

# Legislation

## Civil Rights Bill Update

A bill prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation has been introduced into both the Senate (S.131) and the House of Representatives (H.162). The draft is similar to the bills introduced in previous years and includes employment (both public and private), public accommodations, housing, credit, relief from abuse, and financial transactions (mortgage and credit). Not included in the bill, but advocated for by both Liaisons, was child custody; it is still possible to advocate for its inclusion during committee debate. Members of the Legislature were unwilling to sign on to the bill as co-sponsors with this provision still included. Both versions have been assigned to the Judiciary Committee in its respective chamber.

If your Representative or Senator is a sponsor, write and thank him or her. For some of them, this is their first public statement supporting equal rights for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. They need to hear our support for their action.

If you are a member of a civic, religious or professional group or organization, encourage them to publicly endorse this bill. If your group has sent a statement of endorsement in previous years, ask them to continue their support.

The strategy at this time is to move the bill in the Senate first, where there appears to be greater support. The hope is that a large public hearing, such as that which we have been subjected to in the past, won't be required again.

This is our fifth year advocating for legislative protections for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. The strong support for the Hate Crimes Bill has given us strong momentum for this bill during this session. With your support, we can make equal rights a reality for all Vermonters, including lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

### Legislators Supporting S.131 and H. 162

#### Senate S.131:

Lead Sponsor: David Wolk (D) Rutland: Box 236, Chittenden, 05737  
 Jan Backus (D) Windham: 11 Chapin St., Brattleboro, 05301  
 May Ann Carlson (D) Bennington: West Mountain Lane, Arlington, 05250  
 Sally Conrad (D) Chittenden: 35 Wilson Road, Burlington, 05401  
 Edwin Granai (D) Chittenden: 106 Killarney Drive, Burlington, 05401  
 Althea Kroger (D) Chittenden: 10 Church Street, Essex Junction, 05452  
 George Little (R) Chittenden: 159 Prospect Parkway, Burlington, 05401  
 Richard McCormack (D) Windham: RD 2 Box 124, Bethel, 05032  
 Douglas Racine (D) Chittenden: RD 1 Box 218, Richmond, 05477  
 Elizabeth Ready (D) Addison: RD 1 Box 2018, Bristol, 05443  
 Cheryl Rivers (D) Windsor: RD 2 Box 1069, Bethel, 05032

#### House H.162:

Lead Sponsor: Vi Luginbuhl (R) Chittenden 6-2: 1559 Hinesburg Rd, S. Burlington, 05403  
 Alice Bassett (D) Chittenden 7-3: 179 N. Prospect St, Burlington, 05401  
 Terry Bouricius (PC) Chittenden 7-4: 77 Intervale Ave., Burlington, 05401  
 Lovonia Bright (D) Chittenden 6-3: 45 Country Club Dr., S. Burlington, 05403  
 Sean Campbell (D) Windham 4: Box 318, Saxtons River, 05154  
 Nancy Chard (D) Windham 2-3: 11 Chestnut Hill, Brattleboro, 05301  
 Andrew Christiansen (D) Washington 2: Hammett Hill Rd, E Montpelier, 056521  
 Paul Cillo (D) Caledonia 1: RR1 Box 932, Hardwick, 05843  
 David Clarkson (D) Windham 3: RR1 Box 2426, Newfane, 05345  
 Hamilton Davis (D) Chittenden 7-3: 26 Henry St., Burlington, 05401  
 David Deen (D) Windham 1: RFD3 Box 800, Putney, 05346  
 David Larsen (D) Bennington-Windham 1: PO Box 172, Wilmington, 05363  
 Doris Lingelbach (D) Orange 4: Box 149, Thetford, 05074  
 Peg Martin (D) Addison 4-2: 33 Seminary St., Middlebury, 05753  
 Curt McCormack (D) Rutland 6-4: 179 Grove St., Rutland, 05701  
 Lisa O'Neil (R) Windsor 1-2: 1 Cascadnac Place, White River Jct, 05001  
 Jane Potvin (D) Grand Isle 1: RR1 Box 202, S. Hero, 05486  
 Helen Riehle (R) Chittenden 7-2: 106 Ledge Rd, Burlington 05401  
 Charles Ross (D) Chittenden 5-2: RD1 Box 2222, Hinesburg, 05461  
 Inge Schaefer (R) Chittenden 9-2: 10 Tanglewood Dr, Colchester, 05446  
 Ann Seibert (D) Windsor 1-1: RR2 Box 428, Norwich, 05055  
 Peter Shumlin (D) Windham 1: Dusty Ridge Rd, Putney, 05346  
 Tom Smith (PC) Chittenden 7-7: 222 Park St, Burlington, 05401  
 Ron Squires (D) Windham 5: RFD3 Box 215, Brattleboro, 05301  
 Mary Sullivan (D) Chittenden 7-1: 80 Austin Dr.#81, Burlington, 05401



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