

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 2nd 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 stroke extending to the right.

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