

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 157 entitled “An act relating to registration of
4 construction contractors” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment
6 with further proposals of amendment as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 3, 26 V.S.A. chapter 107, in subsection 5501(a) and in
8 subdivision 5909(b)(1) by striking out “\$2,500.00” and inserting in lieu thereof
9 “\$3,500.00”

10 Second: By striking out Secs. 4–7 in their entirety and inserting in lieu
11 thereof new Secs. 4–7 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION

13 (a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of 26 V.S.A. chapter 107:

14 (1) The initial biennial registration term for residential contractors
15 pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 107 shall begin on April 1, 2023.

16 (2) The Secretary of State may begin receiving applications for the
17 initial registration term on December 1, 2022.

18 (3)(A) The registration fee for individuals who submit complete
19 registration requests between December 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 is \$25.00
20 and between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, the fee is \$50.00.

1 (B) The registration fee for business organizations that submit
2 complete registration requests between December 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023
3 is \$175.00 and between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, the fee is \$200.00.

4 (4) Prior to April 1, 2024, the Office of Professional Regulation shall
5 not take any enforcement action for unauthorized practice under 26 V.S.A.
6 § 5510(a) against a residential contractor who fails to register as required by
7 this act.

8 (b) On or before July 1, 2023, the Director of Professional Regulation shall
9 establish an initial set of voluntary certifications, to include at minimum
10 OSHA standards on construction projects and components of energy-efficient
11 “green” building for insulators, carpenters, and heating and ventilation
12 installers.

13 Sec. 5. CREATION OF POSITIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF
14 PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; LICENSING

15 (a) There are created within the Secretary of State’s Office of Professional
16 Regulation one new position in licensing and one new position in enforcement.

17 (b) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$200,000.00 in Office of Professional
18 Regulation special funds is appropriated to the Secretary of State to fund the
19 positions created in subsection (a) of this section.

1 Sec. 6. SECRETARY OF STATE; STATUS REPORT

2 On or before January 15, 2024, the Office of Professional Regulation shall
3 report to the House Committees on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and
4 on Government Operations and to the Senate Committees on Economic
5 Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations
6 concerning the implementation of 26 V.S.A. chapter 107, including:

7 (1) the number of registrations and certifications;

8 (2) the resources necessary to implement the chapter;

9 (3) the number and nature of any complaints or enforcement actions;

10 (4) the potential design and implementation of a one-stop portal for
11 contractors and consumers; and

12 (5) any other issues the Office deems appropriate.

13 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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7 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE