

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 14 entitled “An act relating to prohibiting the harassment of law
4 enforcement and corrections officers” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1061 is amended to read:

8 § 1061. DEFINITIONS

9 * * *

10 (3) “Harassing” means actions directed at a specific person, or a
11 member of the person’s family, which would cause a reasonable person to fear
12 unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury, ~~or~~ death, or damage
13 to property, including verbal threats, written, telephonic, or other electronically
14 communicated threats, vandalism, or physical contact without consent.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 1028b is added to read:

17 § 1028b. HARASSMENT OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR

18 CORRECTIONS OFFICER

19 (a) As used in this section:

20 (1) “Corrections officer” means an employee of the Department of
21 Corrections whose official duties or job classification includes the supervision

1 or monitoring of a person on parole or probation or serving any sentence of
2 incarceration whether inside or outside a correctional facility.

3 (2) “Law enforcement officer” means a member of the Department of
4 Public Safety who exercises law enforcement powers, a member of the State
5 police, a Capitol Police officer, a municipal police officer, a constable who
6 exercises law enforcement powers, a motor vehicle inspector, an employee of
7 the Department of Liquor Control who exercises law enforcement powers, an
8 investigator employed by the Secretary of State, the Department of Health,
9 Attorney General, or a State’s Attorney, a fish and wildlife warden, a sheriff or
10 deputy sheriff who exercises law enforcement powers, and a railroad police
11 officer commissioned pursuant to 5 V.S.A. chapter 68, subchapter 8.

12 (3) “Harrass” shall have the same meaning as “harassing” as defined in
13 section 1061 of this title.

14 (b) A person shall not harass a law enforcement officer, an employee of a
15 State or municipal law enforcement agency or a sheriff’s department, a
16 corrections officer, or an employee of the Vermont Department of Corrections
17 in connection with the officer’s or employee’s exercise of his or her duties.

18 (c) A person who is convicted of harassment of a law enforcement or
19 corrections officer shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not
20 more than \$5,000.00, or both.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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5 (Committee vote: _____)

6

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE