

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 9, 2022

Vermont General Assembly  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: H.720, AN ACT RELATING TO THE SYSTEM OF CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Dear Legislators:

I am letting H.720, *An act relating to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities* go into law without my signature, though I could have vetoed it due to a *significant* error.

Specifically, and as acknowledged in the letter dated June 2<sup>nd</sup> to me from the H.720 Committee of Conference, Section 6 does not contain the correct language and does not reflect legislative intent. Instead, this section of the bill includes language that the Committee of Conference rejected, meaning the incorrect language – which was not agreed to through the proper legislative process – will be written into law.

It is not good practice, nor good government, to allow legislation with errors to become law, even with documented intent to fix the error. But I believe H.720 is important to some of our most vulnerable Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their families, so I will allow it to become law without my signature.

There is a bigger issue at play here as well: While the error in H.720 is perhaps the most egregious made by the Legislature this year, it is not the only one. I chalk this up to numerous bills, some more important than others, being allowed to languish until the final days of the

session, and a poorly managed rush towards adjournment. It is my most sincere hope the new Legislature that convenes in January will resolve to have a better managed process with greater attention to detail.

Having expressed these concerns, I know good working relationships require trust. So, I will trust legislative leadership to keep their commitment to correct the H.720 error in January.

In good faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

PBS/kp

c: Senator Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker  
Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy  
Senator Joshua C. Terenzini  
Representative Theresa A. Wood  
Representative Francis M. McFaun  
Representative Daniel Noyes  
Representative Jill Krowinski, Speaker of the House  
Senator Rebecca A. Balint, President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
Representative Ann D. Pugh, Chair, House Committee on Human Services  
Senator Virginia V. Lyons, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare