

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 11, 2022

Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: S. 197, An act relating to the provision of mental health supports

Dear Legislators:

Today, I am letting S. 197, *An act relating to the provision of mental health supports* go into law because, in the aftermath of remote learning and school masking policies of the last two years of the pandemic, our school staffs and our kids need resources and supports to address learning deficits and mental health needs which only became worse during COVID, particularly among Vermont's most vulnerable kids. I thank the Legislature for appropriating \$3 million in federal funds for this purpose.

Unfortunately, while S. 197 will become law, it will be without my signature due to what I believe is a separation of powers issue related to executive privilege within the bill. In response to Section 5 of this bill, the Task Force will release materials upon request only, and only to the extent I have made a determination in my discretion to waive the privilege. Letting this bill go into law without my signature does not constitute a waiver of my executive privilege.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp