection (a), in the first sentence, after “installation of a” by inserting “wireless” and in subsection (b), in subdivision (2), in the first sentence, after “such” by inserting “leased or licensed”

Fourteenth: In Sec. 14, 24 V.S.A. § 4413 (limitations on municipal bylaws), in subsection (h), in subdivision (1) (A), by striking out “200” and inserting in lieu thereof “300” and by striking out the second sentence

Fifteenth: By striking out Sec. 14a (prospective repeal) and by inserting in lieu thereof a new section to be numbered Sec. 14a to read:

Sec. 14a. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

§ 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following powers:

* * *

(19) To regulate the construction, alteration, development, and decommissioning or dismantling of wireless telecommunications facilities and ancillary improvements where the city, town, or village has not adopted zoning or where those activities are not regulated pursuant to a duly adopted zoning bylaw. Regulations regarding the decommissioning or dismantling of telecommunications facilities and ancillary structures may include requirements that bond be posted, or other security acceptable to the legislative body, in order to finance facility decommissioning or dismantling activities. These regulations are not intended to prohibit seamless coverage of wireless telecommunications services. With respect to the construction or alteration of

wireless telecommunications facilities subject to regulation granted in this section, the town, city, or incorporated village shall vest in its local regulatory authority the power to determine whether the installation of a wireless telecommunications facility, whatever its size, will impose no impact or merely a de minimis impact on the surrounding area and the overall pattern of land development, and if the local regulatory authority, originally or on appeal, determines that the facility will impose no impact or a de minimis impact, it shall issue a permit. No ordinance authorized by this section, except to the extent structured to protect historic landmarks and structures listed on the state or national register of historic places may have the purpose or effect of limiting or prohibiting a property owner's ability to place or allow placement of antennae used to transmit, receive, or transmit and receive communications signals on that property owner's premises if the aggregate area of the largest faces of the antennae is not more than eight square feet, and if the antennae and the mast to which they are attached do not extend more than 12 feet above the roof of that portion of the building to which they are attached. No ordinance under this section may regulate an improvement that is exempt from regulation under subdivision 4413(h) (telecommunications; ancillary improvements of 300 square feet or less; improvements associated with communications lines) of this title.

* * *

Sixteenth: By inserting a new section to be numbered Sec. 14c to read:

Sec. 14c. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:

§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

* * *

(b) Planning and zoning chapter appeals.

(1) Within 30 days of the date of the act or decision, an interested person, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4465, who has participated as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4471 in the municipal regulatory proceeding under that chapter may appeal to the environmental division an act or decision made under that chapter by a board of adjustment, a planning commission, or a development review board; provided, however, that decisions of a development review board under 24 V.S.A. § 4420 with respect to local Act 250 review of municipal impacts are not subject to appeal but shall serve as presumptions under chapter 151 of this title.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, an interested person may appeal an act or decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 if, upon motion filed by the person no later than the deadline for filing a statement of questions on appeal, the environmental judge determines that:

(A) there was a procedural defect which prevented the person from obtaining interested person status or participating in the proceeding;

(B) the decision being appealed is the grant or denial of interested person status; or

(C) some other condition exists which would result in manifest injustice if the person's right to appeal was disallowed.

* * *

(d) Requirement that aggrieved Act 250 parties participate before the district commission.

(1) No aggrieved person may appeal an act or decision that was made by a district commission unless the person was granted party status by the district commission pursuant to subdivision 6085(c)(1)(E) of this title, participated in the proceedings before the district commission, and retained party status at the end of the district commission proceedings. In addition, the person may only appeal those issues under the criteria with respect to which the person was granted party status.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (d)(1) of this section, an aggrieved person may appeal an act or decision of the district commission if, upon motion filed by the person no later than the deadline for filing a statement of questions on appeal, the environmental judge determines that:

(A) there was a procedural defect which prevented the person from obtaining party status or participating in the proceeding;

(B) the decision being appealed is the grant or denial of party status; or

(C) some other condition exists which would result would result in manifest injustice if the person's right to appeal was disallowed.

* * *

and by renumbering all remaining sections to be numerically correct

**AMENDMENT TO S. 78 TO BE OFFERED BY ILLUZZI BEFORE
THIRD READING**

Senator Illuzzi moves to amend the bill as follows

First: In Sec. 1, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (1) to read as follows:

(1) The Vermont telecommunications authority (VTA) was established under No. 79 of the Acts of 2007 to facilitate the provision of universal access to affordable cellular and broadband services in Vermont.

Second: In Sec. 1, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) The general assembly has made substantial investments in furtherance of the goal of providing universal access to affordable cellular and broadband services. For example, in fiscal year 2011, the general assembly appropriated \$7,350,000.00 to the VTA to bring broadband services to unserved target communities and underserved business districts, pursuant to Sec. 2(b) of No. 161 and Sec. 4 of No. 78 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010). The general assembly has also appropriated, including the appropriation for the next fiscal year, \$2.35 million to fund the operations of the VTA.

Third: In Sec. 1, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (9) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (9) to read as follows:

(9) With the recent influx of federal dollars for cellular, broadband, and smart grid initiatives, Vermont is well positioned to achieve the goal of providing universal availability of cellular and broadband services throughout the state. That technology will include a 4G LTE wireless network.

Fourth: In Sec. 1, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (13) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (13) to read as follows:

(13) It is imperative that Vermont create a regulatory environment in which all telecommunications carriers can compete fairly. The VTA made a critical decision when it chose to be a competitor instead of an objective coordinator.

Fifth: In Sec. 1, in subdivision (b), by adding subdivision (15) to read as follows:

(15) It is essential to bring broadband technologies to our educational institutions. In doing so, we further our state's commitment to supporting and enhancing the learning opportunities for our young talent and next generation of Vermont's workforce. Particularly in a rural state where many of our student population are isolated and without the wherewithal to travel, high speed, redundant, reliable, and secure Internet connectivity is imperative.

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct

**AMENDMENT TO S. 78 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR
MACDONALD BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator MacDonald moves to amend the bill by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 25a to read as follows:

Sec. 25a. 3 V.S.A. § 2222c is added to read:

BROADBAND AND WIRELESS DEPLOYMENT

(a) DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

(1) “Broadband” means high speed Internet access and includes all facilities, equipment, and apparatus used by a person or entity to provide such access to an end user.

(2) “Mbps” means megabits per second.

(3) “Wireless communications service” means retail communications service that allows for two-way transmission of voice and data using a local, state, national, or international network and in which the end user connects to the network using a circuit-switched handheld device with a built-in antenna that transmits voice or data through radio waves to a receiver that is located at or on a telecommunications facility as defined in section 248a of this title.

