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H.529

Introduced by Representatives Williams of Barre City, Anthony of Barre City,  
Berbeco of Winooski, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Chase of  
Chester, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Headrick of  
Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South  
Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Mulvaney-Stanak of  
Burlington, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Rice  
of Dorset, Stebbins of Burlington, Torre of Moretown, and  
White of Bethel

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public safety; emergency management; storage unit availability

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to inform the  
public of the availability of storage units across the State during a state of  
emergency.

An act relating to publishing storage unit availability during a state of  
emergency

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 48 is added to read:

3 § 48. STORAGE UNIT AVAILABILITY DURING EMERGENCY

4 (a) During a state of emergency called for by the Governor of this State:

5 (1) Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) shall maintain a list of  
6 self-storage facilities located and operational within the State with details  
7 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

8 (2) A self-storage facility shall provide to VEM the following details:

9 (A) the business name of the self-storage facility;

10 (B) the physical address of the self-storage facility;

11 (C) the website address for the self-storage facility, if available;

12 (D) the phone number for the self-storage facility; and

13 (E) the number of units available to lease at the self-storage facility.

14 (3) VEM shall transmit data received from a self-storage facility to  
15 Vermont 211 or other approved State agency in a reasonable amount of time.

16 (4) Vermont 211 or other approved State agency shall publish the  
17 availability of self-storage units, including data from subdivision (2) of this  
18 subsection.

19 (5) A self-storage facility shall update VEM with the number of storage  
20 units available to lease at least once every 24 hours.

1       (b) No self-storage facility during a state of emergency shall lease a self-  
2       storage unit for an amount that represents an unconscionably high price. A  
3       price is unconscionably high if the amount charged by the self-storage facility  
4       during the state of emergency represents a gross disparity between the price of  
5       a storage unit charged by a similar business and the price at which a similar  
6       storage unit was offered for lease by that business in the usual course of  
7       business immediately prior to the date of the declaration of the state of  
8       emergency.

9       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.