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H.221

Introduced by Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Christie of Hartford,  
LaLonde of South Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes and criminal procedure; domestic relations; abuse prevention

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a  
temporary working group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance  
with court orders to surrender firearms and report its recommendations to the  
General Assembly.

11 An act relating to the Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. FIREARM SURRENDER ORDER COMPLIANCE WORKING  
14 GROUP; REPORT

15 (a) Creation. There is created the Firearm Surrender Order Compliance  
16 Working Group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance with court  
17 orders to surrender firearms. The Working Group shall study what statutory or  
18 policy changes are needed to create a uniform process to monitor compliance,  
19 support entities charged with storing surrendered firearms, and identify a stable

1 and reliable funding source for any additional resources needed to monitor  
2 compliance.

3 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following  
4 members:

5 (1) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

6 (2) a member of the Vermont State Police, appointed by the  
7 Commissioner of Public Safety;

8 (3) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

9 (4) the Chief Superior Court Judge or designee;

10 (5) two family law practitioners, appointed by the Vermont Bar  
11 Association;

12 (6) the Defender General or designee;

13 (7) one State's Attorney or designee, appointed by the Department of  
14 State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;

15 (8) the Attorney General or designee;

16 (9) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic  
17 and Sexual Violence;

18 (10) a member, appointed by the Vermont Council on Domestic  
19 Violence;

20 (11) a member, appointed by the Vermont Center for Crime Victim  
21 Services;

1           (12) a Victim Advocate, appointed by the Department of State's  
2           Attorneys and Sheriffs;

3           (13) an advocate from a culturally specific advocacy organization that  
4           works with domestic violence victims, appointed by the Network Against  
5           Domestic and Sexual Violence;

6           (14) a member who is a federal firearms licensee, appointed by the State  
7           Police representative overseeing the current firearms storage program for the  
8           Department of Public Safety;

9           (15) a member, appointed by the Vermont Office of the Bureau of  
10          Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms;

11          (16) a physician, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;

12          (17) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

13          (18) a sheriff, appointed by the Department of State's Attorneys and  
14          Sheriffs; and

15          (19) a police chief, appointed by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of  
16          Police.

17          (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall:

18               (1) Define a workable statewide compliance model that ensures  
19               accountability of respondents and defendants while addressing safety needs of  
20               the plaintiffs and victims.

1           (2) Determine how such a compliance model would work in both the  
2           Family and Criminal Divisions of the Superior Courts.

3           (3) Determine what legislative changes are needed to support the model.

4           (4) Assess the necessary capacity and resources of the Judiciary, law  
5           enforcement, and the Department of Corrections to create a model for  
6           statewide accountability and compliance with firearm surrender orders.

7           (5) Consult with the Domestic Violence Firearms Technical Assistance  
8           Project to determine what additional actions should be taken under existing law  
9           to promote and ensure compliance with firearm surrender orders.

10          (6) Engage with federal firearms licensees to understand their role in  
11          storing surrendered firearms.

12          (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,  
13          technical, and legal assistance of the Office of the Attorney General.

14          (e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall  
15          report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary  
16          and to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. The report may take  
17          the form of proposed legislation.

18          (f) Meetings.

19               (1) The Attorney General or designee shall call the first meeting of the  
20               Working Group to occur on or before June 1, 2025.

21               (2) The Working Group shall meet not more than six times per year.

1           (3) The Attorney General or designee shall serve as the Chair of the  
2 Working Group.

3           (4) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

4           (5) The Working Group shall cease to exist on January 15, 2026.

5           (g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Working Group  
6 who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise  
7 compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to  
8 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010  
9 for not more than six meetings per year.

10       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

11       This act shall take effect on passage.