(b) REPORT; BROADBAND AND WIRELESS DEPLOYMENT; UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED AREAS

On or before January 30, 2012, the secretary of administration or designee shall report to the general assembly each of the following:

(1) As of January 1, 2014, based upon data submitted by the providers, the areas of the state that will not be served by broadband. The report shall reflect both areas currently served as of the date of the report, as well as areas proposed to be served on or before January 1, 2014, including broadband and wireless communications services funded in whole or in part pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5. The report shall include a map and a narrative description of each of the following, as of January 1, 2014:

(A) The areas served and the areas not served by broadband that has a download speed of at least 0.768 mbps and an upload speed of at least 0.2 mbps.

(B) The areas served and the areas not served by broadband that has a combined download and upload speed of at least five mpbs.

(C) The areas served and the areas not served by wireless communications service.

(2) Estimates as can reasonably be identified of the cost to:

(A) Provide broadband that has a download speed of at least 0.768 mbps and an upload speed of at least 0.2 mbps to areas not served by such broadband.

(B) Provide broadband that has a combined download and upload speed of at least five mbps to areas not served by such broadband.

(C) Provide wireless communications service to the areas identified under subdivision (1)(C) of this subsection as not receiving such service.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 78 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR
MACDONALD**

Senator MacDonald moves to amend the bill by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 25b to read as follows:

Sec. 25b. 30 V.S.A. § 202c is amended to read:

§ 202c. STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS; POLICY AND PLANNING

(a) The general assembly finds that advances in telecommunications technology and changes in federal regulatory policy are rapidly reshaping telecommunications services, thereby promising the people and businesses of the state improved communication and access to information, while creating new challenges for maintaining a robust, modern telecommunications network in Vermont.

(b) Therefore, to direct the benefits of improved telecommunications technology to all Vermonters, it is the purpose of this section and section 202d of this title to:

- (1) Strengthen the state's role in telecommunications planning.
- (2) Support the universal availability of appropriate infrastructure and affordable services for transmitting voice and high-speed data.
- (3) Support the availability of modern mobile wireless telecommunications services along the state's travel corridors and in the state's communities.
- (4) Provide for high-quality, reliable telecommunications services for Vermont businesses and residents.
- (5) Provide the benefits of future advances in telecommunications technologies to Vermont residents and businesses.
- (6) Support competitive choice for consumers among telecommunications service providers and promote open access among competitive service providers on nondiscriminatory terms to networks over which broadband and telecommunications services are delivered.
- (7) Support the application of telecommunications technology to maintain and improve governmental and public services, public safety, and the economic development of the state.
- (8) Support, to the extent practical and cost-effective, deployment of broadband infrastructure that:

(A) Uses the best commercially available technology.

(B) Does not negatively affect the ability of Vermont to take advantage of future improvements in broadband technology or result in widespread installation of technology that becomes outmoded within a short period after installation.

(9) In the deployment of broadband infrastructure pursuant to the objectives set forth in S.78 of the Acts of 2011, encourage the use of existing facilities, such as existing utility poles and corridors and other structures, in preference to the construction of new facilities or the replacement of existing structures with taller structures.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 78 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR ASHE
BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator Ashe moves to amend the bill by adding Sec. 24b to read as follows:

Sec. 24b. DUTIES OF THE VERMONT TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2013

(a) **Findings and Purpose.** With limited state financial resources available to fulfill the mission of the Vermont telecommunications authority (VTA), as described in 30 V.S.A. § 8060, it is critical that any state funds spent in furtherance of that mission do not have the effect of providing broadband or cellular service to an unserved area that is already intended to be served by a telecommunications project on or before January 1, 2014, including projects funded in whole or in part under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5. It is in the public interest, therefore, to cease further public expenditures through the VTA for new telecommunications facilities and instead, for a limited time, focus the VTA's resources on performing a thorough and specific identification of all areas in Vermont that would remain unserved as of January 1, 2014 without the benefit of state financial assistance, as required by subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) **Limited VTA Authority.** Notwithstanding the provisions of 30 V.S.A. §§ 8061 through 8079, the VTA shall not, prior to January 15, 2012:

(1) expend state funds or issue bonds for the construction or installation of telecommunications facilities;

(2) issue a request for proposals for the construction or installation of telecommunications facilities; or

(3) expend state funds to secure site control for the purpose of constructing or installing telecommunications facilities.

(c) VTA Charge. Beginning on the effective date of this act and until January 15, 2012, the primary goal of the VTA shall be to identify areas in Vermont that would remain unserved on or after January 1, 2014 without the benefit of state financial assistance and to devise a detailed strategic plan to fill those gaps in broadband and cellular service. The strategic plan shall seek to minimize the use of state funds and shall require the least amount of new construction or installation of telecommunications facilities necessary to fulfill its goal under this subsection. The strategic plan shall be delivered to the joint fiscal committee not later than January 15, 2012, and shall be implemented only upon approval by the joint fiscal committee.

(d) Subsection (b) of this section shall not interfere with any contractual rights or responsibilities entered into by the VTA on or before the effective date of this act.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 78 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR ASHE
BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator Ashe moves to amend the bill by adding Sec. 24c to read as follows:

**Sec. 24c. REPORT ON VTA'S SUSTAINABILITY ONCE 100 PERCENT
COVERAGE ACHIEVED**

(a) The mission of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA), as described in 30 V.S.A § 8060 (b)(1) and (2), is to ensure "that all residences and business in all regions of the state have access to affordable broadband services" and to ensure "the ubiquitous availability of mobile telecommunication services" by the end of 2010, now to be extended to 2013.

(b) It is not clear what role the VTA intends to play in Vermont's telecommunications landscape after December 31, 2013 when 100 percent broadband and cell coverage have been achieved in Vermont. It is not clear what source of revenues, if any, will support the VTA's operations into the future. It is not clear that Vermont taxpayers can continue to sustain the VTA's operational budget, which is \$900,000 under Secs. B.101 and D.101 of H.441 of the 2011 legislative session, as passed the House.

(c) The executive director of the VTA shall report to the chairs of the Senate Finance and Senate Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs Committees, and the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee, with a detailed plan demonstrating the extent to which revenues from VTA-owned infrastructure and lease agreements will be sufficient to fund the VTA's operating expenses beginning January 1, 2014. The report shall also detail how the revenues from those sources will be sufficient, after subtracting out VTA operating costs, to "continuously upgrade" broadband and cellular

infrastructure throughout Vermont equitably and in time with technological advances.

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 52.

An act relating to the definition of poultry products.

Reported favorably by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Agriculture.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of February 16, 2011, page 268)

H. 172.

An act relating to repealing the sale or lease of the John F. Boylan airport.

Reported favorably by Senator Benning for the Committee on Institutions.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 26.

An act relating to limiting the application of fertilizer containing phosphorus or nitrogen to nonagricultural turf.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1266b is added to read:

§ 1266b. APPLICATION OF PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Compost” means a stable humus-like material produced by the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter through active management, but shall not mean sewage, septage, or materials derived from sewage or septage.

(2) “Fertilizer” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 363(5).

(3) “Impervious surface” means those manmade surfaces, including paved and unpaved roads, parking areas, roofs, driveways, and walkways, from which precipitation runs off rather than infiltrates.

(4) “Manipulated animal or vegetable manure” means manure that is ground, pelletized, mechanically dried, supplemented with plant nutrients or substances other than phosphorus or phosphate, or otherwise treated to assist with the use of manure as fertilizer.

(5) “Phosphorus fertilizer” means fertilizer labeled for use on turf in which the available phosphate content is greater than 0.67 percent by weight, except that “phosphorus fertilizer” shall not include compost or manipulated animal or vegetable manure.

(6)(A) “Turf” means land planted in closely mowed, managed grasses, including residential and commercial property and publicly owned land, parks, and recreation areas.

(B) “Turf” shall not include:

(i) pasture, cropland, land used to grow sod, or any other land used for agricultural production; or

(ii) private and public golf courses.

(7) “Water” or “water of the state” means all rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, reservoirs, ponds, lakes, springs, and all bodies of surface waters, artificial or natural, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon the state or any portion of it.

(b) Application of phosphorus fertilizer.

(1) No person shall apply phosphorus fertilizer to turf except for:

(A) phosphorus fertilizer necessary for application to turf that is deficient in phosphorus as shown by a soil test performed no more than 18 months before the application of the fertilizer; or

(B) phosphorus fertilizer that is labeled as starter fertilizer and that is intended for application to turf when a property owner or an agent of a property owner is first establishing grass in turf via seed or sod procedures and the application of starter fertilizer is limited to the first growing season.

(2) On or before October 1, 2011, the secretary of agriculture, food and markets, after consultation with the University of Vermont, shall approve a standard, which may authorize multiple testing methods, for the soil test required under subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection.

(c) Application of fertilizer to impervious surface; in proximity to water; and seasonal restriction. No person shall apply any fertilizer:

(1) to an impervious surface. Fertilizer applied or released to an impervious surface shall be immediately collected and returned to a container for legal application. This subdivision shall not apply to activities regulated under the accepted agricultural practices as those practices are defined by the secretary of agriculture, food and markets under 6 V.S.A. § 4810;

(2) to turf before April 1 or after October 15 in any calendar year or at any time when the ground is frozen; or

(3) to turf within 25 feet of a water of the state.

(d) Retail display of phosphorus fertilizer. If a retailer sells or offers for sale phosphorus fertilizer to consumers and consumers have direct access to the phosphorus fertilizer, the retailer shall:

(1) In the retail area where phosphorus fertilizer is accessible by a consumer, display nonphosphorus fertilizer separately from phosphorus fertilizer; and

(2) Post in the retail location, if any, where phosphorus fertilizer is accessible by the consumer a clearly visible sign that is at least eight and one-half inches by 11 inches in size and that states “Phosphorus runoff poses a threat to water quality. Most Vermont lawns do not benefit from fertilizer containing phosphorus. Under Vermont law, fertilizer containing phosphorus shall not be applied to lawn unless applied to new lawn or lawn that is deficient for phosphorus as indicated by a soil test.”

(e) Violations. A person who knowingly and intentionally violates this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500.00 per violation. A violation of this section shall be enforceable in the judicial bureau pursuant to the provisions of chapter 29 of Title 4 in an action that may be brought by the agency of agriculture, food and markets or the agency of natural resources.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 381 is added to read:

§ 381. GOLF COURSES; NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Beginning July 1, 2012, as a condition of the permit issued to golf courses under chapter 87 of this title and regulations adopted thereunder, a golf course shall be required to submit to the secretary of agriculture, food and markets a nutrient management plan for the use and application of fertilizer to grasses or other lands owned or controlled by the golf course. The nutrient management plan shall ensure that the golf course applies fertilizer according to the agronomic rates for the site-specific conditions of the golf course.

Sec. 3. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) A judicial bureau is created within the judicial branch under the supervision of the supreme court.

(b) The judicial bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

(1) Traffic violations alleged to have been committed on or after July 1, 1990.

(2) Civil ordinance violations alleged to have been committed on or after July 1, 1994.

(3) Minor fish and wildlife violations alleged to have been committed on or after September 1, 1996.

* * *

(21) Violations of 13 V.S.A. §§ 3602 and 3603, relating to the unlawful cutting of trees and the marking of harvest units.

(22) Violations of 10 V.S.A. § 1266b, relating to the application of fertilizer to nonagricultural turf.

(c) The judicial bureau shall not have jurisdiction over municipal parking violations.

(d) Three hearing officers appointed by the court administrator shall determine waiver penalties to be imposed for violations within the judicial bureau's jurisdiction, except:

(1) Municipalities shall adopt full and waiver penalties for civil ordinance violations pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1979. For purposes of municipal violations, the issuing law enforcement officer shall indicate the appropriate full and waiver penalty on the complaint.

(2) The agency of natural resources and the natural resources board shall include full and waiver penalties in each rule that is adopted under 10 V.S.A. § 8019. For purposes of environmental violations, the issuing entity shall indicate the appropriate full and waiver penalties on the complaint.

Sec. 4. Sec. E.700.1 of Act No. 1 2009 Special Sess. is amended to read:

Sec. E.700.1 REPORT AND RULEMAKING ON WATER MANAGEMENT TYPING FOR THE WHITE RIVER BASIN AND THE WEST, WILLIAMS, AND SAXONS RIVER BASIN

(a) On or before January 31, 2011, the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission and the Windham Regional Commission shall submit to the agency of natural resources and the natural resources board the recommended water management type designations required under Sec. E.700(a)(1) and (2) of this act. Upon receipt of the recommended water management type designations required under this section, the agency of natural resources shall

post the recommended water management type designations to its website and shall make the recommendations available to any person upon request.

(b) ~~Within three months of receipt of the recommended water management type designations under this section, the~~ The natural resources board shall initiate rulemaking to amend the water management types in order to consider the recommended water management type designations for the White River basin and the West, Williams and Saxons River basin.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) This section and Sec. 4 (water management typing) of this act shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 1 (application of fertilizer), 2 (golf course management plans) and 3 (judicial bureau offense) of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

and, after passage, by amending the title to read “An act relating to the application of phosphorus fertilizer to nonagricultural turf”

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 23, 2011, page 327; February 24, 2011, page 340.)

H. 88.

An act relating to uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Nitka for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. chapter 20 is added to read:

CHAPTER 20. UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY

JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 1061. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Abandoned” means left without provision for reasonable and necessary care or supervision.

(2) “Child” means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age.

(3) “Child custody determination” means a judgment, decree, or other order of a court providing for the legal custody, physical custody, or visitation with respect to a child. The term includes a permanent, temporary, initial, or modification order. The term does not include an order relating to child support or other monetary obligation of an individual. The term includes “parental rights and responsibilities” and “parent child contact” as those terms are defined in section 664 of this title.

