

Journal of the House

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Rep. Leriche of Hardwick in Chair.

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Speaker.

House Bill Introduced

H. 767

By Reps. Buxton of Tunbridge, Campion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Crawford of Burke, Donovan of Burlington, Gilbert of Fairfax, Lorber of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Ram of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Trieber of Rockingham and Young of Glover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to student loan forgiveness;

To the committee on Education.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 766

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the national guard

Appearing on the Calendar, carrying an appropriation, under rule 35a, was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

Joint Resolution Adopted

J.R.S. 49

By Senators Carris and Mullin,

J.R.S. 49. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, March 15, 2012, or, Friday, March 16, 2012, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

Was taken up and adopted on the part of the House.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration
and Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 588

Rep. Sweaney of Windsor moved that the committee on Government Operations be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to prorating the cost of property tax appeals

And that the bill be committed to the committee on Ways and Means, which was agreed to.

Bill Read Second Time; Third Reading Ordered

H. 765

Rep. Lenes of Shelburne spoke for the committee on Corrections and Institutions.

House bill entitled

An act relating to the mental health needs of the corrections population

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time and third reading ordered.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 469

House bill, entitled

An act relating to potable water supply and wastewater system isolation distances

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

Bill Read Second Time; Third Reading Ordered

H. 764

Rep. Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford spoke for the committee on Health Care.

House bill entitled

An act relating to health insurance brokers' fees

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read the third time? **Rep. Andrews of Rutland City** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By inserting a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 4085b is added to read:

§ 4085b. FIDUCIARY DUTY

A health insurance broker shall owe a fiduciary duty to all policyholders and prospective policyholders with whom the broker has a relationship and shall have a duty to act in the best interests of such policyholders and prospective policyholders. In addition, each broker shall disclose to all policyholders and prospective policyholders with whom the broker has a relationship any financial, contractual, or other remunerative arrangement that the broker has with any health insurer offering health insurance policies in this state.

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct

Second: By striking out subsection (b) of renumbered Sec. 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b) Secs. 2, 3, and 4 of this act and this section shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

Thereupon, **Rep. Andrews of Rutland City** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw her amendment and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 37

Rep. Eckhardt of Chittenden, for the committee on Health Care, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to telemedicine

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, subchapter 14 is added to read:

Subchapter 14. Telemedicine

§ 4100k. COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

(a) All health insurance plans in this state shall provide coverage for telemedicine services delivered to a patient in a health care facility to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were provided through in-person consultation.

(b) A health insurance plan may charge a deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance for a health care service provided through telemedicine so long as it does not exceed the deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

(c) A health insurance plan may limit coverage to health care providers in the plan's network and may require health care providers to document the reason the services are being provided by telemedicine rather than in person.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a health insurance plan from providing coverage for only those services that are medically necessary, subject to the terms and conditions of the covered person's policy.

(e) A health insurance plan may reimburse for teleophthalmology or teledermatology provided by store and forward means and may require the remote health care provider to document the reason the services are being provided by store and forward means rather than in person or by telemedicine.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a health insurance plan to provide coverage for telemedicine or store and forward services provided with equipment of insufficient quality to meet the procedural code being billed.

(g) As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Health insurance plan" means any health insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402, as well as Medicaid, the Vermont health access plan, and any other public health care assistance program offered or administered by the state or by any subdivision or instrumentality of the state. The term does not include policies or plans providing coverage for specified disease or other limited benefit coverage.

(2) "Health care facility" shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9402.

(3) "Store and forward" means an asynchronous transmission of medical information to be reviewed at a later date by a physician at a remote site who is trained in the relevant specialty and by which the physician at the remote site reviews the medical information without the patient present in real time.

(4) "Telemedicine" means the delivery of health care services such as diagnosis, consultation, or treatment through the use of live interactive audio

and video over a secure connection that complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191. Telemedicine does not include the use of audio-only telephone, e-mail, or facsimile.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 219 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 219. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND TELEMEDICINE

Sec. 3. STATUTORY REVISION

18 V.S.A. §§ 9351–9352 shall be recodified as subchapter 1 (Health Information Technology) of chapter 219.

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. chapter 219, subchapter 2 is added to read:

Subchapter 2. Telemedicine

§ 9371. PRACTITIONERS PROVIDING TELEMEDICINE OR STORE AND
FORWARD SERVICES

(a) Subject to the limitations of the license under which the individual is practicing, a health care practitioner licensed in this state may prescribe, dispense, or administer drugs or medical supplies, or otherwise provide treatment recommendations to a patient after having performed an appropriate examination of the patient either in person or by the use of instrumentation and diagnostic equipment through which images and medical records may be transmitted electronically. Treatment recommendations made via electronic means, including issuing a prescription via electronic means, shall be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in traditional physician-patient settings. For purposes of this subchapter, “telemedicine” shall have the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 4100k.

(b) A patient receiving teleophthalmology or teledermatology by store and forward means shall be informed of the right to receive interactive communication with the remote specialist physician and shall receive interactive communication with the remote specialist physician upon request. If requested, communication with the remote specialist physician may occur either at the time of the consultation or within 30 days of the patient’s notification of the results of the consultation. Health care providers involved in the store and forward process shall ensure informed consent from the patient. For purposes of this subchapter, “store and forward” shall have the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 4100k.

Sec. 5. RULEMAKING

(a) The commissioner of Vermont health access may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to carry out the purposes of this act.

(b) The commissioner of banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to carry out the purposes of this act.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) Sec. 1 of this act shall take effect on October 1, 2012 and shall apply to all health insurance plans on and after October 1, 2012 on such date as a health insurer offers, issues, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event no later than October 1, 2013.

(b) The remaining sections of this act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committee on Health Care agreed to and third reading ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 523

Rep. Koch of Barre Town, for the committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to revising the state highway condemnation law

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) The intent of the changes to the definition of necessity made in this act is to state the definition in accordance with State Transportation Board v. May, 137 Vt. 320 (1979), and to reorganize the definition for the sake of clarity. No substantive change is intended.

(b) The standard of review of the agency of transportation's determination of necessity established in 19 V.S.A. § 505(a)(3) of this act is intended to replace the former language of 19 V.S.A. § 507(a) stating that "the exercise of reasonable discretion upon the part of the agency shall not be presumed," as well as to replace the standard of review adopted in *Latchis v. State Hwy. Bd.*, 120 Vt. 120 (1957) and relied upon in subsequent cases.

Sec. 2. 19 V.S.A. chapter 5 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 5. CONDEMNATION FOR STATE HIGHWAY PROJECTS

§ 500. INTENT

The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that a property owner receives fair treatment and just compensation when the owner's property is taken for state highway projects, and that condemnation proceedings are conducted expeditiously so that highway projects in the public interest are not unnecessarily delayed.

§ 501. DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases as used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Necessity" ~~shall mean~~ means a reasonable need which considers the greatest public good and the least inconvenience and expense to the condemning party and to the property owner. Necessity shall not be measured merely by expense or convenience to the condemning party. ~~Due~~ Necessity includes a reasonable need for the highway project in general as well as a reasonable need to take a particular property and to take it to the extent proposed. In determining necessity, consideration shall be given to the:

(A) adequacy of other property and locations ~~and to;~~

(B) the quantity, kind, and extent of cultivated and agricultural land which may be taken or rendered unfit for use, immediately and over the long term, by the proposed taking. ~~In this matter the court shall view the problem from both a long range agricultural land use viewpoint as well as from the immediate taking of agricultural lands which may be involved. Consideration also shall be given to the;~~

(C) effect upon home and homestead rights and the convenience of the owner of the land; ~~to the~~

(D) effect of the highway upon the scenic and recreational values of the highway; ~~to the~~

(E) need to accommodate present and future utility installations within the highway corridor; ~~to the~~

(F) need to mitigate the environmental impacts of highway construction; and ~~to the~~

(G) effect upon town grand lists and revenues.

(2) Damages resulting from the taking or use of property under the provisions of this chapter shall be the value for the most reasonable use of the property or right in the property, and of the business on the property, and the direct and proximate decrease in the value of the remaining property or right in

the property and the business on the property. The added value, if any, to the remaining property or right in the property, which accrues directly to the owner of the property as a result of the taking or use, as distinguished from the general public benefit, shall be considered in the determination of damages.

(3) “Interested person” or “person interested in lands” or “property owner” means a person who has a legal interest of record in the property ~~affected taken or proposed to be taken.~~

§ 502. AUTHORITY; PRECONDEMNATION PROCEDURE HEARING

(a) Authority. The ~~transportation board~~ agency, when in its judgment the interest of the state requires, ~~shall request the agency to~~ may take any ~~land or rights in land, including easements of access, air, view and light, deemed property~~ necessary to lay out, relocate, alter, construct, reconstruct, maintain, repair, widen, grade, or improve any state highway, including affected portions of town highways. ~~All property rights shall be taken in fee simple whenever practicable.~~ In furtherance of these purposes, the agency may enter upon ~~land adjacent to the proposed highway or upon other lands for the purpose of examination and making necessary surveys.~~ However, that lands to conduct necessary examinations and surveys; however, the agency shall do this work shall be done with minimum damage to the land and disturbance to the owners and shall be subject to liability for actual damages. All property taken permanently shall be taken in fee simple whenever practicable. For all state highway projects involving property acquisitions, the agency shall follow the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policies Act (“Act”) and its implementing regulations, as may be amended.

(b) The agency, in the construction and maintenance of limited access highway facilities, may also take any land or rights of the landowner in land under 9 V.S.A. chapter 93, subchapter 2, relating to advertising on limited access highways.

(c) Public hearing; notice of hearing.

(1) A public hearing shall be held for the purpose of receiving suggestions and recommendations from the public prior to the agency’s initiating proceedings under this chapter for the acquisition of any ~~lands or rights property.~~ The hearing shall be conducted by the agency. ~~Public notice shall be given by printing~~

(2) The agency shall prepare an official notice stating the purpose for which the property is desired and generally describing the highway project.

(3) Not less than 30 days prior to the hearing, the agency shall:

~~(A) cause the official notice not less than 30 days prior to the hearing to be printed in a newspaper having general circulation in the area affected;—A;~~

~~(B) mail a copy of the notice shall be mailed to the board, the legislative bodies of the municipalities affected; and a copy sent~~

~~(C) by certified mail a copy of the notice to all known owners of lands and rights in land affected by whose property may be taken as a result of the proposed improvement.~~

~~The notice shall set forth the purpose for which the land or rights are desired and shall generally describe the improvement to be made.~~

~~The board may designate one or more members to attend the hearing and shall do so if a written request is filed with the board at least 10 days prior to the public hearing.~~

~~(4) At the hearing the agency shall set forth the reasons for the selection of the route intended and shall hear and consider all objections, suggestions for changes, and recommendations made by any person interested.~~

~~If no board member attended the hearing, a written request may be filed with the board within 30 days after the public hearing asking the board to review the project and the record of the hearing. In such event, the board shall complete its review within 30 days after the request.~~

~~Following the hearing, unless otherwise directed by the board, the agency may proceed to lay out the highway and survey and acquire the land to be taken or affected, giving consideration to any objections, suggestions, and recommendations received from the public.~~

* * *

§ 503. PRECONDEMNATION NECESSITY DETERMINATION; SURVEY AND APPRAISAL; OFFER OF JUST COMPENSATION; NOTICE OF RIGHTS; NEGOTIATION; STIPULATION

~~(a) When Necessity determination; appraisal.~~

~~(1) After conducting the hearing required under section 502 of this chapter and considering the objections, suggestions, and recommendations received from the public, if the agency of transportation desires to acquire land or any rights in land finds the taking of property to be necessary for the purpose of laying out, relocating, altering, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, repairing, widening, grading, or improving a state highway, it shall cause the land property proposed to be acquired or affected to be surveyed and shall make a written determination of necessity consistent with~~

subdivision 501(1) of this chapter. Prior to initiating negotiations under this section, the agency shall cause property proposed to be taken to be appraised unless:

(A) the property owner offers to donate the property after being fully informed by the agency of the right to receive just compensation for damages and releasing the agency from the obligation to conduct an appraisal; or

(B) the agency determines that an appraisal is unnecessary because the valuation question is uncomplicated and the agency estimates the property to have a low fair market value, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 24.102.

(2) The agency shall prepare a waiver valuation if an appraisal is not conducted, pursuant to subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection.

(3) The property owner or his or her designee shall be given an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during the appraiser's inspection of the property.

(b) Offer of just compensation. Prior to the initiation of negotiations, the agency shall prepare a written offer of just compensation, which shall include a statement of the basis for the offer and a legal description of the property proposed to be acquired.

