

Representative Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Chair
House Committee on Government Operations (Room 49)
Vermont House of Representatives
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

May 28, 2021

S. Lauren Hibbert, Director
Office of Professional Regulation
Vermont Secretary of State
89 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Director Hibbert,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. I am writing you concerning H. 392 – An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists, which is presently in my committee: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0392/H-0392%20As%20Introduced.pdf> .

As H. 392 is a bill which seeks “to materially amend the scope of practice permitted for a regulated profession or occupation” it triggers a preliminary assessment of scope of practice under 26 V.S.A. § 3108(a)(1) before testimony can occur on the bill in committee. This new section, which, as you know, passed out of this committee last session, applies a sunrise-style cost-benefit analysis to scope-of-practice bills.

The statute provides that the Office of Professional Regulation is to supply a scope analysis “upon the request of the House or Senate Committee on Government Operations;” as such, on behalf of the House Committee on Government Operations, I am hereby respectfully and formally requesting a scope analysis of H.392 be performed during the upcoming adjourned session so that we may have the benefit of your report by the second half of this 2021-2022 biennium.

I understand that the underlying substantive proposal in H. 392 has been floated in previous sessions and that stakeholders and legislators have prior asked your staff for informal analyses; hopefully, this can mean that your offices will have a bit of a head start and can complete a §3108 analysis during this upcoming summer/fall.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards – Sincerely,

Representative Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Chair, House Committee on Government Operations

cc: Gabriel M. Gilman, General Counsel (OPR)