(4) “Child custody proceeding” means a proceeding in which legal custody or parental rights, physical custody, or visitation or parent child contact with respect to a child is an issue. The term includes a proceeding for divorce, separation, neglect, abuse, dependency, guardianship, paternity, termination of parental rights, and protection from domestic violence in which the issue may appear. The term does not include a proceeding involving juvenile delinquency, contractual emancipation, or enforcement under subchapter 3 of this chapter.

(5) “Commencement” means the filing of the first pleading in a proceeding.

(6) “Court” means an entity authorized under the law of a state to establish, enforce, or modify a child custody determination.

(7) “Home state” means the state in which a child lived with a parent or a person acting as a parent for at least six consecutive months immediately before the commencement of a child custody proceeding. In the case of a child less than six months of age, the term means the state in which the child lived from birth with any of the persons mentioned. A period of temporary absence of any of the mentioned persons is part of the period.

(8) “Initial determination” means the first child custody determination concerning a particular child.

(9) “Issuing court” means the court that makes a child custody determination for which enforcement is sought under this chapter.

(10) “Issuing state” means the state in which a child custody determination is made.

(11) “Modification” means a child custody determination that changes, replaces, supersedes, or is otherwise made after a previous determination concerning the same child, whether or not it is made by the court that made the previous determination.

(12) “Person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, government; governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; public corporation; or any other legal or commercial entity.

(13) “Person acting as a parent” means a person, other than a parent, who:

(A) has physical custody of the child or has had physical custody for a period of six consecutive months, including any temporary absence, within one year immediately before the commencement of a child custody proceeding; and

(B) has been awarded legal custody by a court or claims a right to legal custody under the law of Vermont.

(14) “Physical custody” means the physical care and supervision of a child.

(15) “State” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(16) “Warrant” means an order issued by a court authorizing law enforcement officers to take physical custody of a child.

§ 1062. PROCEEDINGS GOVERNED BY OTHER LAW

This chapter does not govern an adoption proceeding or a proceeding pertaining to the authorization of emergency medical care for a child.

§ 1063. APPLICATION TO INDIAN TRIBES; INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

(a) A child custody proceeding that pertains to an Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1901 et seq., is not subject to this chapter to the extent that it is governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act.

(b) A Vermont court shall treat a foreign country as if it were a state of the United States for the purpose of applying this subchapter and subchapter 2 of this chapter.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, a child custody determination made in a foreign country under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the jurisdictional standards of this chapter must be recognized and enforced under subchapter 3 of this chapter.

(d) A Vermont court need not apply this chapter if the child custody law of a foreign country violates fundamental principles of human rights.

§ 1064. EFFECT OF CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION

A child custody determination made by a Vermont court that had jurisdiction under this chapter binds all persons who have been served in accordance with the Vermont laws or notified in accordance with section 1066 of this title or who have submitted to the jurisdiction of the court, and who

have been given an opportunity to be heard. As to those persons, the determination is conclusive as to all decided issues of law and fact except to the extent the determination is modified.

§ 1065. PRIORITY

If a question of existence or exercise of jurisdiction under this chapter is raised in a child custody proceeding, the question, upon request of a party, must be given priority on the calendar and handled expeditiously.

§ 1066. NOTICE TO PERSONS OUTSIDE STATE

(a) Notice required for the exercise of jurisdiction when a person is outside Vermont may be given in a manner prescribed by the law of Vermont for service of process or by the law of the state in which the service is made. Notice shall be given in a manner reasonably calculated to give actual notice but may be by publication if other means are not effective.

(b) Proof of service may be made in the manner prescribed by the law of Vermont or by the law of the state in which the service is made.

(c) Notice is not required for the exercise of jurisdiction with respect to a person who submits to the jurisdiction of the court.

§ 1067. APPEARANCE AND LIMITED IMMUNITY

(a) A party to a child custody proceeding, including a modification proceeding, or a petitioner or respondent in a proceeding to enforce or register a child custody determination, is not subject to personal jurisdiction in Vermont for another proceeding or purpose solely by reason of having participated or of having been physically present for the purpose of participating in the proceeding.

(b) A person who is subject to personal jurisdiction in Vermont on a basis other than physical presence is not immune from service of process in Vermont. A party present in Vermont who is subject to the jurisdiction of another state is not immune from service of process allowable under the laws of that state.

(c) The immunity granted by subsection (a) of this section does not extend to civil litigation based on acts unrelated to the participation in a proceeding under this chapter committed by an individual while present in Vermont.

§ 1068. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COURTS

(a) A Vermont court may communicate with a court in another state concerning a proceeding arising under this chapter.

(b) The court may allow the parties to participate in the communication. If the parties are not able to participate in the communication, they shall be given

the opportunity to present facts and legal arguments before a decision on jurisdiction is made.

(c) Communication between courts on schedules, calendars, court records, and similar matters may occur without informing the parties. A record need not be made of the communication.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, a record shall be made of a communication under this section. The parties shall be informed promptly of the communication and granted access to the record.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

§ 1069. TAKING TESTIMONY IN ANOTHER STATE

(a) A party to a child custody proceeding may, in addition to other procedures available to a party, offer testimony of witnesses who are located in another state, including testimony of the parties and the child, by deposition or other means allowable in Vermont for testimony taken in another state. The court on its own motion may order that the testimony of a person be taken in another state and may prescribe the manner in which and the terms upon which the testimony is taken.

(b) A Vermont court may permit an individual residing in another state to be deposed or to testify by telephone, audiovisual means, or other electronic means before a designated court or at another location in that state. A Vermont court shall cooperate with courts of other states in designating an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.

(c) Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a Vermont court by technological means that do not produce an original writing may not be excluded from evidence on an objection based on the means of transmission.

§ 1070. COOPERATION BETWEEN COURTS; PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

(a) A Vermont court may request the appropriate court of another state to:

(1) hold an evidentiary hearing;

(2) order a person to produce or give evidence pursuant to procedures of that state;

(3) order that an evaluation be made with respect to the custody of a child involved in a pending proceeding;

(4) forward to the Vermont court a certified copy of the transcript of the record of the hearing, the evidence otherwise presented, and any evaluation prepared in compliance with the request; and

(5) order a party to a child custody proceeding or any person having physical custody of the child to appear in the proceeding with or without the child.

(b) Upon request of a court of another state, a Vermont court may hold a hearing or enter an order described in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Travel and other necessary and reasonable expenses incurred under subsections (a) and (b) of this section may be assessed against the parties according to Vermont law.

(d) A Vermont court shall preserve the pleadings, orders, decrees, records of hearings, evaluations, and other pertinent records with respect to a child custody proceeding until the child attains 18 years of age. Upon appropriate request by a court or law enforcement official of another state, the court shall forward a certified copy of those records.