(c) Negotiation. Prior to instituting condemnation proceedings under section 504 of this chapter, the agency shall make every reasonable effort to acquire property expeditiously by negotiation and shall comply with subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Notice and other documents. The agency shall hand-deliver or send by mail to interested persons a notice of procedures and rights and the offer of just compensation. The notice of procedures and rights shall include an explanation of the proposed state highway project and its purpose, and statements that:

(1) the agency is seeking to acquire the property described in the offer of just compensation for the project;

(2) agency representatives are available to discuss the offer of just compensation;

(3) the agency does not represent the property owner, and he or she may benefit from the advice of an attorney;

(4) if the agency and the property owner are unable to reach agreement on the agency's legal right to take the property, on just compensation, or both,

the agency may file a complaint in superior court to determine the contested issues;

(5) the property owner may enter into an agreement with the agency stipulating to the agency's legal right to take his or her property, without waiving the owner's right to object to the amount of compensation offered and to demand trial by jury to assess compensation;

(6) the property owner has the right to contest the necessity of the taking, the public purpose of the project, or the amount of the offer of just compensation, but must contest these issues by filing an answer to the complaint with the court. If the owner does not file a timely answer, the court may enter a default judgment in favor of the agency;

(7) a copy of an appraisal or an estimated valuation ("waiver valuation") will be furnished by the agency at the owner's request;

(8) summarize the property owner's right to relocation assistance, if applicable.

(e) Agreement on legality of taking, damages.

(1) An interested person may enter into an agreement with the agency stipulating to the necessity of the taking and the public purpose of the project, to damages, or both. The agreement shall include:

(A) a statement that the person executing the agreement has examined a survey or appraisal of the property to be taken;

(B) an explanation of the legal and property rights affected;

(C) a statement that the person has received the documents specified in subsection (d) of this section; and

(D) if an agreement stipulating only to the legality of the taking, a statement that the right of the person to object to the amount of compensation offered, and to demand trial by jury to assess damages, is not affected by the agreement.

(2) If an interested person executes an agreement stipulating to the legality of the taking in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, the agency shall prepare, within 10 business days of entering into the agreement, a notice of condemnation and shall file it in accordance with section 506 of this chapter. The notice of condemnation shall include a legal description of the property to be taken.

§ 504. PETITION FOR HEARING TO DETERMINE NECESSITY COMPLAINT; SERVICE; ANSWER

~~(a) Upon completion of the survey the agency may petition a superior judge, setting forth in the petition that it proposes to acquire certain land, or rights in land, and describing the lands or rights, and the survey shall be attached to the petition and made a part of the petition. The petition shall set forth the purposes for which the land or rights are desired, and shall contain a request that the judge fix a time and place when he or she, or some other superior judge, will hear all parties concerned and determine whether the taking is necessary. Verified complaint. If a property owner has not entered into an agreement stipulating to the necessity of a taking and the public purpose of a highway project, or if a property owner and the agency have not agreed on damages, the agency shall file a verified complaint in the civil division of the superior court in a county where the project is located seeking an order of condemnation, a determination of damages, or both. The complaint shall name as defendants each interested person who has not stipulated to the legality of a taking, or who has not reached agreement with the agency on damages, and shall include:~~

~~(1) statements that the agency has complied with subsection 503(d) of this chapter;~~

~~(2) the agency's written determination of necessity;~~

~~(3) a general description of the negotiations undertaken; and~~

~~(4) a survey of the proposed project, and legal descriptions of the property and of the interests therein proposed to be taken.~~

~~(b) Service and notice.~~

~~(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the agency shall serve the complaint and summons in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure and section 519 of this chapter.~~

~~(2) The agency shall publish a notice of the complaint, the substance of the summons, and a description of the project and of the lands to be taken in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipalities where the project is located, once a week on the same day of the week for three consecutive weeks. The agency shall mail a copy of the newspaper notice to the last known address of an interested person not otherwise served, if any address is known. Upon affidavit by the secretary that diligent inquiry has been made to find all interested persons and, if applicable, that service on a known interested person cannot with due diligence be made in or outside the state by another method prescribed in Rule 4 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, the newspaper publication shall be deemed sufficient service on all unknown interested persons and all known interested persons who cannot otherwise be served.~~

Service by newspaper publication is complete the day after the third publication.

(3) Unless otherwise served under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the agency shall mail a copy of the complaint to the clerk, legislative body, and board of listers of each municipality in which land is proposed to be taken. The clerk with responsibility over the land records shall record the copy of the complaint (including the survey), and shall enter the names of the property owners named in the complaint in the general index of transactions affecting the title to real estate.

(c) Necessity, public purpose; default. If an interested person does not file a timely answer denying the necessity of a taking or the public purpose of the project, the court may enter an order of condemnation by default.

§ 505. HEARING PROCEEDINGS TO DETERMINE NECESSITY LEGALITY OF TAKING; APPEAL AND STAY

(a) The superior judge to whom the petition is presented shall fix the time for hearing, which shall not be more than 60 nor less than 40 days from the date he or she signs the order. Likewise, he or she shall fix the place for hearing, which shall be the superior court or any other place within the county in which the land in question is located. If the superior judge to whom the petition is presented cannot hear the petition at the time set he or she shall call upon the administrative judge to assign another superior judge to hear the cause at the time and place assigned in the order. Hearing.

(1) If a timely answer is filed denying the necessity of a taking or the public purpose of the project, the court shall schedule a final hearing to determine these issues, which shall be held within 90 days of expiration of the deadline for filing an answer by the last interested person served. Absent good cause shown, this hearing date shall not be postponed beyond the 90-day period.

(2) At the hearing, the agency shall present evidence showing the necessity of the takings and the public purpose of the project.

(3)(A) The court shall presume that the agency's determination of the necessity for and public purpose of a project is correct, unless a party demonstrates bad faith or abuse of discretion on the part of the agency.

(B) The court shall review *de novo* the agency's determination of the need to take a particular property and to take it to the extent proposed.

(4) Unless the parties otherwise agree or unless the court determines that it is in the public interest to proceed on questions of damages, proceedings to

determine damages shall be stayed pending a final determination, including the exhaustion of all appeal rights, of any contested questions of necessity and public purpose.

(b) If the land proposed to be acquired extends into two or more counties, then a single hearing to determine necessity may be held in one of the counties. In fixing the place for hearing, the superior judge to whom the petition is presented shall take into consideration the needs of the parties. Discovery. Absent a showing of unfair prejudice, the right to discovery on the issues of necessity and public purpose shall be limited to the plans, surveys, studies, reports, data, decisions, and analyses relating to approving and designing the highway project.

(c) Decision and order. If the court finds the proposed taking lawful, it shall issue an order of condemnation describing the property authorized to be taken, declaring the right of the agency to take the property by eminent domain, and providing that title to the property will be transferred to the agency after the agency has recorded the order and tendered or deposited payment. The court in its order may modify the extent of a proposed taking.

(d) Litigation expenses. If the court issues a judgment that the agency cannot acquire the property by condemnation, or if the agency abandons the condemnation proceeding other than under a settlement, the court shall award the property owner his or her reasonable litigation expenses, including costs and attorney's fees.

(e) Appeal, stay. An order of condemnation may be appealed or stayed in the same manner as a final judgment for possession of real estate under the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure and the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure. A decision denying an order of condemnation likewise may be appealed.

§ 506. SERVICE AND PUBLICATION OF NECESSITY PETITION AND NOTICE OF HEARING; ANSWER RECORDING OF ORDER OR NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION; PAYMENT; VESTING OF TITLE

(a)(1) The agency shall prepare a notice of the necessity hearing. The notice shall include the names of the municipalities in which the lands to be taken or affected are located; the names of all interested persons within the meaning of subdivision 501(2) of this chapter; and a brief statement identifying the proposed project and its location, and the date, time and place of the necessity hearing. The agency shall make service of copies of the petition, the notice of hearing and the survey (for the purposes of this section, "survey" means a plan, profile, or cross-section of the proposed project) as follows Within 15 business days of the issuance of an order of condemnation by the

court or of the preparation of a notice of condemnation by the agency in accordance with subdivision 503(e)(2) of this chapter, the agency shall:

~~(1) Upon interested persons in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure for service of process, except as stated in subsection (b) of this section and in section 519 of this title or, with respect to interested parties with no known residence or place of business within the state, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The copy of the survey that is served upon interested persons need include only the particular property in which those persons have an interest.~~

~~(2) One copy each upon the clerk, legislative body, and board of listers of each affected municipality by certified mail. The clerk shall record the notice of hearing in the municipal land records, at the agency's expense, and shall enter the names of the interested persons in the general index of transactions affecting the title to real estate.~~

(A) record the order or notice, including the description of the property taken, in the office of the clerk of the town where the land is situated;

(B) tender to the property owner, or deposit with the court, the amount of the offer of just compensation prepared under section 503(b) of this chapter or any other amount agreed to by the owner; and

(C) mail or deliver to the owner a copy of the order or notice.

(2) Payment shall be deemed to have been tendered when the agency offers payment directly to an interested person or, if an interested person has not provided the agency necessary identification information for purposes of taxation, when the agency makes payment into an escrow account that the interested person can access upon providing the necessary information.

~~(b) The agency also shall publish the notice of hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipalities in which the proposed project lies. Publication shall be made once a week for three consecutive weeks on the same day of the week, the last publication to be not less than five days before the hearing. When service on an interested person cannot with due diligence be made within or outside the state, upon affidavit of the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee that diligent inquiry has been made to find the interested person, the publication shall be deemed sufficient service on that person. The affidavit shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the person attempting service that the location of the interested person is unknown and that the interested person has no known agent upon whom service can be made Title in the property shall vest in the state, and the agency may proceed with the project, upon the later of:~~

(1) the agency's recording of the condemnation order or notice; or

(2) the agency's tendering to the owner, or depositing with the court, the offered or agreed amount of compensation in accordance with this section.

(c) Compliance with these provisions of this title shall constitute sufficient notice to and service upon all interested persons and municipalities. Except in the case of agreed compensation, an owner's acceptance and use of a payment under this section does not affect his or her right to contest damages under section 512 of this chapter, but shall bar the owner's right to contest necessity and public purpose.

(d) No service need be made upon any interested person or municipality that has stipulated to necessity in accordance with section 508 of this chapter. The agency shall comply with the provisions of 27 V.S.A. chapter 17 governing the composition and recording of project layout plats.

(e) Unless an answer denying the necessity or propriety of the proposed taking is filed by one or more parties served or appearing in the proceedings on or before the date set in the notice of hearing on the petition, the necessity and propriety shall be deemed to be conceded, and the court shall so find. [Repealed.]

§ 507. HEARING AND ORDER OF NECESSITY CATTLE PASSES

(a) At the time and place appointed for the hearing, the court, consisting of the superior judge signing the order or the other superior judge as may be assigned and, if available within the meaning of 4 V.S.A. § 112, the assistant judges of the county in which the hearing is held shall hear all persons interested and wishing to be heard. If any person owning or having an interest in the land to be taken or affected appears and objects to the necessity of taking the land included within the survey or any part of the survey, then the court shall require the agency of transportation to proceed with the introduction of evidence of the necessity of the taking. The burden of proof of the necessity of the taking shall be upon the agency of transportation and shall be established by a fair preponderance of the evidence, and the exercise of reasonable discretion upon the part of the agency shall not be presumed. The court may cite in additional parties including other property owners whose interest may be concerned or affected and shall cause to be notified, the legislative body of all adjoining cities, towns, villages, or other municipal corporations affected by any taking of land or interest in land based on any ultimate order of the court. The court shall make findings of fact and file them and any party in interest may appeal under the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure adopted by the supreme court. The court shall, by its order, determine whether the necessity of the state requires the taking of the land and rights as set forth in the petition

~~and may find from the evidence that another route or routes are preferable in which case the agency shall proceed in accordance with section 502 of this title and this section and may modify or alter the proposed taking in such respects as to the court may seem proper.~~

(b) ~~By~~ In its order of condemnation, the court may also direct the agency of ~~transportation~~ to install passes under the highway as ~~specified in this chapter~~ for the benefit of ~~the~~ large modern farm properties, the fee title of which is owned by any party to the proceedings, where a reasonable need is shown by the owner. The court may consider evidence relative to present and anticipated future highway traffic volume, future land development in the area, and the amount and type of acreage separated by the highway in determining the need for an underpass of larger dimensions than a standard cattle-pass of reinforced concrete, metal, or other suitable material which provides usable dimensions five feet wide by six feet three inches high. Where a herd of greater than 50 milking cows is consistently maintained on the property, the court may direct that the dimensions of the larger underpass shall be eight feet in width and six feet three inches in height to be constructed of reinforced concrete, and the owner of the farm property shall pay one-fourth of the difference in overall cost between the standard cattle-pass and the larger underpass. Where the owner of the farm property desires an underpass of dimensions greater than eight feet in width and six feet three inches in height, the underpass may be constructed if feasible and in accordance with acceptable design standards, and the total additional costs over the dimensions specified shall be paid by the owner. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to prohibit the agency of ~~transportation~~ and the property owner from determining the specifications of a cattle-pass or underpass by mutual agreement at any time, either prior or subsequent to the date of the court's order. The owner of a fee title shall be interpreted to include lessees of so-called lease land.

§ 508. ~~STIPULATION OF NECESSITY~~

(a) ~~A person or municipality owning or having an interest in lands or rights to be taken or affected, a municipality in which the land is to be taken or affected, and other interested persons may stipulate as to the necessity of the taking.~~

(b) ~~The stipulation shall be an affidavit sworn to before a person authorized to take acknowledgments, and, in the case of a municipality, shall be executed by a majority of its legislative body. The stipulation shall be in a form approved by the attorney general and shall include but not be limited to the following:~~

~~(1) a recital that the person or persons executing the stipulation have examined the applicable plan and survey of the lands or rights to be taken;~~

~~(2) an explanation of the legal and property rights affected; and~~

~~(3) that the right of the person to adequate compensation is not affected by executing the stipulation.~~

~~(c) The stipulation shall be invalid unless within two years of the date of the stipulation an order of necessity is granted. [Repealed.]~~

§ 509. PROCEDURE

~~(a) The stipulation shall be filed with the appropriate superior court, together with the petition for an order of necessity. Notice of the hearing on the petition shall be published in accordance with section 506 of this title. Other interested persons who have not stipulated to necessity shall be notified and served in accordance with section 506 of this title. The court may also cite in additional parties in accordance with section 507 of this title.~~

~~(b) If a person claiming to be affected or concerned files a notice of objection to a proposed finding of necessity prior to the date of the hearing, the court shall at the hearing determine if the person has an interest in lands or rights to be taken such as to be entitled to object to the proposed finding of necessity, and, if he is so affected or concerned, whether there is necessity for the taking, in accordance with section 507 of this title. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an interested person from consenting to necessity. The court may continue the hearing to allow proper preparation by the agency of transportation and interested parties.~~

~~(c) If all interested persons and municipalities stipulate as to the necessity of the taking, the court may immediately issue an order of necessity.~~

~~(d) Interested persons or municipalities who do not consent to necessity are entitled to a necessity hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.~~

~~(e) A copy of the order finding necessity shall be mailed to each person and municipality who consented by stipulation to necessity, by certified mail, return receipt requested.~~

~~(f) The stipulation of necessity shall not affect the rights of the person with regard to fixing the amount of compensation to be paid in accordance with sections 511-514 of this title. However, the transportation board may enter into an agreement for purchase of lands or rights affected, provided the agreement is conditioned upon the issuance of an order of necessity. [Repealed.]~~

§ 510. APPEAL FROM ORDER OF NECESSITY

~~(a) If the state, municipal corporation or any owner affected by the order of the court is aggrieved by the order, an appeal may be taken to the supreme court. In the event an appeal is taken according to these provisions from an order of necessity, its effect may be stayed by the superior court or the supreme court where the person requesting the stay establishes:~~

~~(1) that he or she has a likelihood of success on the merits;~~

~~(2) that he or she will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of the requested stay;~~

~~(3) that other interested parties will not be substantially harmed if a stay is granted; and~~

~~(4) that the public interest supports a grant of the proposed stay.~~

~~(b) If no stay is granted or, if a stay is granted, upon final disposition of the appeal, a copy of the order of the court shall be recorded within 30 days in the office of the clerk of each town in which the land affected lies.~~

~~(c) Thereafter for a period of one year, the agency of transportation may request the transportation board to institute proceedings for the condemnation of the land included in the survey as finally approved by the court without further hearing or consideration of any question of the necessity of the taking. In no event shall title to or possession of the appealing landowner's property pass to the state until there is a final adjudication of the issue of the necessity and propriety of the proposed taking.~~

~~(d) If the agency of transportation is delayed in requesting the transportation board to institute condemnation proceedings within the one year period by court actions or federal procedural actions, the time lost pending final determination shall not be counted as part of the one year necessity period. [Repealed.]~~

§ 511. HEARING TO DETERMINE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION

~~(a) Following a determination of the necessity of the taking as above provided, when an owner of land or rights and the agency of transportation are unable to agree on the amount of compensation to be paid, and if the agency of transportation desires to proceed with the taking, the transportation board shall appoint a time and place in the county where the land is situated for examining the premises and hearing parties interested, giving at least 10 days' notice in writing to the person owning the land or having an interest in the land. At that time and place, a member or members of the transportation board shall hear any person having an interest in the land and desiring to be heard.~~

~~(b) If the land proposed to be acquired extends into two or more counties, the board may hold a single hearing in one of the counties to determine compensation. In fixing the place for hearing, the transportation board shall take into consideration the needs of the parties. [Repealed.]~~

§ 512. ~~ORDER FIXING COMPENSATION; INVERSE CONDEMNATION; RELOCATION ASSISTANCE~~ DETERMINATION OF DAMAGES; CREDIT OF STATE PLEDGED

~~(a) Within 30 days after the compensation hearing, the board shall by its order fix the compensation to be paid to each person from whom land or rights are taken. Within 30 days of the board's order, the agency shall file and record the order in the office of the clerk of the town where the land is situated, deliver to each person a copy of that portion of the order directly affecting the person, and pay or tender the award to each person entitled. A person to whom a compensation award is paid or tendered under this subsection may accept, retain, and dispose of the award to his or her own use without prejudice to the person's right of appeal, as provided in section 513 of this title. Upon the payment or tender of the award as above provided, the agency may proceed with the work for which the land is taken. If the agency and an interested person are unable to agree on damages, the court or, if a party demands trial by jury, the jury, shall first determine the total damages as between the agency and all interested persons claiming an interest in a subject property. The agency may withdraw from further participation in the trial after total damages are awarded. The court or jury shall then determine any further questions in the action, including the apportionment of the amount awarded.~~

~~(b) In the event the~~ Costs; other litigation expenses.

~~(1) If a plaintiff prevails against the state in an action for in an inverse condemnation, arising under this title or as a result of the acquisition of real property for a program or project undertaken by a federal agency, or with federal financial assistance action, the court shall determine an award or allow to the plaintiff as part of its judgment such sum as will, in the opinion of the court, reimburse the plaintiff for his or her reasonable costs, disbursements and other litigation expenses, including reasonable attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees actually incurred because of the proceeding.~~

~~(2) If the property owner's damages award is more than the agency's offer of just compensation or offer of judgment, whichever is greater, the court shall award the owner his or her reasonable costs. If the damages award is less than or equal to the greater of the agency's offer of just compensation or offer of judgment, the court shall award the agency its reasonable costs.~~

~~(c) When federal funds are available to provide relocation assistance and payments to persons displaced as a result of federal and federally assisted programs, any state agency may match the federal funds to the extent provided by federal law and grant relocation assistance and payments in the instances and on the conditions set forth by federal law and regulations. [Repealed.]~~

(d) The credit of the state of Vermont is pledged to the payment of all amounts awarded or allowed under the provisions of the chapter, and these amounts shall be lawful obligations of the state of Vermont.

~~§ 513. APPEAL FROM ORDER FIXING COMPENSATION; JURY TRIAL OF DAMAGES AWARD~~

~~(a) A person or a municipal corporation interested in the lands affected by a relocation who is dissatisfied with the decision of the transportation board as to amount of damages awarded for the lands, may appeal to the superior court where the land is situated within ninety days after the report has been filed, and any number of persons aggrieved may join in the appeal.~~

~~(b) Any person appealing the award of damages made by the transportation board, and the agency of transportation, shall be entitled to a jury trial in the superior court. Any party aggrieved by a decision on damages may appeal to the supreme court in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure.~~

~~§ 514. COSTS~~

~~When the appellant is allowed a sum greater than was awarded by the transportation board, the court shall tax costs against the agency of transportation. When the award fixed by the transportation board is upheld, the court shall tax costs against the appellant. The court shall fix the time for paying the damages awarded. [Repealed.]~~

~~§ 515a. EVIDENCE OF HIGHWAY COMPLETION~~

~~The lack of a certificate of completion of a highway shall not alone constitute conclusive evidence that a highway is not public. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

~~§ 517. VESTING OF TITLE~~

~~Title to the lands taken, or other rights acquired, under this chapter, shall vest in the state upon the filing for record with the town clerk of the transportation board's order as provided in section 512 of this chapter, unless previously acquired by deed or other appropriate instrument. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

§ 519. CONDOMINIUMS; COMMON AREAS AND FACILITIES

(a) For purposes of this section, the terms “apartment owner,” “association of owners,” “common areas and ~~facilities~~ facilities,” and “declaration” shall have the same meanings as in the Condominium Ownership Act, 27 V.S.A. chapter 15.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever the agency under this chapter ~~5 of this title~~ proposes to acquire any common areas and facilities of a condominium, the association of owners shall constitute the interested person or persons interested in lands in lieu of the individual apartment owners for purposes of the necessity hearing, the compensation hearing, and any appeals therefrom.

(c) The agency shall serve one copy of the ~~necessity petition~~ complaint and summons upon the association of owners through one of its officers or agents, instead of upon the individual apartment owners.

(d) The agency shall make the compensation check payable to the association of owners, which shall then make proportional payments to the apartment owners as their interests appear in the declaration.

Sec. 3. 19 V.S.A. § 1(12) is amended to read:

(12) “Highways” are only such as are laid out in the manner prescribed by statute; or roads which have been constructed for public travel over land which has been conveyed to and accepted by a municipal corporation or to the state by deed of a fee or easement interest; or roads which have been dedicated to the public use and accepted by the city or town in which such roads are located; or such as may be from time to time laid out by the agency or town. However, the lack of a certificate of completion of a state or town highway shall not alone constitute conclusive evidence that the highway is not public. The term “highway” includes rights-of-way, bridges, drainage structures, signs, guardrails, areas to accommodate utilities authorized by law to locate within highway limits, areas used to mitigate the environmental impacts of highway construction, vegetation, scenic enhancements, and structures. The term “highway” does not include state forest highways, management roads, easements, or rights-of-way owned by or under the control of the agency of natural resources, the department of forests, parks and recreation, the department of fish and wildlife, or the department of environmental conservation.

* * * Conforming Changes * * *

Sec. 4. 5 V.S.A. § 652 is amended to read:

§ 652. ~~PETITION TO~~ SUPERIOR COURT

The secretary of transportation or the legislative body of a municipality, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001, or the committee representing two or more municipalities, when authorized by vote of their legislative bodies, may ~~petition a~~ proceed in superior judge court as provided in 19 V.S.A. chapter 5, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter.

Sec. 5. REPEAL

5 V.S.A. § 654 (answer in airport condemnation proceedings) and 10 V.S.A. § 959 (determination of damages for taking of land for flood control project) are repealed.

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. §§ 958 and 960 are amended to read:

§ 958. EMINENT DOMAIN; DETERMINING NECESSITY

(a) The commissioner of the department of environmental conservation may ~~petition~~ file a complaint in the superior court for any county in which a portion of the real estate lies to determine that necessity requires that the state acquire real estate within the state, including real estate held for public use in the name of the state or any municipality, for the purpose of flood control projects.

* * *

(c) The ~~petition~~ complaint, the service thereof and the proceedings in relation thereto, including rights of appeal, shall conform with and be controlled by ~~chapter 5 of Title 19~~ chapter 5.

§ 960. ENTRY AUTHORIZED

The commissioner of the department of environmental conservation or his or her authorized agents may enter upon any real estate at reasonable times and places for the purpose of making surveys or other investigations under this section, subsection 952(b) and sections 953, ~~957-959~~ 957-958 and 961 of this title. The owners of damaged real estate may recover for damages sustained by reason of the preliminary entry authorized by this section in an action at law against the commissioner.

Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 4012 is amended to read:

§ 4012. EMINENT DOMAIN; EXEMPTION OF PROPERTY FROM EXECUTION

(a) An authority shall have the right to acquire by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any real property which it may deem necessary for its purposes under this chapter after the adoption by it of a resolution declaring

that the acquisition of the real property described therein is necessary for such purposes. An authority may exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner provided for the condemnation of land or rights therein ~~by the state transportation board~~ as set forth in 19 V.S.A. §§ ~~501-514~~ 500-513 and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto. Property already devoted to a public use may be acquired, provided that no real property belonging to the city, county, state, or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired without its consent.

* * *

Sec. 8. 24 V.S.A. § 5104 is amended to read:

§ 5104. PURPOSES AND POWERS

(a) The authority may purchase, own, operate, or provide for the operation of land transportation facilities, and may contract for transit services, conduct studies, and contract with other governmental agencies, private companies, and individuals.

(b) The authority shall be a body politic and corporate with the powers incident to a municipal corporation under the laws of the state of Vermont consistent with the purposes of the authority, and may exercise all powers necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or incidental to the carrying out of its functions, including, ~~but not limited to,~~ the following:

* * *

(11) within its area of operation, to acquire by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any real property which it may have found necessary for its purposes, in the manner provided for the condemnation of land or rights therein as set forth in 19 V.S.A. §§ ~~501-514~~ 500-513.

* * *

* * * Transition Provision * * *

Sec. 9. TRANSITION

(a) The state highway condemnation procedures of 19 V.S.A. chapter 5 in effect prior to July 1, 2012, shall continue to apply to all superior court and transportation board proceedings brought by the agency prior to July 1, 2012.

(b) With respect to any superior court proceeding brought by the agency on or after July 1, 2012 under 19 V.S.A. chapter 5, as amended by this act, the agency shall be required to demonstrate that it has satisfied the requirements of this act with respect to precondemnation appraisals, offers of just compensation, and negotiations with property owners.

Sec. 10. REPORT

By October 15, 2013, the agency shall submit to the house and senate committees on judiciary and on transportation a report listing:

(1) every acquisition of property, whether by agreement or through condemnation, for which the agency prepared a waiver valuation in fiscal year 2013;

(2) the value of the property estimated in the waiver valuation;

(3) whether an appraisal of the property was obtained by the agency or the property owner and, if so, the appraised value of the property;

(4) the date and the amount of the first offer made to the property owner;

(5) the date and the amount of the final payment to the property owner for the property; and

(6) whether the final payment to the property owner resulted from an agreement prior to the filing of a condemnation action, an agreement following the filing of a condemnation action, or a superior court decision on compensation.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 9 (transition provision) shall take effect on passage.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

Rep. Bissonette of Winooski, for the committee on Transportation, recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the committee on Judiciary.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committees on Judiciary and Transportation agreed to and third reading ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**H. 524**

Rep. Evans of Essex, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of professions and occupations

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * General Provisions * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

An office of professional regulation is created within the office of the secretary of state. The office shall have a director who shall be appointed by the secretary of state and shall be an exempt employee. The following boards or professions are attached to the office of professional regulation:

* * *

(41) Audiologists and speech-language pathologists

(42) Landscape architects.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

(a) ~~Upon request, the~~ The office shall provide administrative, secretarial, financial, investigatory, inspection, and legal services to the boards. The administrative services provided by the office shall include:

* * *

(12) With the assistance of the boards, establishing a schedule of license renewal and termination dates so as to distribute the renewal work in the office as effectively as possible. Licenses may be issued and renewed according to that schedule for periods of up to two years with an appropriate pro rata adjustment of fees. A person whose initial license is issued within 90 days prior to the set renewal date shall not be required to renew the license until the end of the first full biennial licensing period following initial licensure.

* * *

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

§ 125. FEES

(a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board may charge the following fees:

* * *

(6) ~~Licenses granted under rules adopted pursuant to subdivision 129(a)(10) of this title, \$20.00.~~

* * *

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:

§ 129. POWERS OF BOARDS; DISCIPLINE PROCESS

(a) In addition to any other provisions of law, a board may exercise the following powers:

* * *

(10) Issue temporary licenses ~~to health care providers and veterinarians~~ during a declared state of emergency. The ~~health care provider or veterinarian~~ person to be issued a temporary license must be currently licensed, in good standing, and not subject to disciplinary proceedings in any other jurisdiction. The temporary license shall authorize the holder to practice in Vermont until the termination of the declared state of emergency or 90 days, whichever occurs first, as long as the licensee remains in good standing. Fees shall be waived when a license is required to provide services under this subdivision.

* * *

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items, or any combination of items, whether or not the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the state, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(8) Failing to make available promptly to a person using professional health care services, that person's representative, or succeeding health care professionals or institutions, upon written request and direction of the person using professional health care services, copies of that person's records in the possession or under the control of the licensed practitioner, or failing to notify patients or clients how to obtain their records when a practice closes.

* * *

* * * Chiropractic * * *

Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 528 is amended to read:

§ 528. BOARD PROCEDURES

(a) Annually the board shall elect from among its members a chair ~~and a~~ vice chair, and secretary, each to serve for one year. No person shall serve as chair or vice chair for more than three consecutive years.

(b) ~~The board shall meet at least semiannually for the purpose of examining applicants, if applications are pending. Meetings may be called by the chair or upon the request of three other members. [Repealed.]~~

(c) ~~Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 5 of Title 1. [Repealed.]~~

(d) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for transacting business and all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and voting.

Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 532 is amended to read:

§ 532. EXAMINATIONS

(a) The board, or an examination service selected by the board, shall examine applicants for licensure. The examinations may include the following subjects: anatomy, physiology, physiotherapy, diagnosis, hygiene, orthopedics, histology, pathology, neurology, chemistry, bacteriology, x-ray interpretation, x-ray technic and radiation protection, and principles of chiropractic. The board may use a standardized national examination.

* * *

Sec. 8. 26 V.S.A. § 534 is amended to read:

§ 534. LICENSE RENEWAL ~~AND REINSTATEMENT~~

(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license which has lapsed shall be ~~reinstated~~ renewed upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal penalty.

(b) The board may adopt rules necessary for the protection of the public to assure the board that an applicant whose license has lapsed for more than three years is professionally qualified before the license is ~~reinstated~~ renewed. Conditions imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education as required by the board. For purposes of this subsection, the board may

require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a condition of renewal.

Sec. 9. 26 V.S.A. § 541 is amended to read:

§ 541. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS; UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

~~(a) A person licensed or registered under this chapter or a person applying for a license or reinstatement of a license shall not engage in unprofessional conduct.~~

~~(b) Unprofessional conduct means the following conduct and the conduct set forth in section 129a of Title 3 V.S.A. § 129a:~~

* * *

~~(14) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(10), in the course of practice, failure to use and exercise that degree of care, skill and proficiency which is commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful and prudent chiropractor engaged in similar practice under the same or similar conditions, whether or not actual injury to a patient has occurred. [Repealed.]~~

~~(15) Failing to inform a patient verbally and to obtain signed written consent from a patient before proceeding from advertised chiropractic services for which no payment is required to chiropractic services for which payment is required.~~

~~(c) In connection with a disciplinary action, the board may refuse to accept the return of a license or registration tendered by the subject of a disciplinary investigation.~~

~~(d) The burden of proof in a disciplinary action shall be on the state to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the person has engaged in unprofessional conduct.~~

~~(e) After hearing and upon a finding of unprofessional conduct, or upon approval of a negotiated agreement, the board may take disciplinary action against the licensee, registrant or applicant. That action may include any of the following conditions or restrictions which may be in addition to or in lieu of suspension:~~

~~(1) A requirement that the person submit to care or counseling.~~

~~(2) A restriction that a licensee practice only under supervision of a named individual or an individual with specified credentials.~~

~~(3) A requirement that a licensee participate in continuing education as defined by the board, in order to overcome specified deficiencies.~~

~~(4) A requirement that the licensee's scope of practice be restricted to a specified extent.~~

~~(f) The board may reinstate a revoked license on terms and conditions it deems proper.~~

* * * Dental * * *

Sec. 10. REPEAL

26 V.S.A. chapter 13 (dentists and dental hygienists) is repealed.

Sec. 11. 26 V.S.A. chapter 12 is added to read:

CHAPTER 12. DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 561. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the board of dental examiners.

(2) "Director" means the director of the office of professional regulation.

(3) "Practicing dentistry" means an activity in which a person:

(A) undertakes by any means or method to diagnose or profess to diagnose or to treat or profess to treat or to prescribe for or profess to prescribe for any lesions, diseases, disorders, for deficiencies of the human oral cavity, teeth, gingiva, maxilla, or mandible or adjacent associated structures;

(B) extracts human teeth or corrects malpositions of the teeth or jaws;

(C) furnishes, supplies, constructs, reproduces, or repairs prosthetic dentures, bridges, appliances, or other structures to be used or worn as substitutes for natural teeth or adjusts those structures, except on the written prescription of a duly licensed dentist and by the use of impressions or casts made by a duly licensed and practicing dentist;

(D) administers general dental anesthetics;

(E) administers local dental anesthetics, except dental hygienists as authorized by board rule; or

(F) engages in any of the practices included in the curricula of recognized dental colleges.

(4) "Dental hygienist" means an individual licensed under this chapter.

(5) "Dental assistant" means an individual registered under this chapter.

(6) "Direct supervision" means supervision by a licensed dentist who is readily available at the dental facility for consultation or intervention.

§ 562. PROHIBITIONS

(a) No person may use in connection with a name any words, including "Doctor of Dental Surgery" or "Doctor of Dental Medicine," or any letters, signs, or figures, including the letters "D.D.S." or "D.M.D.," which imply that a person is a licensed dentist when not authorized under this chapter;

(b) No person may practice as a dentist or dental hygienist unless currently licensed to do so under the provisions of this chapter.

(c) No person may practice as a dental assistant unless currently registered under the provisions of this chapter.

(d) A person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.

§ 563. EXEMPTIONS

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following:

(1) the rights and privileges of physicians licensed under the laws of this state.

(2) an unlicensed person from performing merely mechanical work upon inert matter in a dental office or laboratory.

(3) a dental student currently enrolled in a dental school or college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association who:

(A) provides dental treatment under the supervision of a licensed dentist at a state hospital or under licensed instructors within a dental school, college, or dental department of a university recognized by the board;

(B) serves as an intern in any hospital approved by the board; or

(C) participates in a supervised externship program authorized by a dental school recognized by the board in order to provide dental treatment under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

(4) upon prior application and approval by the board, a student of a dental school or college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association who provides dental treatment for

purposes of clinical study under the direct supervision and instruction and in the office of a licensed dentist.

(5) a dentist licensed in another state from consulting with a dentist licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

§ 564. OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF A DENTAL OFFICE OR BUSINESS

(a) A dental practice may be owned and operated by the following individuals or entities, either alone or in a combination thereof:

(1) a dentist licensed under the provisions of this chapter;

(2) a health department or clinic of this state or of a local government agency;

(3) a federally qualified health center or community health center designated by the United States department of health and human services to provide dental services;

(4) a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or charitable dental organization;

(5) a hospital licensed under the laws of this state;

(6) an institution or program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association to provide education and training.

(b) The surviving spouse, the executor, or the administrator of the estate of a licensed dentist or the spouse of an incapacitated licensed dentist may employ a dentist licensed under the provisions of this chapter to terminate the practice of the deceased or incapacitated dentist within a reasonable length of time.

§ 565. DISPLAY OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION

Every dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant shall display a copy of his or her current license or registration at each place of practice and in such a manner so as to be easily seen and read.

§ 566. NONDENTAL ANESTHESIA

(a) A dentist may administer nondental anesthesia if he or she meets the following requirements:

(1) The administration of anesthesia occurs only in a hospital where the dentist is credentialed to perform nondental anesthesiology;

(2) The dentist holds an academic appointment in anesthesiology at an accredited medical school;

(3) The dentist has successfully completed a full anesthesiology residency in a program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education;

(4) The dentist has a diploma from the National Board of Anesthesiology; and

(5) The dentist practicing nondental anesthesia is held to the same standard of care as a physician administering anesthesia under the same or similar circumstances.

(b) The board shall refer a complaint or disciplinary proceeding about a dentist arising from his or her administration of nondental anesthesiology to the board of medical practice, which shall have jurisdiction to investigate and sanction and limit or revoke the dentist's license to the same extent that it may for physicians licensed under chapter 23 of this title.

Subchapter 2. Board of Dental Examiners

§ 581. CREATION; QUALIFICATIONS

(a) The state board of dental examiners is created and shall consist of six licensed dentists in good standing who have practiced in this state for a period of five years or more and are in active practice; two licensed dental hygienists who have practiced in this state for a period of at least three years immediately preceding the appointment and are in active practice; one registered dental assistant who has practiced in this state for a period of at least three years immediately preceding the appointment and is in active practice; and two members of the public who are not associated with the practice of dentistry.

(b) Board members shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004.

(c) No member of the board may be an officer or serve on a committee of his or her respective state or local professional dental, dental hygiene, or dental assisting organization, nor shall any member of the board be on the faculty of a school of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting.

§ 582. AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

In addition to any other provisions of law, the board shall have the authority to:

(1) provide general information to applicants;

(2) explain complaint and appeal procedures to applicants, licensees, registrants, and the public;

(3) adopt rules pursuant to the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act as set forth in 3 V.S.A. chapter 25:

(A) as necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(B) relating to qualifications of applicants, examinations, and granting and renewal of licenses and registrations;

(C) relating to the granting or renewal of a license to those who do not meet active practice requirements;

(D) setting standards for the continuing education of persons licensed or registered under this chapter;

(E) establishing requirements for licensing dental hygienists with five years of regulated practice experience;

(F) setting educational standards and standards of practice for the administration of anesthetics in the dental office;

(G) for the administration of local anesthetics by dental hygienists, including minimum education requirements and procedures for administration of local anesthetics;

(H) setting guidelines for general supervision of dental hygienists with no less than three years of experience by dentists with no less than three years of experience to perform tasks in public or private schools or institutions; and

(I) prescribing minimum educational, training, experience, and supervision requirements and professional standards necessary for practice pursuant to this chapter as a dental assistant; and

(4) undertake any other actions or procedures specified in, required by, or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

§ 583. MEETINGS

The board shall meet at least annually on the call of the chair or two members.

