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Introduced by Representatives Ode of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro,
Coffey of Guilford, Black of Essex, Brumsted of Shelburne,
Dolan of Essex, Dolan of Waitsfield, Goldman of Rockingham,
Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of
Brandon, Jessup of Middlesex, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington,
Sheldon of Middlebury, and Stebbins of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Legislature; Vermont National Guard; sexual assault and harassment

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
position of Vermont National Guard Sexual Harassment and Assault

Consultant to assist the General Assembly in its oversight of the Vermont
National Guard's efforts to reduce sexual harassment and sexual assault
involving members of the Vermont National Guard.

An act relating to sexual harassment and assault in the Vermont National
Guard

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

2 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

3 It is the intent of the General Assembly to contract with an expert on the
4 prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment to assist the General
5 Assembly by providing to the committees of jurisdiction:

6 (1) expert analysis of the Vermont National Guard's efforts to reduce
7 the incidence of sexual assault and sexual harassment involving its members;

8 (2) information regarding best practices for preventing sexual assault
9 and sexual harassment employed by other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces
10 and the National Guard of other states; and

11 (3) suggestions for specific legislative actions that can support the
12 Vermont National Guard in its ongoing efforts to reduce the incidence of
13 sexual assault and sexual harassment involving its members.

14 Sec. 2. 2 V.S.A. chapter 32 is added to read:

15 CHAPTER 32. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD SEXUAL ASSAULT

16 AND HARASSMENT OVERSIGHT

17 § 1011. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND

18 ASSAULT CONSULTANT

19 (a)(1) The General Assembly shall contract for a period of three years with
20 an individual to serve as the General Assembly's Vermont National Guard
21 Sexual Harassment and Assault Consultant. The Consultant shall assist the

1 General Assembly in its oversight of the Vermont National Guard's efforts to
2 address sexual assault and sexual harassment involving members of the
3 Vermont National Guard.

4 (2) The individual shall be selected by a panel consisting of the
5 following six members:

6 (A) the Chair and two additional members of the House Committee
7 on General, Housing, and Military Affairs; and

8 (B) the Chair and two additional members of the Senate Committee
9 on Government Operations.

10 (3) The panel shall seek an individual with expertise in the following
11 subjects:

12 (A) the prevention of workplace discrimination;

13 (B) the investigation and prevention of sexual harassment;

14 (C) the investigation and prevention of sexual assault; and

15 (D) current efforts by the U.S. Department of Defense, the National
16 Guard Bureau, and the U.S. Armed Forces to reduce the incidence of sexual
17 assault and sexual harassment among members of the U.S. Armed Forces and
18 the National Guard.

19 (b)(1) Notwithstanding subsection 20(d) of this title, on or before
20 February 15 of each year, the Consultant shall submit a report to the House

1 Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate

2 Committee on Government Operations that includes the following:

3 (A) an analysis of the information contained in the most recent report
4 submitted by the Adjutant and Inspector General pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 427;

5 (B) an analysis of the Vermont National Guard's efforts to reduce the
6 incidence of sexual assault and sexual harassment in comparison to the
7 National Guard in other states; and

8 (C) any recommendations for additional measures, including specific
9 legislative actions, to further reduce the incidence of sexual assault and sexual
10 harassment in the Vermont National Guard.

11 (2) The report shall not reveal the name or personally identifying
12 information of any individual involved in a reported incident of sexual assault
13 or sexual harassment.

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.