Subchapter 2. Jurisdiction

§ 1071. INITIAL CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION

(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 1074 of this title, a Vermont court has jurisdiction to make an initial child custody determination only if:

(1) Vermont is the home state of the child on the date of the commencement of the proceeding or was the home state of the child within six months before the commencement of the proceeding and the child is absent from Vermont, but a parent or person acting as a parent continues to live in Vermont;

(2) A court of another state does not have jurisdiction under subdivision (1) of this subsection, or a court of the home state of the child has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the ground that Vermont is the more appropriate forum under section 1077 or 1078 of this title, and:

(A) the child and the child's parents, or the child and at least one parent or a person acting as a parent, have a significant connection with Vermont other than mere physical presence; and

(B) substantial evidence is available in Vermont concerning the child's care, protection, training, and personal relationships;

(3) All courts having jurisdiction under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection have declined to exercise jurisdiction on the grounds that a Vermont court is the more appropriate forum to determine the custody of the child under section 1077 or 1078 of this title; or

(4) No court of any other state would have jurisdiction under the criteria specified in subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section is the exclusive jurisdictional basis for making a child custody determination by a Vermont court.

(c) Physical presence of, or personal jurisdiction over, a party or a child is not necessary or sufficient to make a child custody determination.

§ 1072. EXCLUSIVE; CONTINUING JURISDICTION

(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 1074 of this title, a Vermont court which has made a child custody determination consistent with section 1071 or 1073 of this title has exclusive, continuing jurisdiction over the determination until:

(1) a Vermont court determines that neither the child nor the child and one parent nor the child and a person acting as a parent have a significant connection with Vermont, and that substantial evidence is no longer available in Vermont concerning the child's care, protection, training, and personal relationships; or

(2) a Vermont court or a court of another state determines that the child, the child's parents, and any person acting as a parent do not currently reside in Vermont.

(b) A Vermont court which has made a child custody determination and does not have exclusive, continuing jurisdiction under this section may modify that determination only if it has jurisdiction to make an initial determination under section 1071 of this title.

§ 1073. JURISDICTION TO MODIFY DETERMINATION

Except as otherwise provided in section 1074 of this title, a Vermont court may not modify a child custody determination made by a court of another state unless a Vermont court has jurisdiction to make an initial determination under subdivision 1071(a)(1) or (2) of this title and:

(1) the court of the other state determines it no longer has exclusive, continuing jurisdiction under section 1072 of this title or that a Vermont court would be a more convenient forum under section 1077 of this title; or

(2) a Vermont court or a court of the other state determines that the child, the child's parents, and any person acting as a parent do not currently reside in the other state.

§ 1074. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY JURISDICTION

(a) A Vermont court has temporary emergency jurisdiction if the child is present in Vermont, and the child has been abandoned or it is necessary in an

emergency to protect the child because the child, or a sibling or parent of the child, is subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse.

(b) If there is no previous child custody determination that is entitled to be enforced under this chapter, and a child custody proceeding has not been commenced in a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title, a child custody determination made under this section remains in effect until an order is obtained from a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title. If a child custody proceeding has not been or is not commenced in a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title, a child custody determination made under this section becomes a final determination, if it so provides, and Vermont becomes the home state of the child.

(c) If there is a previous child custody determination that is entitled to be enforced under this chapter, or a child custody proceeding has been commenced in a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title, any order issued by a Vermont court under this section shall specify in the order a period that the court considers adequate to allow the person seeking an order to obtain an order from the state having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title. The order issued in Vermont remains in effect until an order is obtained from the other state within the period specified or the period expires.

(d) A Vermont court which has been asked to make a child custody determination under this section upon being informed that a child custody proceeding has been commenced in, or a child custody determination has been made by, a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title shall immediately communicate with the other court. A Vermont court which is exercising jurisdiction pursuant to sections 1071–1073 of this title, upon being informed that a child custody proceeding has been commenced in, or a child custody determination has been made by, a court of another state under a statute similar to this section, shall immediately communicate with the court of that state to resolve the emergency, protect the safety of the parties and the child, and determine a period for the duration of the temporary order.

§ 1075. NOTICE; OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD; JOINDER

(a) Before a child custody determination is made under this chapter, notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the standards of section 1066 of this title shall be given to all persons entitled to notice under Vermont law as in child custody proceedings between Vermont residents, any parent whose parental rights have not been previously terminated, and any person having physical custody of the child.

(b) This chapter does not govern the enforceability of a child custody determination made without notice or an opportunity to be heard.

(c) The obligation to join a party and the right to intervene as a party in a child custody proceeding under this chapter are governed by Vermont law as in child custody proceedings between Vermont residents.

§ 1076. SIMULTANEOUS PROCEEDINGS

(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 1074 of this title, a Vermont court may not exercise its jurisdiction under this subchapter if, at the time of the commencement of the proceeding, a proceeding concerning the custody of the child has been commenced in a court of another state having jurisdiction substantially in conformity with this chapter, unless the proceeding has been terminated or is stayed by the court of the other state because a Vermont court is a more convenient forum under section 1077 of this title.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in section 1074 of this title, a Vermont court, before hearing a child custody proceeding, shall examine the court documents and other information supplied by the parties pursuant to section 1079 of this title. If the court determines that a child custody proceeding has been commenced in a court in another state having jurisdiction substantially in accordance with this chapter, the Vermont court shall stay its proceeding and communicate with the court of the other state. If the court of the state having jurisdiction substantially in accordance with this chapter does not determine that the Vermont court is a more appropriate forum, the Vermont court shall dismiss the proceeding.

(c) In a proceeding to modify a child custody determination, a Vermont court shall determine whether a proceeding to enforce the determination has been commenced in another state. If a proceeding to enforce a child custody determination has been commenced in another state, the court may:

(1) stay the proceeding for modification pending the entry of an order of a court of the other state enforcing, staying, denying, or dismissing the proceeding for enforcement;

(2) enjoin the parties from continuing with the proceeding for enforcement; or

(3) proceed with the modification under conditions it considers appropriate.

§ 1077. INCONVENIENT FORUM

(a) A Vermont court which has jurisdiction under this chapter to make a child custody determination may decline to exercise its jurisdiction at any time if it determines that it is an inconvenient forum under the circumstances, and that a court of another state is a more appropriate forum. The issue of

inconvenient forum may be raised upon motion of a party, the court's own motion, or a request of another court.

(b) Before determining whether it is an inconvenient forum, a Vermont court shall consider whether it is appropriate for a court of another state to exercise jurisdiction. For this purpose, the court shall allow the parties to submit information and shall consider all relevant factors, including:

(1) whether domestic violence has occurred and is likely to continue in the future and which state could best protect the parties and the child;

(2) the length of time the child has resided outside Vermont;

(3) the distance between the Vermont court and the court in the state that would assume jurisdiction;

(4) the relative financial circumstances of the parties;

(5) any agreement of the parties as to which state should assume jurisdiction;

(6) the nature and location of the evidence required to resolve the pending litigation, including testimony of the child;

(7) the ability of the court of each state to decide the issue expeditiously and the procedures necessary to present the evidence; and

(8) the familiarity of the court of each state with the facts and issues in the pending litigation.

