

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015**

Bill Number: H.14 Name of Bill: Harassment of Law Enforcement and corrections officers

Agency/Dept: Vermont State Police Author of Bill Review: Lt Brian Miller

Date of Bill Review: 1/22/15 Related Bills and Key Players: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Bill: (check one)

☒ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body ☐ As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

☒ Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *This Bill will prohibit the harassment of law enforcement and corrections officer*
2. **Is there a need for this bill?** *Yes, this bill gives protection to officers and their families which existing laws do not address.*
3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** *None*
4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** *None*
5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** *None, other than that local law enforcement will be tasked to investigate these crimes.*
6. **Other Stakeholders:**
  - 6.1 **Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?** *Prosecutors, police and corrections officers*
  - 6.2 **Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?** *Defense attorneys and those who have a very broad view of free speech.*
7. **Rationale for recommendation:** *By creating this offense it will deter those who verbally threaten law enforcement and corrections officers. It will allow prosecution of harassment of officers and their families based on threats as defined in the bill. It will particularly benefit corrections officers who often are threatened by those in custody.*
8. **Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *A better definition of a family member in the bill.*

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to [laura.gray@state.vt.us](mailto:laura.gray@state.vt.us) and [Jessica.mishaan@state.vt.us](mailto:Jessica.mishaan@state.vt.us)

**9. Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission? No**

**Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "K. Gray", is written over a faint rectangular stamp.

**Date: 3/11/15**