

Update on Civil Rights for All Vermonters

Larry Wolf

With the anti-discrimination bill having been formally introduced into the legislature, its course might now seem somewhat confusing.

The bill had its "first reading" in January 1991 and was assigned to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. Judiciary Committee members will decide what priority to give the anti-discrimination bill and what action to take. Since the Governor's agenda in '91 was the advocacy of "traditional" crime bills (that is, bail,

DWI, depositions), no action was taken on our bill. To ensure that this is not repeated again during the '92 session, members of the Judiciary Committees need to know the importance of this bill, the discrimination we already endure and the bill's potential impact on our lives.

Since the bill was simultaneously introduced into both the House and Senate, both committees need to know there is support. Also, as the bill passes from one chamber to the other, we will have already built a base of support.

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Chair: Sally Fox, D-Essex
Orlando Campbell, R-Manchester
David Clarkson, D-Newfane
Brian Pendleton, D-Proctor
Ruth Stokes, D-Williston
Benoit Blais, D-Derby
Thomas Alderman, D-Middlebury
John Freidin, D-New Haven
Peter Mallary, D-Newbury
Mary Sullivan, D-Burlington
Patricia Welch, R-Springfield

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Chair: John Bloomer, R-Rutland
David Wolk, D-Rutland
Mary Just Skinner, D-Washington
Stephen Webster, R-Orange
Jan Backus, D-Windham
J. Dennis Delany, R-Chittenden

It is also important to give ongoing support to the sponsors of the bill. They will be bringing the bill up for discussion in party caucuses and with their peers. Our supporters will also be hearing from our opposition; a friendly voice will be welcomed.

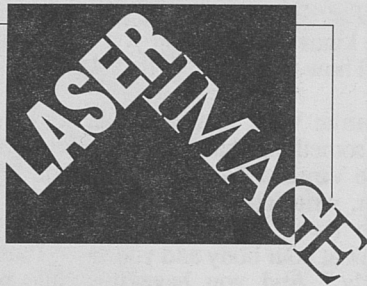
Sponsors - House:

Vi Luginbuhl, R-South Burlington
Alice Bassett, D-Burlington
Terry Bouricius, PC-Burlington
Lovenia Bright, D-South Burlington
Sean Campbell, D-Rockingham
Nancy Chard, D-Brattleboro
Andy Christiansen, D-East Montpelier
Paul Cillo, D-Hardwick
David Clarkson, D-Newfane
Hamilton Davis, PC-Burlington
David Deen, D-Westminster
David Larson, D-Wilmington
Doris Lingelbach, D-Thetford
Peg Martin, D-Middlebury
Curt McCormack, D-Rutland
Lisa O'Neil, R-Hartford
Jane Potvin, D-South Hero
Helen Riehle, R-Burlington
Charles Ross, D-Hinesburg
Inge Schaefer, R-Colchester
Ann Seibert, D-Norwich
Peter Shumlin, D-Putney
Tom Smith, PC-Burlington
Ron Squires, D-Guilford
Mary Sullivan, D-Burlington

Sponsors - Senate:

David Wolk, D-Rutland
Jan Backus, D-Windham
Mary Ann Carlson, D-Bennington
Sally Conrad, D-Chittenden
Edwin Granai, D-Chittenden
Althea Kroger, D-Chittenden
George Little, R-Chittenden
Richard McCormack, D-Windsor
Doug Racine, D-Chittenden
Elizabeth Ready, D-Addison
Cheryl Rivers, D-Windsor

You can write to Senators and Representatives c/o Vermont Legislature, Statehouse, Montpelier, VT 05602. You can leave a phone message for a legislator by calling the Sergeant at Arms 1-800-322-5616. The Senate bill is C-131; the House version H-162. ▼



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