

1 Introduced by  
2 Referred to Committee on  
3 Date:  
4 Subject: Domestic Relations; Abuse Prevention; Restorative Justice  
5

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to add to the  
7 purpose, powers and duties of the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence  
8 a starting point toward developing a solid understanding of the power of  
9 restorative justice for eliminating domestic violence.

10 An act relating to Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence

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

12 Title 15 Chapter 21 § 1172 (a) (8) is added to read:

13 § 1172. Purpose; powers; duties

14 (a) The Council shall:

15 (1) facilitate opportunities for dialogue, advocacy, education, and  
16 support among State agencies, advocacy groups, and the public;

17 (2) collect, review, and analyze data and information relating to domestic  
18 violence;

19 (3) provide assistance in developing effective responses to domestic  
20 violence, including model policies and procedures, prevention and education  
21 initiatives, and domestic-violence-related programs for the criminal justice and

1 human services sectors; specifically, the Council shall work with the  
2 Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs and the Department of  
3 Corrections to develop recommendations for practice in evidence-based  
4 prosecution, risk assessment with domestic violence offenders, the use of  
5 deferred sentences in domestic violence cases, standardized probation  
6 conditions for domestic violence offenders, appropriate programming options  
7 for domestic violence offenders, and strategies for addressing victims of  
8 domestic violence who commit crimes as a result of the coercion of a batterer;

9 (4) recommend changes in State programs, laws, administrative  
10 regulations, policies, and budgets related to domestic violence;

11 (5) establish and maintain standards for intervention programs for  
12 perpetrators of domestic violence, and develop a process for certifying that  
13 programs are complying with the standards;

14 (6) review and comment upon legislation relating to domestic violence  
15 introduced in the General Assembly at the request of any member of the  
16 General Assembly or on its own initiative; and

17 (7) study the issue of employment discrimination against victims of  
18 domestic violence and suggest model workplace protections and policies.

19 (8) study the application of models of restorative justice to address  
20 intimate partner abuse, including truth commissions, Native Hawaiian healing,  
21 Navajo Peacemaking and Compassionpower core values treatment for abusers

22  
23 Sec. X. EFFECTIVE DATE

24 This act shall take effect on