§ 584. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The board may refuse to give an examination or issue a license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene or to register an applicant to be a dental assistant and may suspend or revoke any such license or registration or otherwise discipline an applicant, licensee, or registrant for unprofessional conduct.

Unprofessional conduct means the following conduct and the conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a by an applicant or person licensed or registered under this chapter:

- (1) abandonment of a patient;
- (2) rendering professional services to a patient if the dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs;
- (3) promotion of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances, goods, or services provided for a patient in a manner to exploit the patient for financial gain or selling, prescribing, giving away, or administering drugs for other than legal and legitimate therapeutic purposes;
- (4) division of or agreeing to divide with any person for bringing or referring a patient the fees received for providing professional services to the patient;
- (5) willful misrepresentation in treatments;
- (6) practicing a profession regulated under this chapter with a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant who is not legally practicing within the state or aiding or abetting such practice;
- (7) gross and deceptive overcharging for professional services on single or multiple occasions, including filing of false statements for collection of fees for which services are not rendered;
- (8) permitting one's name, license, or registration to be used by a person, group, or corporation when not actually in charge of or responsible for the treatment given;
- (9) practicing dentistry or maintaining a dental office in a manner so as to endanger the health or safety of the public; or
- (10) holding out to the public as being specially qualified or announcing specialization in any branch of dentistry by using terms such as "specialist in" or "practice limited to" unless:
 - (A) the American Dental Association has formally recognized the specialty and an appropriate certifying board for the specialty;
 - (B) the dentist has met the educational requirements and standards set forth by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for the specialty; or
 - (C) the dentist is a diplomate of the specialty certifying board recognized by the American Dental Association.

Subchapter 3. Dentists§ 601. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

To be eligible for licensure as a dentist, an applicant shall:

- (1) have attained the age of majority;
- (2) be a graduate of a dental college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; and
- (3) meet the certificate, examination, and training requirements established by the board by rule.

§ 602. LICENSE BY ENDORSEMENT

(a) The board may grant a license to practice dentistry to an applicant who is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and who:

- (1) is currently licensed in good standing to practice dentistry in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada which has licensing requirements deemed by the board to be substantially equivalent to those of this state;
- (2) has successfully completed an approved emergency office procedures course;
- (3) has successfully completed the dentist jurisprudence examination; and
- (4) has met active practice requirements and any other requirements established by the board by rule.

(b) The board may grant a license to an applicant who is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and who is licensed and in good standing to practice dentistry in a jurisdiction of the United States or Canada which has licensing requirements deemed by the board to be not substantially equivalent to those of this state if:

- (1) the board has determined that the applicant's practice experience or education overcomes any lesser licensing requirement of the other jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed; and
- (2) the applicant:
 - (A) has been in full-time licensed practice of at least 1,200 hours per year for a minimum of five years preceding the application;
 - (B) is in good standing in all jurisdictions in which licensed;

(C) has successfully completed an approved emergency office procedures course;

(D) has successfully completed the dentist jurisprudence examination; and

(E) has met active practice requirements and any other requirements established by the board by rule.

Subchapter 4. Dental Hygienists

§ 621. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

To be eligible for licensure as a dental hygienist, an applicant shall:

(1) have attained the age of majority;

(2) be a graduate of a program of dental hygiene accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association;

(3) present to the board a certificate of the National Board of Dental Examiners;

(4) have completed an approved emergency office procedure course;

(5) have passed the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) examination or other examination approved by the board; and

(6) have passed the dental hygienist jurisprudence examination.

§ 622. LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

The board may grant a license to practice dental hygiene to an applicant who is a graduate of a program of dental hygiene accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and who:

(1) is currently licensed in good standing to practice dental hygiene in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada which has licensing requirements deemed by the board to be substantially equivalent to those of this state;

(2) has successfully completed an approved emergency office procedures course;

(3) has successfully completed the dental hygienist jurisprudence examination; and

(4) has met active practice and any other requirements established by the board by rule.

§ 623. LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT BASED ON TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

The board may grant a license to an applicant who has met the training and experience requirements established by the board by rule under its authority provided in this chapter.

§ 624. PRACTICE

(a) A dental hygienist may perform duties for which the dental hygienist has been qualified by successful completion of the normal curriculum offered by programs of dental hygiene accredited by the American Dental Association or in continuing education courses approved by the board. A dental hygienist may perform tasks in the office of any licensed dentist consistent with the rules adopted by the board.

(b) In public or private schools or institutions, a dental hygienist with no less than three years of experience may perform tasks under the general supervision of a licensed dentist with no less than three years of experience as prescribed in guidelines adopted by the board by rule.

(c)(1) A dental hygienist, when authorized by the board by rule, may administer for dental hygiene purposes local anesthetics under the direct supervision and by the prescription of a licensed dentist.

(2) The license of a dental hygienist authorized by board rule to administer local anesthetics shall have a special endorsement to that effect.

Subchapter 5. Dental Assistants

§ 641. REGISTRATION

(a) No person shall practice as a dental assistant in this state unless registered for that purpose by the board.

(b) On a form prepared and provided by the board, each applicant shall state, under oath, that the dental assistant shall practice only under the supervision of a dentist.

(c) The supervising dentist shall be responsible for the professional acts of dental assistants under his or her supervision.

§ 642. PRACTICE

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a dental assistant may perform duties in the office of any licensed dentist consistent with rules adopted by the board and in public or private schools or institutions under the supervision of a licensed dentist or other dentist approved for the purpose by

the board. The performance of any intraoral tasks shall be under the direct supervision of a dentist.

(b) The following tasks may not be assigned to a dental assistant:

(1) Diagnosis, treatment planning, and prescribing, including for drugs and medicaments or authorization for restorative, prosthodontic, or orthodontic appliances; or

(2) Surgical procedures on hard or soft tissues within the oral cavity or any other intraoral procedure that contributes to or results in an irremediable alteration of the oral anatomy.

Subchapter 6. Renewals, Continuing Education, and Fees

§ 661. RENEWAL OF LICENSE

(a) Licenses and registrations shall be renewed every two years on a schedule determined by the office of professional regulation.

(b) No continuing education reporting is required at the first biennial license renewal date following licensure.

(c) The board may waive continuing education requirements for licensees who are on active duty in the armed forces of the United States.

(d) Dentists.

(1) To renew a license, a dentist shall meet active practice requirements established by the board by rule and document completion of no fewer than 30 hours of board-approved continuing professional education which shall include an emergency office procedures course during the two-year licensing period preceding renewal.

(2) Any dentist who has not been in active practice for a period of five years or more shall be required to meet the renewal requirements established by the board by rule.

(e) Dental hygienists. To renew a license, a dental hygienist shall meet active practice requirements established by the board by rule and document completion of no fewer than 18 hours of board-approved continuing professional education which shall include an emergency office procedures course during the two-year licensing period preceding renewal.

(f) Dental assistants. To renew a registration, a dental assistant shall meet the requirements established by the board by rule.

§ 662. FEES

(a) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application

<u>(A) Dentist</u>	<u>\$ 225.00</u>
<u>(B) Dental hygienist</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
<u>(C) Dental assistant</u>	<u>\$ 60.00</u>

(2) Biennial renewal

<u>(A) Dentist</u>	<u>\$ 355.00</u>
<u>(B) Dental hygienist</u>	<u>\$ 125.00</u>
<u>(C) Dental assistant</u>	<u>\$ 75.00</u>

(b) The licensing fee for a dentist or dental hygienist or the registration fee for a dental assistant who is otherwise eligible for licensure or registration and whose practice in this state will be limited to providing pro bono services at a free or reduced-fee clinic or similar setting approved by the board shall be waived.

§ 663. LAPSED LICENSES OR REGISTRATIONS

(a) Failure to renew a license by the renewal date shall result in a lapsed license subject to late renewal penalties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 125(a)(1).

(b) A person whose license or registration has lapsed may not practice and may be subject to disciplinary action.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a person shall not be required to pay renewal fees or late renewal penalties for years spent on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. A person who returns from active duty shall be required to pay only the most current biennial renewal fee.

* * * Nursing * * *

Sec. 12. 26 V.S.A. § 1591 is amended to read:

§ 1591. REGISTRY

The board of nursing shall establish, implement, and maintain a registry of nursing assistants and medication nursing assistants.

Sec. 13. 26 V.S.A. § 1592 is amended to read:

§ 1592. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Nursing assistant" means an individual, regardless of title, who performs nursing or nursing related functions under the supervision of a licensed nurse.

(2) "Nursing and nursing related functions" means nursing related activities as defined by rule which include basic nursing and restorative duties for which the nursing assistant is prepared by education and supervised practice.

(3) "Medication nursing assistant" means a licensed nursing assistant holding a currently valid endorsement authorizing the delegation to the nursing assistant of tasks of medication administration performed in a nursing home.

Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. § 1592a is added to read:

§ 1592a. ENDORSEMENT OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FOR LICENSED NURSING ASSISTANTS

(a) The board may issue an endorsement of medication administration to a current licensed nursing assistant who:

(1) has participated in and completed a board-approved medication administration education and competency evaluation program;

(2) has passed an examination approved by the board; and

(3) has paid the application fee.

(b) The endorsement shall be renewed by the medication nursing assistant according to a schedule established by the board and pursuant to any other requirements as the board may establish by rule.

Sec. 15. 26 V.S.A. § 1595 is amended to read:

§ 1595. ~~GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE~~ REGULATORY AUTHORITY; UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The board may deny an application for licensure or renewal or revoke, suspend, discipline, or otherwise condition the license of a nursing assistant who engages in the following conduct or the conduct set forth in ~~section 129a~~ of Title 3 V.S.A. § 129a:

(1) has been convicted of a crime that evinces an unfitness to act as a nursing assistant; ~~or~~

(2) has been disciplined as a registered or licensed practical nurse or nursing assistant by competent authority in any jurisdiction; ~~or~~

(3) has been fraudulent or deceitful in procuring or attempting to procure a license, in filing or completing patient records, in signing reports or records or in submitting any information or records to the board; ~~or~~

(4) has abused or neglected a patient or misappropriated patient property; ~~or~~

(5) is unfit or incompetent to function as a nursing assistant by reason of any cause; ~~or~~

(6) has diverted or attempted to divert drugs for unauthorized use; ~~or~~

(7) is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming substances; or

(8) has failed to report to the board any violation of this chapter or of the board's rules; ~~or~~

~~(9) has engaged in any act which before it was committed had been determined to be beyond the approved scope of practice of the nursing assistant.~~

Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. § 1596 is amended to read:

§ 1596. APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS

(a) The board shall adopt standards for nursing assistant and medication nursing assistant education and competency evaluation programs and shall survey and approve those programs which meet the standards.

(b) After an opportunity for a hearing, the board may deny or withdraw approval or take lesser action when a program fails to meet the standards.

(c) A program whose approval has been denied or withdrawn may be reinstated upon satisfying the board that deficiencies have been remedied and the standards have been met.

Sec. 17. 26 V.S.A. § 1601 is amended to read:

§ 1601. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(d) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to conflict with the administration of medication by nonlicensees pursuant to the residential care home licensing regulations promulgated by the department of disabilities, aging, and independent living.

Sec. 18. 26 V.S.A. § 1612 is amended to read:

 § 1612. PRACTICE GUIDELINES

(a) APRN licensees shall submit for review individual practice guidelines and receive board approval of the practice guidelines. Practice guidelines shall reflect current standards of advanced nursing practice specific to the APRN's role, population focus, and specialty.

(b) Licensees shall submit for review individual practice guidelines and receive board approval of the practice guidelines:

(1) prior to initial employment;

(2) if employed, upon application for renewal of an APRN's registered nurse license; and

(3) prior to a change in the APRN's employment or clinical role, population focus, or specialty.

Sec. 18a. Sec. 41 of No. 35 of the Acts of 2009 is amended to read:

Sec. 41. REPEAL

* * *

(c) ~~Sec. 26a~~ Sec. 26 (nursing education programs; faculty; educational experience) of this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2013.

* * * Optometry * * *

Sec. 19. 26 V.S.A. § 1703 is amended to read:

§ 1703. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(5) "Contact lenses" means those lenses ~~with prescription power and those lenses without prescription power which~~ that are worn for cosmetic, therapeutic, or refractive purposes.

Sec. 20. 26 V.S.A. § 1719 is amended to read:

§ 1719. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) Unprofessional conduct is the conduct prohibited by this section and by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, whether or not taken by a license holder.

