

1 H. 655

2 Introduced by Representatives McCarthy of St. Albans City, Gregoire of

3 Fairfield, and Toof of St. Albans Town

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Health; food and lodging establishments; short-term rentals; privacy

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes: (1) to require
8 the Department of Health to include privacy precautions in the educational
9 materials it produces for short-term rental operators; (2) to prohibit the use of
10 surveillance cameras and audio recording devices inside a short-term rental
11 unit; and (3) to prevent a short-term rental operator and renter from publicly
12 posting personal information about the other party on an electronic platform.

13 An act relating to privacy protections and short-term rentals

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

15 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4468 is amended to read:

16 § 4468. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

17 (a) The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of
18 Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety, shall prepare a packet of information
19 pertaining to the health, safety, privacy, and financial obligations of short-term
20 rental operators, including information regarding the importance of reviewing

1 options for property and liability insurance with the operator's insurance
2 company.

3 (b) Included with the information packet set forth in subsection (a) of this
4 section shall be a self-certification form pertaining to health, ~~and~~ safety, and
5 privacy precautions that short-term rental operators must take into
6 consideration prior to renting a unit. The form shall be retained by the operator
7 and need not be filed with the Department.

8 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4469 is added to read:

9 § 4469. OPERATOR AND RENTER PRIVACY

10 (a) A short-term rental operator shall not use a surveillance camera or audio
11 recording device within the interior of a short-term rental unit while the unit is
12 occupied by a paying renter. The use of a surveillance camera or audio
13 recording device on the exterior of a short-term rental unit shall be disclosed to
14 prospective renters at the time of booking.

15 (b) A short-term rental operator and a renter of a short-term rental unit shall
16 not publicly post personal information about the other party to the transaction
17 on an electronic platform. As used in this section, "personal information"
18 includes name, telephone number, home address, e-mail address, billing
19 information, and renter's date of stay.

20 (c) A short-term rental operator shall not publicly post surveillance camera
21 or audio recordings of a paying renter on an electronic platform.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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