(c) If a Vermont court determines that it is an inconvenient forum, and that a court of another state is a more appropriate forum, it shall stay the proceedings upon condition that a child custody proceeding be promptly commenced in another designated state and may impose any other condition the court considers just and proper.

(d) A Vermont court may decline to exercise its jurisdiction under this chapter if a child custody determination is incidental to an action for divorce or another proceeding while still retaining jurisdiction over the divorce or other proceeding.

§ 1078. JURISDICTION DECLINED BY REASON OF CONDUCT

(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 1074 of this title or other Vermont law, if a Vermont court has jurisdiction under this chapter because a person seeking to invoke its jurisdiction has engaged in unjustifiable conduct, the court shall decline to exercise its jurisdiction unless:

(1) the parents and all persons acting as parents have acquiesced in the exercise of jurisdiction;

(2) a court of the state otherwise having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title determines that Vermont is a more appropriate forum under section 1077 of this title; or

(3) no court of any other state would have jurisdiction under the criteria specified in sections 1071–1073 of this title.

(b) If a Vermont court declines to exercise its jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, it may fashion an appropriate remedy to ensure the safety of the child and prevent a repetition of the unjustifiable conduct, including staying the proceeding until a child custody proceeding is commenced in a court having jurisdiction under sections 1071–1073 of this title.

(c) If a court dismisses a petition or stays a proceeding because it declines to exercise its jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, it may assess against the party seeking to invoke its jurisdiction necessary and reasonable expenses, including costs, communication expenses, attorney’s fees, investigative fees, expenses for witnesses, travel expenses, and child care during the course of the proceedings, unless the party from whom fees are sought establishes that the assessment would be clearly inappropriate. The court may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against Vermont unless authorized by law other than this chapter.

§ 1079. INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO COURT

(a) In accordance with Vermont law regarding the confidentiality of procedures, addresses, and other identifying information in a child custody proceeding, each party, in its first pleading or in an attached affidavit, shall give information, if reasonably ascertainable, under oath as to the child’s present address or whereabouts, the places where the child has lived during the last five years, and the names and present addresses of the persons with whom the child has lived during that period. The pleading or affidavit shall state whether the party:

(1) has participated, as a party or witness or in any other capacity, in any other proceeding concerning the custody of or visitation with the child and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the date of the child custody determination, if any;

(2) knows of any other proceeding that could affect the current proceeding, including any proceeding for enforcement and any proceeding relating to domestic violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoptions and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the nature of the proceeding; and

(3) knows the names and addresses of any person not a party to the proceeding who has physical custody of the child or claims rights of legal custody or physical custody of or visitation with the child and, if so, give the names and addresses of those persons.

(b) If the information required by subsection (a) of this section is not furnished, the court, upon motion of a party or its own motion, may stay the proceeding until the information is furnished.

(c) If the declaration as to any of the items described in subdivisions (a)(1)–(3) of this section is in the affirmative, the declarant shall give additional information under oath as required by the court. The court may examine the parties under oath as to details of the information furnished and other matters pertinent to the court’s jurisdiction and the disposition of the case.

(d) Each party has a continuing duty to inform the court of any proceeding in this or any other state that could affect the current proceeding.

(e) If a party alleges in an affidavit or a pleading under oath that the health, safety, or liberty of a party or child would be jeopardized by disclosure of identifying information, the information must be sealed and may not be disclosed to the other party or the public unless the court orders the disclosure to be made after a hearing in which the court takes into consideration the health, safety, or liberty of the party or child and determines that the disclosure is in the interest of justice.

(f) As used in the section, the term “party” shall not include, in a proceeding under chapter 51 or 53 of Title 33, a state’s attorney, the commissioner for children and families, or the child.

§ 1080. APPEARANCE OF PARTIES AND CHILD

(a) In a child custody proceeding in Vermont, the court may order a party to the proceeding who is in Vermont to appear before the court in person with or without the child. The court may order any person who is in Vermont and who has physical custody or control of the child to appear in person with the child.

(b) If a party to a child custody proceeding whose presence is desired by the court is outside Vermont, the court may order that a notice given pursuant to section 1066 of this title include a statement directing the party to appear in person with or without the child and informing the party that failure to appear may result in a decision adverse to the party.

(c) The court may enter any orders necessary to ensure the safety of the child and of any person ordered to appear under this section.

(d) If a party to a child custody proceeding who is outside Vermont is directed to appear under subsection (b) of this section or desires to appear personally before the court with or without the child, the court may require another party to pay reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses of the party so appearing and of the child.

Subchapter 3. Enforcement

§ 1081. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Petitioner” means a person who seeks enforcement of an order for return of a child under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or enforcement of a child custody determination.

(2) “Respondent” means a person against whom a proceeding has been commenced for enforcement of an order for return of a child under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or enforcement of a child custody determination.

§ 1082. ENFORCEMENT UNDER HAGUE CONVENTION

Under this subchapter, a Vermont court may enforce an order for the return of the child made under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction as if it were a child custody determination.

§ 1083. DUTY TO ENFORCE

(a) A Vermont court shall recognize and enforce a child custody determination of a court of another state if the latter court exercised jurisdiction in substantial conformity with this chapter or the determination was made under factual circumstances meeting the jurisdictional standards of this chapter and if the determination has not been modified in accordance with this chapter.

(b) A Vermont court may utilize any remedy available under Vermont law to enforce a child custody determination made by a court of another state. The remedies provided in this subchapter are cumulative and do not affect the availability of other remedies to enforce a child custody determination.

§ 1084. TEMPORARY VISITATION

(a) A Vermont court which does not have jurisdiction to modify a child custody determination may issue a temporary order enforcing:

(1) a visitation schedule made by a court of another state; or

(2) the visitation provisions of a child custody determination of another state that does not provide for a specific visitation schedule.

(b) If a Vermont court makes an order under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, it shall specify in the order a period that it considers adequate to allow the petitioner to obtain an order from a court having jurisdiction under the criteria specified in subchapter 2 of this chapter. The order remains in effect until an order is obtained from the other court or until the period expires.

§ 1085. REGISTRATION OF CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION

(a) A child custody determination issued by a court of another state may be registered in Vermont, with or without a simultaneous request for enforcement, by sending to the family division of the superior court in the county in which a person listed in subdivision (3) of this subsection or the child resides:

(1) a letter or other document requesting registration;

(2) two copies, including one certified copy, of the determination sought to be registered and a statement under penalty of perjury that to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person seeking registration the order has not been modified; and

(3) except as otherwise provided in section 1079 of this title, the name and address of the person seeking registration and any parent or person acting as a parent who has been awarded custody or visitation in the child custody determination sought to be registered.

(b) On receipt of the documents required by subsection (a) of this section, the court administrator shall:

(1) cause the determination to be filed as a foreign judgment, together with one copy of any accompanying documents and information, regardless of their form; and

(2) serve notice upon the persons named pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section and provide them with an opportunity to contest the registration in accordance with this section.