(b) Unprofessional conduct means:

* * *

(3) Any of the following with regard to the buyer's prescription or purchase of ophthalmic goods:

~~(A) Failure to give to the buyer a copy of the buyer's spectacle lens prescription immediately after the eye examination is completed. Provided, an optometrist may refuse to give the buyer a copy of the buyer's prescription until the buyer has paid for the eye examination but only if that optometrist would have required immediate payment from that buyer had the examination revealed that no ophthalmic goods were required. If the buyer requests his or her contact lens prescription before the prescription is complete, the optometrist shall furnish a copy of the buyer's contact lens prescription to the buyer, clearly marked to indicate that it is not a complete contact lens prescription. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(E) Failure to comply with prescription-released requirements established in the Federal Ophthalmic Practice Rule (~~CFR~~ 16 C.F.R. Part 456) or the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act (~~USCA~~ 15 U.S.C.A. §§ 7601-7610).

(c) After hearing, the board may take disciplinary action against a licensee or applicant found guilty of unprofessional conduct.

Sec. 21. 26 V.S.A. § 1727 is amended to read:

§ 1727. EXPIRATION DATE

An optometrist shall state the expiration date on the face of every prescription written by that optometrist for contact lenses. The expiration date shall be ~~no earlier than~~ one year after the examination date unless a medical or refractive problem affecting vision requires an earlier expiration date. An optometrist may not refuse to give the buyer a copy of the buyer's prescription after the expiration date; however, the copy shall be clearly marked to indicate that it is an expired prescription.

Sec. 22. 26 V.S.A. § 1728d is redesignated to read:

§ 1728d. DURATION OF GLAUCOMA TREATMENT WITHOUT REFERRAL

Sec. 23. 26 V.S.A. § 1729a is amended to read:

§ 1729a. PREREQUISITES TO TREATING GLAUCOMA

A licensee who is already certified to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and who graduated from a school of optometry prior to 2003 and is not certified in another jurisdiction having substantially similar prerequisites to

treating glaucoma shall, in addition to being certified to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents, provide to the board verification of successful completion of an 18-hour course and examination offered by the State University of New York State College of Optometry or similar accredited institution. Successful completion shall include passing an examination substantially equivalent to the relevant portions on glaucoma and orals of the examination given to current graduates of optometry school and shall require the same passing grade. The course shall cover the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma and the use of oral medications and shall be taught by both optometrists and ophthalmologists. In addition, the licensee shall collaborate with an optometrist who has been licensed to treat glaucoma for at least two years or an ophthalmologist regarding his or her current glaucoma patients for six months and at least five new glaucoma patients before treating glaucoma patients independently. These five new glaucoma patients shall be seen at least once by the collaborating glaucoma-licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.

* * * Pharmacy * * *

Sec. 24. 26 V.S.A. § 2044 is amended to read:

§ 2044. RENEWAL OF LICENSES

Each ~~pharmacist and pharmacy technician~~ person or entity licensed or regulated under the provisions of this chapter shall apply for renewal biennially by a date established by the director of the office of professional regulation. ~~The board shall renew the license or registration of each pharmacist and pharmacy technician who is qualified.~~

* * * Veterinary * * *

Sec. 25. 26 V.S.A. § 2414 is amended to read:

§ 2414. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application	\$ 100.00
(2) Biennial renewal	\$ 250.00
(3) Temporary license	\$ 25.00

* * * Land Surveying * * *

Sec. 26. 26 V.S.A. § 2543 is amended to read:

§ 2543. BOARD MEETINGS

(a) The board shall meet, at least two times each year, at the call of the chairperson or upon the request of any other two members.

(b) ~~Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with chapter 5 of Title 1. [Repealed.]~~

(c) A majority of the members of the board shall be a quorum for transacting business, and all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and voting.

(d) The provisions of the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act, 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, relating to contested cases, shall apply to proceedings under this chapter.

(e) Fees for the service of process and attendance before the board shall be the same as the fees paid sheriffs and witnesses in superior court.

Sec. 27. 26 V.S.A. § 2592 is amended to read:

§ 2592. QUALIFICATIONS LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

(a) Any person shall be eligible for licensure as a land surveyor if the person qualifies under one of the following provisions, as established by the board by rule:

(1) ~~Comity or endorsement. — A person holding a certificate of registration or a license to engage in the practice of land surveying issued on the basis of an examination, satisfactory to the board, by proper authority of a state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or another country, based on requirements and qualifications shown by the application to be equal to or greater than the requirements of this chapter, in the opinion of the board, may be examined relative to land surveying matters peculiar to Vermont and granted a license at the direction of the board~~ Bachelor's degree in land surveying, internship, portfolio, and examination. A person who has graduated with a bachelor's degree in land surveying from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), completed a 24-month internship, successfully completed a portfolio, and successfully completed the examinations required by the board may be granted a license.

(2) ~~Graduation and examination. — An applicant who has graduated from a surveying curriculum of four years or more approved by the Accreditation~~

~~Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), followed by at least 24 months of experience in land surveying, under the supervision of a land surveyor, and who has passed an examination satisfactory to the board, may be granted a license~~ Associate's degree in land surveying, internship, portfolio, and examination. A person who has received an associate's degree in land surveying, completed a 36-month internship, successfully completed a portfolio, and successfully completed the examinations required by the board may be granted a license.

~~(3) Education and examination. An applicant, who has attended an accredited college or school of higher education, approved by the board, who has satisfactorily completed 30 credit hours of formal instruction in land surveying, followed by at least 36 months of experience in land surveying, under the supervision of a land surveyor, and who has passed an examination satisfactory to the board, may be granted a license.~~

~~(4) Experience~~ Internship, portfolio, and examination examinations. An applicant who has completed four or more years of experience in land surveying, under the supervision of a land surveyor, and who has a 72-month internship, successfully completed a portfolio, and passed an examination which is satisfactory to the examinations required by the board; may be granted a license.

~~(b) The fundamentals of land surveying examination may be taken with board approval after an applicant for licensure submits the initial application.~~

~~(c) The principles and practice of land surveying examination may be taken before the applicant completes the educational and experience requirements established by this chapter, provided that the applicant has completed all but the final year of required practical experience. Notification of the results of such examinations shall be mailed to each candidate within 30 days of the day the results of any national examination are received by the board. A candidate failing to pass the examinations may apply for reexamination under the rules of the board and may sit for reexamination as many times as the candidate chooses to do so. If an applicant does not pass the entire examination, the applicant need not take again any portion of an examination which the applicant previously passed.~~

~~(d)(1) A person who has undertaken work in the office of a land surveyor shall notify the board:~~

~~(A) within six months of commencing work;~~

~~(B) within 30 days of making any change in the person supervising that work; and~~

~~(C) upon 30 days of completing the experience requirements for licensure.~~

~~(e) [Deleted.]~~

(f) License examinations may consist of a national surveying examination selected by the board plus a Vermont portion. The Vermont portion shall be limited to those subjects and skills necessary to perform land surveying.

~~(g) The board may conduct a personal interview of an applicant. A personal interview shall be for the limited purposes of assisting the applicant to obtain licensure and to verify the applicant's educational qualifications and that the applicant completed the experience requirements for licensure. A personal interview shall not serve directly or indirectly as an oral examination of the applicant's substantive knowledge of surveying. An interview conducted under this section shall be taped and, at the request of the applicant, shall be transcribed. An applicant who is denied licensure shall be informed in writing of his or her right to have the interview transcribed free of charge. At least one of the public members of the board shall be present at any personal interview.~~

~~(h) When the board intends to deny an application for license, the director of the office of professional regulation shall send the applicant written notice of the decision by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall include a specific statement of the reasons for the action. Within 30 days of the date that an applicant receives such notice, the applicant may file a petition with the board for review of its preliminary decision. At the hearing to review the preliminary decision, the burden shall be on the applicant to show that a license should be issued. After the hearing, the board shall affirm or reverse the preliminary denial. The applicant may appeal a final denial by the board to the appellate officer.~~

Sec. 28. 26 V.S.A. § 2592a is added to read:

§ 2592a. LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

Upon an applicant's successful completion of the Vermont portion of the licensing examination, the board may issue a license to an applicant who is licensed or registered and currently in good standing in a United States or Canadian jurisdiction having licensing requirements which are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter. The absence of a portfolio requirement in another jurisdiction shall not prevent the board from finding substantial equivalence.

Sec. 29. REPEAL

26 V.S.A. § 2594 (licenses generally) is repealed.

Sec. 30. 26 V.S.A. § 2595 is amended to read:

§ 2595. EXCEPTIONS

(a) The work of an employee or subordinate of a person having a license under this chapter is exempted from the licensing provisions of this chapter if such work is done under the supervision of and is verified by a licensee.

* * *

Sec. 31. 26 V.S.A. § 2598 is amended to read:

§ 2598. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) Unprofessional conduct is the conduct prohibited by this section and by 3 V.S.A. § 129a.

(b) Unprofessional conduct includes the following actions by a licensee:

* * *

~~(4) agreeing with any other person or organization, or subscribing to any code of ethics or organizational bylaws, when the intent or primary effect of that agreement, code or bylaw is to restrict or limit the flow of information concerning alleged or suspected unprofessional conduct to the board; [Repealed.]~~

(5) ~~wilfully~~ willfully acting, while serving as a board member, in any way to contravene the provisions of this chapter and thereby artificially restrict the entry of qualified persons into the profession;

(6) using the licensee's seal on documents prepared by others not in the licensee's direct ~~employ~~ supervision, or use the seal of another.

~~(7) [Deleted.]~~

Sec. 32. REPEAL

26 V.S.A. § 2599 (discipline of licensees) is repealed.

Sec. 33. 26 V.S.A. § 2601 is amended to read:

§ 2601. RENEWALS

(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the renewal fee following the procedure established by the office of professional regulation.

(b) ~~Biennially, the board shall forward a renewal form to each licensee. Upon receipt of the completed form and the renewal fee, the board shall issue a new license. [Repealed.]~~

(c) A license which has lapsed for a period of three years or less may be renewed upon application and payment of the renewal fee and the late penalty fee.

(d) As a condition of renewal, the board shall require that a licensee establish that he or she has completed continuing education, as approved by the board not to exceed 15 hours for each year of renewal.

(e) The board may renew the license of an individual whose license has lapsed for more than three years upon payment of the required fee, and the late renewal penalty, provided the individual has satisfied all the requirements for renewal, including continuing education established by the board by rule.

* * * Radiologic Technology * * *

Sec. 34. 26 V.S.A. § 2801 is amended to read:

§ 2801. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(3) “Practice of radiography” means the direct application of ionizing radiation to human beings ~~for diagnostic purposes.~~

(4) “Practice of nuclear medicine technology” means the act of giving a radioactive substance to a human being ~~for diagnostic purposes,~~ or the act of performing associated imaging procedures, or both.

(5) “Practice of radiation therapy” means the direct application of ionizing radiation to human beings for therapeutic purposes or the act of performing associated imaging procedures, or both.

* * *

(11) “ARRT” means the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

(12) “NMTCB” means the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board.

Sec. 35. 26 V.S.A. § 2802 is amended to read:

§ 2802. PROHIBITIONS

~~(a) For purposes of this section, the word "license" includes temporary permits under section 2825 of this title. [Repealed.]~~

(b) No person shall practice radiologic technology unless he or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) No person shall practice radiography without a license for radiography from the board unless exempt under section 2803 of this title.

~~(d) No person who holds a limited radiography license from the board shall apply ionizing radiation to human beings for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes or take radiographs, except as follows:~~

~~(1) A person who holds an endorsement for chest radiography may radiograph the thorax for the purpose of demonstrating the heart or lungs; and~~

~~(2) A person who holds an endorsement for extremities radiography may radiograph the hands and arms, including the shoulder girdle, the feet, and the legs up to the mid point of the femur. [Repealed.]~~

(e) No person shall practice nuclear medicine technology without a license for that purpose from the board unless exempt under section 2803 of this title.

(f) No person shall practice radiation therapy technology without a license for that purpose from the board unless exempt under section 2803 of this title.

Sec. 36. 26 V.S.A. § 2803 is amended to read:

§ 2803. EXEMPTIONS

The prohibitions in section 2802 of this title shall not apply to dentists licensed under chapter 13 of this title and actions within their scope of practice nor to:

* * *

~~(6) Individuals who are completing a course of training for limited radiographic licensure as required in subsection 2821(c) of this title and who work under direct personal supervision of a licensed practitioner. The exemption authorized by this subdivision shall be for one time only and for no more than six months. The licensed practitioner is professionally and legally responsible for work performed by the person completing the course of training~~ Licensees certified in one of the three primary modalities set forth in section 2821a of this chapter preparing for postprimary certification in

accordance with ARRT or NMTCB under the direct personal supervision of a licensee already certified in the specific postprimary modality at issue.

