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H.556

Introduced by Representatives Cordes of Lincoln and Killacky of South

Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; public buildings; gender-free restrooms; consumer protection

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the Human Rights Commission to impose a civil penalty for failure to provide gender-free restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation.

An act relating to gender-free restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1792 is amended to read:

§ 1792. SINGLE-USER RESTROOMS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any single-user toilet facility in a public building or place of public accommodation shall be made available for use by persons of any gender, and designated for use by not more than one occupant at a time or for family or assisted use. A single-user toilet facility may be identified by a sign, provided that the sign marks the facility as a restroom and does not indicate any specific gender.

1 (b) The Commissioner of Public Safety may inspect for compliance under
2 subsection (a) of this section during any inspection conducted pursuant to
3 20 V.S.A. § 2731(b) or 26 V.S.A. § 2173 or 2174 and shall refer a violation to
4 the Human Rights Commission.

5 (c)(1) The Human Rights Commission may inspect for compliance under
6 subsection (a) of this section:

7 (A) on its own initiative;

8 (B) upon a referral from the Commissioner of Public Safety pursuant
9 to subsection (b) of this section; or

10 (C) or a upon receiving a complaint from another person.

11 (2) The Commission may impose a civil penalty of not more than
12 \$250.00 per violation of this section.

13 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

14 In fiscal year 2021, the amount of \$5,000.00 is appropriated from the
15 General Fund to the Human Rights Commission to implement a public
16 information campaign that is designed to inform operators of public buildings
17 and places of public accommodation of their duties concerning gender-free
18 restrooms under 18 V.S.A. § 1792.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.