(c) The notice required by subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall state that:

(1) a registered determination is enforceable as of the date of the registration in the same manner as a determination issued by a Vermont court;

(2) a hearing to contest the validity of the registered determination must be requested within 20 days after service of notice; and

(3) failure to contest the registration will result in confirmation of the child custody determination and preclude further contest of that determination with respect to any matter that could have been asserted.

(d) A person seeking to contest the validity of a registered order must request a hearing before the court in the county in which such person or the

child resides within 20 days after service of the notice. At that hearing, the court shall confirm the registered order unless the person contesting registration establishes that:

(1) the issuing court did not have jurisdiction under subchapter 2 of this chapter;

(2) the child custody determination sought to be registered has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court having jurisdiction to do so under subchapter 2 of this chapter; or

(3) the person contesting registration was entitled to notice, but notice was not given in accordance with the standards of section 1066 of this title in the proceedings before the court that issued the order for which registration is sought.

(e) If a timely request for a hearing to contest the validity of the registration is not made, the registration is confirmed as a matter of law, and the person requesting registration and all persons served shall be notified of the confirmation.

(f) Confirmation of a registered order, whether by operation of law or after notice and hearing, precludes further contest of the order with respect to any matter that could have been asserted at the time of registration.

§ 1086. ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTERED DETERMINATION

(a) A Vermont court may grant any relief normally available under Vermont law to enforce a registered child custody determination made by a court of another state.

(b) A Vermont court shall recognize and enforce but may not modify, except in accordance with subchapter 2 of this chapter, a registered child custody determination of a court of another state.

§ 1087. SIMULTANEOUS PROCEEDINGS

If a proceeding for enforcement under this subchapter is commenced in a Vermont court and the court determines that a proceeding to modify the determination is pending in a court of another state having jurisdiction to modify the determination under subchapter 2 of this chapter, the enforcing court shall immediately communicate with the modifying court. The proceeding for enforcement shall continue unless the enforcing court, after consultation with the modifying court, stays or dismisses the proceeding.

§ 1088. EXPEDITED ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION

(a) A petition under this subchapter shall be verified. Certified copies of all orders sought to be enforced and of any order confirming registration shall be

attached to the petition. A copy of a certified copy of an order may be attached instead of the original.

(b) A petition for enforcement of a child custody determination shall state:

(1) whether the court that issued the determination identified the jurisdictional basis it relied upon in exercising jurisdiction and, if so, what the basis was;

(2) whether the determination for which enforcement is sought has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court whose decision must be enforced under this chapter and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the nature of the proceeding;

(3) whether any proceeding has been commenced that could affect the current proceeding, including proceedings relating to domestic violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoptions and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the nature of the proceeding;

(4) the present physical address of the child and the respondent, if known;

(5) whether relief in addition to the immediate physical custody of the child and in addition to attorney's fees is sought, including a request for assistance from law enforcement officials and, if so, the relief sought; and

(6) if the child custody determination has been registered and confirmed under section 1085 of this title, the date and place of registration.

(c) Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall issue an order directing the respondent to appear in person with or without the child at a hearing and may enter any order necessary to ensure the safety of the parties and the child. The hearing must be held on the next judicial day after service of the order unless that date is impossible. In that event, the court shall hold the hearing on the first judicial day possible. The court may extend the date of hearing at the request of the petitioner.

(d) An order issued under subsection (c) of this section shall state the time and place of the hearing and advise the respondent that at the hearing the court will order that the petitioner may take immediate physical custody of the child and will order the payment of fees, costs, and expenses under section 1092 of this title, and the order may schedule a hearing to determine whether further relief is appropriate, unless the respondent appears and establishes that:

(1) the child custody determination has not been registered and confirmed under section 1085 of this title and:

(A) the issuing court did not have jurisdiction under subchapter 2 of this chapter;

(B) the child custody determination for which enforcement is sought has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court having jurisdiction to do so under subchapter 2 of this chapter; or

(C) the respondent was entitled to notice, but notice was not given in accordance with the standards of section 1066 of this title, in the proceedings before the court that issued the order for which enforcement is sought; or

(2) the child custody determination for which enforcement is sought was registered and confirmed under section 1084 of this title but has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under subchapter 2 of this chapter.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in section 1090 of this title, the petition and order shall be served by any method authorized by Vermont law upon the respondent and any person who has physical custody of the child.

§ 1089. HEARING AND ORDER

(a) Unless the court issues a temporary emergency order pursuant to section 1074 of this title, upon a finding that a petitioner is entitled to immediate physical custody of the child, the court shall order that the petitioner may take immediate physical custody of the child unless the respondent establishes that:

(1) the child custody determination has not been registered and confirmed under section 1085 of this title and that:

(A) the issuing court did not have jurisdiction under subchapter 2 of this chapter;

(B) the child custody determination for which enforcement is sought has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under subchapter 2 of this chapter; or

(C) the respondent was entitled to notice, but notice was not given in accordance with the standards of section 1066 of this title, in the proceedings before the court that issued the order for which enforcement is sought; or

(2) the child custody determination for which enforcement is sought was registered and confirmed under section 1085 of this title but has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under subchapter 2 of this chapter.

(b) The court may award the fees, costs, and expenses authorized under section 1091 of this title and may grant additional relief, including a request for the assistance of law enforcement officials, and set a further hearing to determine whether additional relief is appropriate.

(c) If a party called to testify refuses to answer on the grounds that the testimony may be self-incriminating, the court may draw an adverse inference from the refusal.

(d) A privilege against disclosure of communications between spouses and a defense of immunity based on the relationship of husband and wife or parent and child may not be invoked in a proceeding under this subchapter.

§ 1090. WARRANT TO TAKE PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF CHILD

(a) Upon the filing of a petition seeking enforcement of a child custody determination, the petitioner may file a verified application for the issuance of a warrant to take physical custody of the child if the child is immediately likely to suffer serious physical harm or to be removed from Vermont.

(b) If the court, upon the testimony of the petitioner or other witness, finds that the child is imminently likely to suffer serious physical harm or to be removed from Vermont, it may issue a warrant to take physical custody of the child. The petition must be heard on the next judicial day after the warrant is executed unless that date is impossible. In that event, the court shall hold the hearing on the first judicial day possible. The application for the warrant must include the statements required by subsection 1088(b) of this title.

(c) A warrant to take physical custody of a child shall:

(1) recite the facts upon which a conclusion of imminent serious physical harm or removal from the jurisdiction is based;

(2) direct law enforcement officers to take physical custody of the child immediately; and

(3) provide for the placement of the child pending final relief.

(d) The respondent must be served with the petition, warrant, and order immediately after the child is taken into physical custody.

(e) A warrant to take physical custody of a child is enforceable throughout Vermont. If the court finds on the basis of the testimony of the petitioner or other witness that a less intrusive remedy is not effective, it may authorize law enforcement officers to enter private property to take physical custody of the child. If required by exigent circumstances of the case, the court may authorize law enforcement officers to make a forcible entry at any hour.