Sec. 37. 26 V.S.A. § 2804 is amended to read:

§ 2804. COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN LICENSED PRACTITIONERS

Unless the requirements of subdivision 2803(1) of this title have been satisfied, no physician, as defined in chapter 23 of this title, podiatrist, as defined in chapter 7 of this title, osteopathic physician, as defined in chapter 33 of this title, naturopathic physician as defined in chapter 81 of this title, or chiropractor, as defined in chapter ~~9~~ 10 of this title, shall apply ionizing radiation to human beings ~~for diagnostic purposes~~, without first having satisfied the board of his or her competency to do so. The board shall consult with the appropriate licensing boards concerning suitable performance standards. The board shall, by rule, provide for periodic recertification of competency. A person subject to the provisions of this section shall be subject to the fees established under subdivisions 2814(4) and (5) of this title. This section does not apply to radiologists who are certified or eligible for certification by the American Board of Radiology.

Sec. 38. 26 V.S.A. § 2811 is amended to read:

§ 2811. BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

(a) A board of radiologic technology is created, consisting of ~~five~~ six members. The board shall be attached to the office of professional regulation.

(b) One member of the board shall be a member of the public who has no financial interest in radiologic technology other than as a consumer or possible consumer of its services. The public member shall have no financial interest personally or through a spouse.

(c) One member of the board shall be a radiologist certified by the American Board of Radiology.

(d) ~~Two~~ Three members of the board shall be licensed under this chapter, one representing each of the three following primary modalities: radiography; nuclear medicine technology; and radiation therapy.

(e) One member of the board shall be a representative from the radiological health program of the Vermont department of health.

(f) Board members shall be appointed by the governor.

Sec. 39. 26 V.S.A. § 2812 is amended to read:

§ 2812. POWERS AND DUTIES

(a) The board shall adopt rules necessary for the performance of its duties, including:

(1) a definition of the practice of radiologic technology, interpreting section 2801 of this title;

(2) qualifications for obtaining licensure, interpreting section 2821 of this ~~title~~ chapter;

(3) explanations of appeal and other significant rights given to applicants and the public;

(4) procedures for disciplinary and reinstatement cases;

(5) ~~procedures for certifying persons using special equipment;~~
[Repealed.]

(6) procedures for mandatory reporting of unsafe radiologic conditions or practices;

(7) procedures for continued competency evaluation;

(8) procedures for radiation safety;

(9) procedures for competency standards for license applications and renewals.

(b) The board shall:

(1) ~~If applications for licensure by examination are pending, offer examinations at least twice each year and pass upon the qualifications of applicants for licensing.~~ [Repealed.]

(2) Use the administrative and legal services provided by the office of professional regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(3) Investigate suspected unprofessional conduct.

(4) Periodically determine whether a sufficient supply of good quality radiologic technology services is available in Vermont at a competitive and reasonable price; and take suitable action, within the scope of its powers, to solve or bring public and professional attention to any problem which it finds in this area.

(5) As a condition of renewal require that a licensee establish that he or she has completed a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education as approved by the board ~~not to exceed 24 hours in a two-year renewal.~~

* * *

Sec. 40. 26 V.S.A. § 2814 is amended to read:

§ 2814. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

- (1) Application for ~~temporary permit and~~ primary licensure \$ 100.00
- (2) Biennial renewal
 - (A) renewal of a single primary license \$ 110.00
 - (B) renewal of each additional primary license \$ 15.00
- (3) Initial competency endorsement under section 2804 of this title \$ 100.00
- (4) Biennial renewal of competency endorsement under section 2804 of this title \$ 110.00
- (5) Evaluation \$ 125.00

Sec. 41. REPEAL

26 V.S.A. § 2821 (licensing) is repealed.

Sec. 42. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

A person granted a limited radiography license by the board of radiologic technology under 26 V.S.A. § 2821 prior to the effective date of this act may continue to practice as permitted by that license and board rules.

Sec. 43. 26 V.S.A. § 2821a is added to read:

§ 2821a. LICENSE FOR PRIMARY MODALITIES

Common Requirements. The board shall recognize and follow the ARRT and the NMTCB primary certification process. The board shall issue a license to practice in one of the following three primary modalities to any person who in addition to the other requirements of this section, has reached the age of majority and has completed preliminary education equivalent to at least four years of high school:

(1) Radiography. The board shall issue a radiography license to any person who, in addition to meeting the general requirements of this section:

(A) has graduated from a radiologic technology training program offered by a school of radiologic technology approved by ARRT; and

(B) has obtained primary certification in radiography from ARRT.

(2) Nuclear medicine technology. The board shall issue a nuclear medicine technology license to any person who, in addition to meeting the general requirements of this section:

(A) has graduated from a nuclear medicine technology program offered by a school of nuclear medicine technology approved by ARRT or NMTCB; and

(B) has obtained primary certification in nuclear medicine technology from ARRT or NMTCB.

(3) Radiation therapy. The board shall issue a radiation therapy license to any person who, in addition to meeting the general requirements of this section:

(A) has graduated from a radiation therapy training program offered by a school of radiologic technology approved by ARRT; and

(B) has obtained primary certification in radiation therapy from the ARRT.

Sec. 44. 26 V.S.A. § 2821b is added to read:

§ 2821b. LICENSE FOR POSTPRIMARY MODALITIES

(a) The board recognizes and follows the ARRT postprimary certification process for the following postprimary practice categories: mammography, computed tomography (“CT”), cardiac-interventional radiography, and vascular-interventional radiography.

(b) In order for a licensee who has obtained one of the three primary ARRT or NMTCB certifications set forth in section 2821a of this subchapter to practice in one of the postprimary modalities set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the licensee must first obtain postprimary certification from ARRT for that category, except:

(1) a person with a primary license in radiation therapy may perform CT for treatment simulation; and

(2) a person with a primary license in nuclear medicine technology may perform CT for attenuation correction on hybrid imaging equipment, such as PET/CT and SPECT/CT scanners.

(c) In order to practice bone densitometry or apply ionizing radiation using bone densitometry equipment, a primary certification and license in radiography is required, with the exception that individuals who perform quantitative computed tomography (“QCT”) bone densitometry must obtain postprimary certification in CT in addition to primary certification.

Sec. 45. 26 V.S.A. § 2823 is amended to read:

§ 2823. RENEWAL AND PROCEDURE FOR NONRENEWAL

(a) ~~Licenses shall be renewed every two years without examination and on payment of the required fees~~ Each radiographer, nuclear medicine technologist, and radiation therapist licensed to practice by the board shall apply biennially for the renewal of a license. One month prior to the renewal date, the office of professional regulation shall send to each of those licensees a license renewal application form and a notice of the date on which the existing license will expire. The licensee shall file the application for license renewal and pay a renewal fee. In order to be eligible for renewal, an applicant shall document completion of no fewer than 24 hours of board-approved continuing education. Required accumulation of continuing education hours shall begin on the first day of the first full biennial licensing period following initial licensure.

(b) ~~A license which has expired because a licensee has not sought renewal may be reinstated on payment of a renewal fee and a late renewal penalty. The licensee shall not be required to pay renewal fees during periods when the license was expired. However, if such a license remains expired for a period of ten years, the board shall send notice under this section to the former licensee at his last known address. Thirty days after the notice is sent, the right to renew the license without examination is suspended. Once the right to renew is suspended, it may be reinstated only by decision of the board acting on petition of the former licensee. During that proceeding, the board may require re-examination of the licensee, as well as payment of a renewal fee, late renewal penalty and a reinstatement fee~~ A person who practices radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiation therapy and who fails to renew a license or registration or fails to pay the fees required by this chapter shall be an illegal practitioner and shall forfeit the right to practice until reinstated by the board.

(c) The board shall adopt rules setting forth qualifications for reinstating lapsed licenses.

Sec. 46. REPEAL

26 V.S.A. § 2825 (temporary permits) is repealed.

Sec. 47. 26 V.S.A. § 2825a is added to read:

§ 2825a. LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

The board may grant a license to an applicant who possesses a license in good standing in another state and possesses the applicable ARRT or NMTCB

primary and postprimary certifications as set forth in sections 2821a and 2821b of this subchapter, respectively.

* * * Psychology * * *

Sec. 48. 26 V.S.A. § 3011a is amended to read:

§ 3011a. APPLICATIONS

(a) Any person desiring to obtain a license as a psychologist shall make application therefor to the board upon such form and in such manner as the board prescribes and shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she:

(1) is at least 18 years of age;

~~(2)(A) has had two years of experience, or their equivalent, in the practice of clinical psychology under the supervision of a person who is licensed or who is qualified to be licensed under this chapter; possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has completed 4,000 hours of supervised practice as defined by the board by rule, of which no fewer than 2,000 hours were completed after the doctoral degree in psychology was received; or~~

~~(3) has successfully completed each examination that is required pursuant to section 3013 of this title; and~~

~~(A) possesses a doctoral degree in psychology obtained through a professional psychology training program awarded by an institution of higher education;~~

~~(B) possesses a master's degree in psychology obtained through a professional psychology training program awarded by an institution of higher education; and has completed 4,000 hours of supervised practice as defined by the board by rule of which no fewer than 2,000 hours were completed after the master's degree in psychology was received; and~~

~~(C) possesses a master's degree in psychology awarded by an institution of higher education provided the person was enrolled as a candidate for the master's degree no later than December 31, 1993; or~~

~~(D) possesses a degree in psychology awarded by an institution of higher education based on a program that the board determines to be equivalent to that required in subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (3)~~

(3) has successfully completed the examinations designated by the board.

(b) In exceptional cases, the board may waive any requirement of this section if in its judgment the applicant demonstrates appropriate qualifications.

* * * Clinical Social Work * * *

Sec. 49. 26 V.S.A. § 3201 is amended to read:

§ 3201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Clinical social work” is defined as providing a service, for a consideration, which is primarily drawn from the academic discipline of social work theory, in which a special knowledge of social resources, human capabilities, and the part that motivation plays in determining behavior, is directed at helping people to achieve a more adequate, satisfying, and productive psychosocial adjustment. The application of social work principles and methods includes, but is not restricted to assessment, diagnosis, prevention and amelioration of adjustment problems and emotional and mental disorders of individuals, families and groups. The scope of practice for licensed clinical social workers includes the provision of psychotherapy.

* * *

Sec. 50. 26 V.S.A. § 3205 is amended to read:

§ 3205. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for licensing as a clinical social worker an applicant must have:

(1) received a master’s degree or doctorate from an accredited social work education program;

(2) [Deleted.]

(3) ~~had two years of post master’s experience in the practice of clinical social work or the equivalent in part time experience~~ completed 3,000 hours of supervised practice of clinical social work as defined by rule under the supervision of a licensed physician or a licensed osteopathic physician who has completed a residency in psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed clinical mental health counselor, a person licensed or certified under this chapter, or a person licensed or certified in another state or Canada in one of these professions or their substantial equivalent. Persons engaged in post masters supervised practice in Vermont shall be entered on the roster of nonlicensed, noncertified psychotherapists;

(4) submitted the names and addresses of three persons who can attest to the applicant’s professional competence. Such person shall be a licensed physician or a licensed osteopathic physician who has completed a residency in psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed clinical mental health counselor,

a person licensed or certified under this chapter, or a person licensed in another state or Canada in one of these professions; and

(5) passed an examination to the satisfaction of the director of the office of professional regulation.

* * * Dietetics * * *

Sec. 51. 26 V.S.A. § 3381 is amended to read:

§ 3381. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “~~American Dietetic Association~~ Academy of Dietetics and Nutrition” means the national professional organization of dietitians that provides direction and leadership for quality dietetic practice, education and research.

* * *

Sec. 52. 26 V.S.A. § 3385 is amended to read:

§ 3385. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for certification as a dietitian, an applicant:

(1) shall not be in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or rule adopted in accordance with the provisions of the chapter; and

(2)(A) shall have proof of registration as a registered dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration; or

(B) shall have:

(i) received a bachelor of arts or science or a higher degree in dietetics from an accredited college or university; and

(ii) satisfactorily completed a minimum of 900 practicum hours of supervision under an ~~American Dietetic Association~~ Academy of Dietetics and Nutrition dietitian registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration; and

(iii) passed an examination to the satisfaction of the director.

* * * Naturopathic Medicine * * *

Sec. 53. 26 V.S.A. § 4121 is amended to read:

§ 4121. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

~~(7) “Naturopathic formulary examination” means an examination, administered by the director or the director’s designee, which tests an applicant’s knowledge of the pharmacology, clinical use, side effects, and drug interactions of agents in the naturopathic formulary. [Repealed.]~~

(8) “Naturopathic medicine” or “the practice of naturopathic medicine” means a system of health care that utilizes education, natural medicines, and natural therapies to support and stimulate a patient’s intrinsic self-healing processes and to prevent, diagnose, and treat human health conditions, injuries, and pain. In connection with such system of health care, an individual licensed under this chapter may:

(A) Administer or provide for preventative and therapeutic purposes nonprescription medicines, topical medicines, botanical medicines, homeopathic medicines, counseling, hypnotherapy, nutritional and dietary therapy, naturopathic physical medicine, naturopathic childbirth, therapeutic devices, barrier devices for contraception, and prescription medicines authorized by this chapter ~~or by the formulary established under subsection 4125(e) of this title.~~

(B) Use diagnostic procedures commonly used by physicians in general practice, including physical and orificial examinations, electrocardiograms, diagnostic imaging techniques, phlebotomy, clinical laboratory tests and examinations, and physiological function tests.

