

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on General and Housing to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 861 entitled “An act relating to establishing an Americans with Disabilities
4 Act Coordinator” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 45 is amended to read:

8 CHAPTER 45. ADMINISTRATION

9 * * *

10 Subchapter 7. Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

11 § 2331. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COORDINATOR

12 (a) There is created the permanent position of the Americans with
13 Disabilities Act Coordinator within the Agency of Administration for the
14 purpose of coordinating, across State government and in collaboration with
15 agency partners, all State programs, services, and activities, accessible to and
16 available for individuals with disabilities.

17 (b) The Coordinator shall be an individual with the lived experience of a
18 disability and shall have completed a recognized Americans with Disabilities
19 Act coordinator certificate program. The Coordinator shall have
20 comprehensive knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.
21 §§ 12101–12213, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §

1 794, and any related federal and State disability rights law. The Coordinator
2 shall be familiar with the structure, programs, services, and personnel of State
3 government and with alternative communication formats and assistive
4 technologies.

5 (c) In hiring for the Coordinator position, the Secretary of Administration
6 shall consider only those candidates nominated by the following entities:

7 (1) the Human Rights Commission;

8 (2) Disability Rights Vermont;

9 (3) the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights; and

10 (4) the Vermont Center for Independent Living.

11 (d) The Coordinator shall:

12 (1) work directly with State agencies and departments to advance,
13 coordinate, and monitor statewide compliance efforts;

14 (2) act as a consultant for State employees, boards, and executive,
15 legislative, and judicial leadership;

16 (3) ensure communications with individuals with disabilities are as
17 effective as those with individuals without disabilities, giving primary
18 consideration to the individual's preferred method of communication;

19 (4) educate State employees on their legal obligations, disability access
20 requirements, ableism, and prevention initiatives;

- 1 (5) audit programs, facilities, and activities for ongoing compliance;
- 2 (6) oversee self-evaluation processes throughout State government to
- 3 identify and correct violations;
- 4 (7) monitor federally required transition plans to ensure timely
- 5 completion of structural accessibility and improvement;
- 6 (8) provide federally required public notice of rights under the
- 7 Americans with Disabilities Act and provide contact information for a
- 8 governmental entity's coordinator;
- 9 (9) maintain collaborative relationships with disability advocacy
- 10 organizations and stakeholders; and
- 11 (10) facilitate partnerships among governmental departments and
- 12 disability advocacy organizations to align policies, programs, and
- 13 implementation strategies that support compliance with the Americans with
- 14 Disabilities Act and accessible services.

15 (e) The Coordinator shall have the administrative, legal, and technical
16 support of the Agency of Administration.

17 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
18 COORDINATOR

19 In fiscal year 2027, \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to
20 establish the Americans with Disabilities Coordinator position established in 3
21 V.S.A. § 2331.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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6 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE