

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

Bill Number: S.35 Name of Bill: Act relating to access to Department for children and Families records of abuse and neglect

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

Date of Bill Review: 01/30/15 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 changes the confidentiality provisions of DCF records. Redacted investigation files will be disclosed to parents of a child residing in a home with an alleged person who abused or neglected the child. They will also automatically be given to different entities.
2. Is there a need for this bill? Yes, this will provide needed information to all parties involved with care of/ or that are related to or living with the abused child.
3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department? No
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? More parties will receive the redacted investigation reports.
6. Other Stakeholders:
  - 6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why? Child advocates, Corrections, law enforcement
  - 6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why? Defense Attorneys who represent alleged abusers
7. Rationale for recommendation: This will provide important information about an abused child and the abuser to all parties involved in the child's life. It will help improve communication between DCF and other agencies in an effort to further protect a child no matter what living situation they end up in after being abused. Reports will be automatically sent to the court, commissioner, law enforcement, probate court.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

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

**Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document**



**Date: 3/11/15**