* * *

(13) “Naturopathic pharmacology examination” means a test administered by the director or the director’s designee, the passage of which is required to obtain the special license endorsement under subsection 4125(d) of this chapter.

Sec. 54. 26 V.S.A. § 4122 is amended to read:

§ 4122. PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

(a) No person shall perform any of the following acts:

(1) Practice naturopathic medicine in this state without a valid license issued in accordance with this chapter except as provided in section 4123 of this title.

(2) Use, in connection with the person’s name any letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a naturopathic physician unless the person is licensed in accordance with this chapter. A person licensed under this chapter may use the designations “N.D.,” “doctor of

naturopathic medicine,” “naturopathic doctor,” “doctor of naturopathy₁” or “naturopathic physician.”

(b) A person licensed under this chapter shall not perform any of the following acts:

(1) Prescribe, dispense, or administer any prescription medicines ~~except those medicines authorized by this chapter~~ without obtaining from the director the special license endorsement under subsection 4125(d) of this chapter.

(2) Perform surgical procedures, except for episiotomy and perineal repair associated with naturopathic childbirth.

(3) Use for therapeutic purposes; any device regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that has not been approved by the FDA.

(4) Perform naturopathic childbirth without obtaining ~~an endorsement from the director~~ the special license endorsement under subsection 4125(b) of this chapter.

(c) A person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127(c).

Sec. 55. 26 V.S.A. § 4123 is amended to read:

§ 4123. EXEMPTIONS

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any of the following:

(1) The practice of a profession by a person who is licensed, certified₁ or registered under other laws of this state and is performing services within the authorized scope of practice of that profession.

(2) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a person duly licensed to engage in the practice of naturopathic medicine in another state, territory₂ or the District of Columbia who is called into this state for consultation with a naturopathic physician licensed under this chapter.

(3) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a student enrolled in an approved naturopathic medical college. The performance of services shall be pursuant to a course of instruction and under the supervision of an instructor, who shall be a naturopathic physician licensed in accordance with this chapter.

(4) The use or administration of over-the-counter medicines or other nonprescription agents, ~~regardless of whether the over-the-counter medicine or agent is on the naturopathic formulary.~~

(b) The provisions of subdivision 4122(a)(1) of this ~~title~~ chapter, relating to the practice of naturopathic medicine, shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any manner the right of a practitioner of another health care profession from carrying on in the usual manner any of the functions related to that profession.

Sec. 56. 26 V.S.A. § 4125 is amended to read:

§ 4125. DIRECTOR; DUTIES

(a) The director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall:

(1) Provide general information to applicants for licensure as naturopathic physicians.

(2) Administer fees collected under this chapter.

(3) Administer examinations.

(4) Explain appeal procedures to naturopathic physicians and applicants for licensure and complaint procedures to the public.

(5) Receive applications for licensure under this chapter; issue and renew licenses; and revoke, suspend, reinstate, or condition licenses as ordered by an administrative law officer.

(6) Refer all disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer.

(b) The director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall adopt rules necessary to perform the director's duties under this section, which shall include rules regulating ~~the naturopathic formulary, the naturopathic formulary examination, and~~ a special license endorsement to practice naturopathic childbirth.

~~(c) At least annually, in consultation with the commissioner of health and in accordance with consultation procedures adopted by the director by rule, the director with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall review and update the formulary of prescription medicines naturopathic physicians may use consistent with their scope of practice and training. Nonnatural substances found to be substantially safer in treatment or without which a patient's primary care would be compromised may be added to the formulary. The formulary shall include prescription medicines necessary for naturopathic practice and naturopathic childbirth. [Repealed.]~~

(d) The director, in consultation with the commissioner of health, shall adopt rules consistent with the commissioner's recommendations regulating a special license endorsement which shall authorize a naturopathic physician to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription medicines. These rules shall require a naturopathic physician to pass a naturopathic pharmacology

examination in order to obtain this special license endorsement. The naturopathic pharmacology examination shall be administered by the director or the director's designee and shall test an applicant's knowledge of the pharmacology, clinical use, side effects, and drug interactions of prescription medicines, including substances in the Vermont department of health's regulated drugs rule.

Sec. 57. 26 V.S.A. § 4127 is amended to read:

§ 4127. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE

To be eligible for licensure as a naturopathic physician, an applicant shall satisfy all the following:

(1) Have been granted a degree of doctor of naturopathic medicine, or a degree determined by the director to be essentially equivalent to such degree, from an approved naturopathic medical college.

(2) Be physically and mentally fit to practice naturopathic medicine.

(3) Pass a licensing examination approved by the director ~~pursuant to subsection 4129(a) of this title~~ by rule, unless the applicant is exempt from examination pursuant to ~~subsection 4129(b)~~ section 4129 of this ~~title~~ chapter.

(4) ~~Pass the naturopathic formulary examination administered by the director or the director's designee, unless the applicant is exempt from examination pursuant to the standards set forth in subsection 4129(b) of this title. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 58. 26 V.S.A. § 4129 is amended to read:

§ 4129. WAIVER OF LICENSING EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT

~~(a) The director, or designee, shall administer the licensing examination to applicants at least twice each year if applications are pending. Examinations administered by the director and the procedures of administration shall be fair and reasonable and shall be designed and implemented to ensure that all applicants are granted a license if they demonstrate that they possess minimal professional qualifications which are consistent with the public health, safety and welfare. The examination shall not be designed or implemented for the purpose of limiting the number of licenses issued.~~

~~(b)~~ The director shall waive the examination requirement if the applicant is a naturopathic physician regulated under the laws of another jurisdiction who is in good standing to practice naturopathic medicine in that jurisdiction and, in the opinion of the director, the standards and qualifications required for

regulation in that jurisdiction are at least equal to those required by this chapter.

Sec. 59. 26 V.S.A. § 4130 is amended to read:

§ 4130. BIENNIAL LICENSE RENEWAL; CONTINUING EDUCATION

(a) The license to practice naturopathic medicine shall be renewed every two years by filing a renewal application on a form provided by the director. The application shall be accompanied by the required fee and evidence of compliance with subsection (b) of this section. ~~The director may require licensees who have not previously passed the naturopathic physician formulary examination to pass the examination as a condition of license renewal.~~

(b) As a condition of renewal, a naturopathic physician shall complete a program of continuing education, approved by the director, during the preceding two years. The director shall not require more than 30 hours of continuing education biennially.

Sec. 60. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

(a) Naturopathic pharmacology examination establishment. The naturopathic pharmacology examination set forth in 26 V.S.A. § 4125(d) shall be established and made available by July 1, 2013.

(b) Formulary authorization. Notwithstanding the provisions of 26 V.S.A. § 4122(b)(1) and except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any naturopathic physician licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 81 who is authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer any prescription medicines pursuant to the 2009 naturopathic physician formulary prior to the effective date of this act may continue to prescribe, dispense, and administer those medicines consistent with his or her scope of practice and training and without obtaining from the director of the office of professional regulation the special license endorsement required under 26 V.S.A. § 4125(d).

(c) Formulary review. In consultation with the commissioner of health and with the advice of the advisor appointees appointed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 4126, the director may review and eliminate prescription medicines on the 2009 naturopathic physician formulary that authorized naturopathic physicians are permitted to prescribe, dispense, and administer.

(d) Formulary sunset; transition to examination.

(1) Subsection (b) of this section (formulary authorization) shall be repealed on July 1, 2015.

(2) Any naturopathic physician who is authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer any prescription medicines under subsection (b) of this section shall have until July 1, 2015 to successfully complete the naturopathic pharmacology examination set forth in 26 V.S.A. § 4125(d) in order to be able to continue to prescribe, dispense, and administer any prescription medicines.

* * * Boxing * * *

Sec. 61. 31 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:

§ 1101. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Boxer” means an individual who participates in a boxing match.

(2) “Boxing match” or “match” means a contest or training exhibition for a prize or purse where an admission fee is charged and where individuals score points by striking the head and upper torso of an opponent with padded fists. ~~An amateur boxing match is a match held under the supervision of a school, college or university or under the supervision of United States Amateur Boxing, Inc. or its successor as the nationally designated governing body for amateur boxing. All other matches shall be considered professional boxing matches~~ Kickboxing, martial arts, and mixed martial arts, as defined in this section, shall be considered “matches” for the purposes of this chapter.

(3) “Director” means the director of the office of professional regulation.

(4) “Disciplinary action” includes any action by the administrative law officer appointed under ~~section 129 of Title 3 V.S.A. § 129~~, premised upon a finding of wrongdoing. It includes all sanctions of any kind, including denying, suspending, or revoking, a registration and issuing warnings ~~and other sanctions.~~

(5) “Kickboxing” means unarmed combat involving the use of striking techniques delivered with the upper and lower body and in which the competitors remain standing while striking;

(6) “Martial arts” means any form of unarmed combative sport or unarmed combative entertainment that allows contact striking, except boxing or wrestling;

(7) “Mixed martial arts” means unarmed combat involving the use of a combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including grappling, submission holds, and strikes with the upper and lower body.

(8) “Manager” means a person who receives compensation for service as an agent or representative of a professional boxer.

(6)(9) “National boxer registry” means an entity certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions for the purpose of maintaining records for the identification of professional boxers and for tracking their records and suspensions.

(7)(10) “Participant” means managers, seconds, referees, and judges in a professional boxing match.

(8)(11) “Promoter” means a person that organizes, holds, advertises, or otherwise conducts a professional boxing match.

Sec. 62. 31 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. DIRECTOR; POWERS; DUTIES

(a) The director shall have jurisdiction over professional boxing matches. The director’s power to supervise professional boxing matches includes the power to suspend a match immediately if there is a serious and immediate danger to the public, boxers, promoters, or participants.

(b)(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the director shall not have jurisdiction over amateur boxing matches. Amateur boxing matches shall be conducted according to the rules of United States Amateur Boxing, Inc., the national governing body for amateur boxing of the United States Olympic Committee or its successor as the nationally-designated governing body for amateur boxing. However, upon a finding that the health and safety of the boxers and participants in an amateur match are not being sufficiently safeguarded, the director shall assume jurisdiction over and supervisory responsibility for the match. The director’s decision may be appealed to the administrative law officer appointed under ~~section 129 of Title 3~~ V.S.A. § 129 within 10 days of the date the finding is issued. If the director assumes jurisdiction under this subsection, the match shall continue to be conducted in accordance with the rules of United States Amateur Boxing, Inc.

(2) For the purposes of this subsection, an “amateur boxing match” means a match held under the supervision of a school, college, or university or under the supervision of United States Amateur Boxing, Inc. or its successor as the nationally designated governing body for amateur boxing.

(c) The director shall:

- (1) provide information to applicants for registration;
- (2) administer fees collected under this chapter;

(3) explain appeal procedures to registrants and applicants and complaint procedures to the public;

(4) receive applications for registration, grant registration under this chapter, renew registrations and deny, revoke, suspend, reinstate, or condition registrations as directed by an administrative law officer;

(5) refer all complaints and disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer appointed under ~~section 129 of Title 3~~ V.S.A. § 129.

(d) The director may adopt rules necessary to perform his or her duties under this chapter. The uniform rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions as adopted on June 6, 1998, and as amended from time to time, shall apply to professional boxing matches conducted under this chapter to the extent those rules address matters not covered by rules adopted by the director.

Sec. 63. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012 except that:

(1) this section and Sec. 60(c) (transitional provision; formulary review) of this act shall take effect on passage; and

(2) Sec. 44, 26 V.S.A. § 2821b(b) (practice in postprimary modalities), of this act shall take effect on May 31, 2015.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the House amend the bill as recommended by the committee on Government Operations? **Rep. Krebs of South hero** moved to amend the report of the committee on Government Operations as follows:

In Sec. 27, in 26 V.S.A. § 2592 in subdivision (a)(2), after “A person who has” by striking out “received an associate’s degree in land surveying” and inserting in lieu thereof “graduated with an associate’s degree in land surveying from a program accredited by the ABET”

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the report of the committee on Government Operations, as amended, was agreed to and third reading ordered.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 600

House bill, entitled

An act relating to mandatory mediation in foreclosure proceedings

Was taken up and pending the reading of the report of the committee on Judiciary, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, action on the bill was postponed until the next legislative day.

Joint Resolution Amended; Third Reading Ordered

J.R.H. 27

Rep. Consejo of Sheldon, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution supporting the Vermont State Hospital employees

Reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

In the eighth Whereas clause by striking “working Vermonters legislative caucus is gravely” and inserting in lieu thereof “general assembly is”

The resolution, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committee on Government Operations agreed to and third reading ordered.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and twenty minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.