(f) The court may impose conditions upon placement of a child to ensure the appearance of the child and the child's custodian.

§ 1091. COSTS, FEES, AND EXPENSES

(a) The court may award the prevailing party, including a state, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by or on behalf of the party, including costs.

communication expenses, attorney's fees, investigative fees, expenses for witnesses, travel expenses, and child care expenses during the course of the proceedings.

(b) The court shall not assess fees, costs, or expenses against a state unless authorized by law other than this chapter.

§ 1092. RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT; APPEALS

(a) A Vermont court shall accord full faith and credit to an order issued by another state and consistent with this chapter which enforces a child custody determination by a court of another state unless the order has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court having jurisdiction to do so under subchapter 2 of this chapter.

(b) An appeal may be taken from a final order in a proceeding under this subchapter in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure. Unless the court enters a temporary emergency order under section 1074 of this title, the enforcing court may not stay an order enforcing a child custody determination pending appeal.

§ 1093. ROLE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL; ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

(a) In a case arising under this chapter or involving the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the attorney general or a state's attorney may take any lawful action, including resort to a proceeding under this subchapter or any other available civil proceeding to locate a child, obtain the return of a child, or enforce a child custody determination if there is:

(1) an existing child custody determination;

(2) a request to do so from a court in a pending child custody proceeding;

(3) a reasonable belief that a criminal statute has been violated; or

(4) a reasonable belief that the child has been wrongfully removed or retained in violation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

(b) The attorney general or a state's attorney acting under this section acts on behalf of the court and shall not represent any party.

(c) At the request of the attorney general or a state's attorney acting under this section, a law enforcement officer may take any lawful action reasonably necessary to locate a child or a party and assist the attorney general or state's attorney with responsibilities under this section.

§ 1094. COSTS AND EXPENSES

If the respondent is not the prevailing party, the court may assess against the respondent all direct expenses and costs incurred by the attorney general or state's attorney and law enforcement officers under section 1093 of this title.

Subchapter 4. Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 1095. APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION

In applying and construing this chapter, consideration shall be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

§ 1096. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

This chapter shall take effect July 1, 2011. A motion or other request for relief made in a child custody proceeding or to enforce a child custody determination which was commenced before the effective date of this chapter is governed by the law in effect at the time the motion or other request was made.

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 33 is amended to read:

§ 33. JURISDICTION; FAMILY DIVISION

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the family division shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and dispose of the following proceedings filed or pending on or after October 1, 1990:

* * *

(7) All uniform child custody proceedings filed pursuant to chapter ~~49~~ 20 of Title 15.

* * *

Sec. 3. 15 V.S.A. § 665 is amended to read:

§ 665. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ORDER; BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

* * *

(e) The jurisdiction granted by this section shall be limited by the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, if another state has jurisdiction as provided in that act. For the purposes of interpreting that act and any other provision of law which refers to a custodial parent, including but not limited to 13 V.S.A. § 2451, the parent with physical responsibility shall be considered the custodial parent.

Sec. 4. REPEAL

Chapter 19 of Title 15 (Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act) is repealed.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 15, 2011, page 240.)

Joint Resolutions For Action

J.R.H. 16.

Joint resolution authorizing Green Mountain Boys' State educational program to use the state house.

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of April 8, 2011, page 346.)

J.R.H. 18.

Joint resolution urging the Federal Railroad Administration to award a passenger rail improvement grant to the state of Vermont for upgrading the western rail corridor.

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of April 8, 2011, page 347.)

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 38.

An act relating to the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act.

PENDING ACTION: Third Reading

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Kate Duffy of Williston – Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources– By Sen. Flory for the Committee on Government Operations. (1/25/11)

Jim Reardon of Essex Junction – Commissioner of the Department of

Finance and Management – By Sen. White for the Committee on Government Operations. (1/28/11)

Chuck Ross of Hinesburg – Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture – By Sen. Kittell for the Committee on Agriculture. (1/28/11)

Robert D. Ide of Peacham – Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles – By Sen. Kitchel for the Committee on Transportation. (1/28/11)

Jeb Spaulding of Montpelier – Secretary of the Agency of Administration – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Government Operations. (1/28/11)

Mary Peterson of Williston – Commissioner of the Department of Taxes – By Sen. Westman for the Committee on Finance. (1/28/11)

Steve Kimbell of Tunbridge – Commissioner of the Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (1/28/11)

Brian Searles of Burlington – Secretary of the Agency of Transportation – By Sen. Mazza for the Committee on Transportation. (2/1/11)

Bruce Post of Essex Junction – Member of the Board of Libraries – By Sen. Baruth for the Committee on Education. (2/4/11)

Jason Gibbs of Duxbury – Member of the Community High School of Vermont Board – By Sen. Doyle for the Committee on Education. (2/15/11)

John Fitzhugh of West Berlin – Member of the Board of Libraries – By Sen. Doyle for the Committee on Education. (2/15/11)

Susan Wehry of Burlington – Commissioner of the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/11)

Dave Yacavone of Morrisville – Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families – By Sen. Fox for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/11)

Christine Oliver of Montpelier – Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health – By Sen. Mullin for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/11)

Doug Racine of Richmond – Secretary of the Agency of Human Services – By Sen. Ayer for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/11)

Michael Obuchowski of Montpelier – Commissioner of the Department of Buildings and General Services – By Sen. Hartwell for the Committee on Institutions. (2/17/11)

Susan Besio of Jericho – Commissioner of the Department of Vermont

Health Access – By Sen. Miller for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/18/11)

Susan Besio of Jericho – Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access – By Sen. Miller for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/18/11)

Harry Chen of Mendon – Commissioner of the Department of Health – By Sen. Mullin for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/18/11)

Andrew Pallito of Jericho – Commissioner of the Department of Corrections – By Sen. Hartwell for the Committee on Institutions. (2/18/11)

Keith Flynn of Derby Line – Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety – By Sen. Flory for the Committee on Transportation. (2/22/11)

Elizabeth Strano of Bennington – Member of the State Board of Education – By Sen. Baruth for the Committee on Education. (2/24/11)

Amy W. Grillo of Dummerston – Member of the Community High School of Vermont Board – By Sen. Baruth for the Committee on Education. (2/24/11)

Deb Markowitz of Montpelier – Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (3/17/11)

David Mears of Montpelier – Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation – By Sen. Brock for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (3/23/11)

Michael Snyder of Stowe – Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation – By Sen. MacDonald for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (3/23/11)

Annie Noonan of Montpelier – Commissioner of the Department of Labor – By Sen. Doyle for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (3/28/11)

Patrick Berry of Middlebury – Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (3/28/11)

Kathryn T. Boardman of Shelburne of Shelburne – Director of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank – By Sen. Ashe for the Committee on Finance. (3/29/11)

David R. Coates of Colchester – Director of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank – By Sen. Fox for the Committee on Finance. (3/29/11)

Thomas Pelletier of Montpelier – Member of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (3/29/11)