1	TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:
2	The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3	No. 37 entitled "An act relating to access to legally protected health care
4	activity and regulation of health care providers" respectfully reports that it has
5	considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out
6	all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
7	* * * Definitions * * *
8	Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 150 is added to read:
9	§ 150. LEGALLY PROTECTED HEALTH CARE ACTIVITY
10	(a) "Gender-affirming health care services" means all supplies, care, and
11	services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric,
12	therapeutic, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative, or supportive nature
13	relating to the treatment of gender dysphoria and gender incongruence.
14	"Gender-affirming health care services" does not include conversion therapy as
15	defined by 18 V.S.A. § 8351.
16	(b)(1) "Legally protected health care activity" means:
17	(A) the exercise and enjoyment, or attempted exercise and
18	enjoyment, by any person of rights to reproductive health care services or
19	gender-affirming health care services secured by this State; or
20	(B) any act or omission undertaken to aid or encourage, or attempt to
21	aid or encourage, any person in the exercise and enjoyment, or attempted

exercise and enjoyment, of rights to reproductive health care services or
gender-affirming health care services secured by this State, provided that the
provision of such a health care service by a person duly licensed under the
laws of this State and physically present in this State shall be legally protected
if the service is permitted under the laws of this State, regardless of the
patient's location; or
(C) the provision, issuance, or use of, or enrollment in, insurance or
other health coverage for reproductive health care services or gender-affirming
health care services secured by that are legal in this State, or any act to aid or
encourage, or attempt to aid or encourage, any person in the provision,
issuance, or use of, or enrollment in, insurance or other health coverage for
those services, regardless of the location of the insured or individual seeking
insurance or health coverage, if the insurance or health coverage is permitted
under the laws of this State.
(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection (b), the
protections applicable to "legally protected health care activity" shall not apply
to a lawsuit, judgment, or civil, criminal, or administrative action that is based
on conduct for which an action would exist under the laws of this State if the
course of conduct that forms the basis for liability had occurred entirely in this
State.

1	(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection (b), the provision
2	of a health care service by a person duly licensed under the laws of this State
3	and physically present in this State shall be legally protected if the service is
4	permitted under the laws of this State, regardless of the patient's location or
5	whether the health care provider is licensed in the state where the patient is
6	located at the time the service is rendered.
7	(c) "Reproductive health care services" means all supplies, care, and
8	services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric,
9	therapeutic, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative, or supportive nature
10	relating to pregnancy, contraception, assisted reproduction, pregnancy loss
11	management, or the termination of a pregnancy.
12	
13	* * * Medical Malpractice * * *
14	Sec. 2. 8 V.S.A. chapter 129 is amended to read:
15	CHAPTER 129. INSURANCE TRADE PRACTICES
16	* * *
17	§ 4722. DEFINITIONS
18	* * *
19	(4)(A) "Abusive litigation" means litigation or other legal action to
20	deter, prevent, sanction, or punish any person engaging in legally protected
21	health care activity by:

1	(i) filing or prosecuting any action in any other state where
2	liability, in whole or part, directly or indirectly, is based on legally protected
3	health care activity that occurred in this State, including any action in which
4	liability is based on any theory of vicarious, joint, or several liability derived
5	therefrom; or
6	(ii) attempting to enforce any order or judgment issued in
7	connection with any such action by any party to the action or any person acting
8	on behalf of a party to the action.
9	(B) A lawsuit shall be considered to be based on conduct that
10	occurred in this State if any part of any act or omission involved in the course
11	of conduct that forms the basis for liability in the lawsuit occurs or is initiated
12	in this State, whether or not such act or omission is alleged or included in any
13	pleading or other filing in the lawsuit.
14	(5) "Legally protected health care activity" has the same meaning as in 1
15	<u>V.S.A. § 150.</u>
16	* * *
17	§ 4724. UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION OR UNFAIR OR
18	DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES DEFINED
19	The following are hereby defined as unfair methods of competition or unfair
20	or deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance:
21	* * *

1	(7) Unfair discrimination; arbitrary underwriting action.
2	(A) Making or permitting any unfair discrimination between insureds
3	of the same class and equal risk in the rates charged for any contract of
4	insurance, or in the dividends or other benefits payable thereon, or in any other
5	of the terms and conditions of such contracts.
6	* * *
7	(F)(i) Discriminating against a health care provider, as defined by
8	18 V.S.A. § 9496, or adjusting or otherwise calculating a health care provider's
9	risk classification or premium charges on the basis that:
10	(I) the health care provider provides or assists in the provision
11	of legally protected health care activity that is unlawful in another state;
12	(II) another state's laws create potential or actual liability for
13	that activity;
14	(III) abusive litigation against a provider concerning legally
15	protected health care activity resulted in a judgement against the provider; or
16	(IV) the license of the provider has been disciplined in any way
17	by another state based solely on the provider's provision of legally protected
18	health care activity.
19	(ii) For purposes of this subdivision (F), it shall not be unfairly
20	discriminatory nor an arbitrary underwriting action against a health care
21	provider if the risk classifications, premium charges, or other underwriting

1	considerations are based on the health care provider's claims loss experience or
2	based on underwriting or rate-setting criteria related to practices that do not
3	meet the applicable professional standards of care in the provision of legally
4	protected health care services. For purposes of this subdivision (F), it shall
5	not be unfairly discriminatory nor an arbitrary underwriting action
6	against a health care provider if the risk classifications, premium charges,
7	or other underwriting considerations are based on factors other than
8	those listed in subdivision (i) of this subdivision (F).
9	* * *
10	* * * Insurance Coverage * * *
11	Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 4088m is added to read:
12	§ 4088m. COVERAGE FOR GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE
13	<u>SERVICES</u>
14	(a) Definitions. As used in this section:
15	(1) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as in
16	1 V.S.A. § 150.
17	(2) "Health insurance plan" means Medicaid and any other public health
18	care assistance program, any individual or group health insurance policy, any
19	hospital or medical service corporation or health maintenance organization
20	subscriber contract, or any other health benefit plan offered, issued, or renewed
21	for any person in this State by a health insurer as defined by 18 V.S.A. § 9402.

1	For purposes of this section, health insurance plan shall include any health
2	benefit plan offered or administered by the State or any subdivision or
3	instrumentality of the State. The term shall not include benefit plans providing
4	coverage for a specific disease or other limited benefit coverage, except that it
5	shall include any accident and sickness health plan.
6	(b) Coverage.
7	(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for gender-affirming
8	health care services that:
9	(A) are medically necessary and clinically appropriate for the
10	individual's diagnosis or health condition;
11	(B) are included in the State's essential health benefits benchmark
12	plan; and
13	(C) that meet generally accepted practice standards, such as
14	recommendations and guidelines issued by the World Professional Association
15	for Transgender Health, its successor, or a comparable organization identified
16	by the Department of Financial Regulation.
17	(2) Coverage provided pursuant to this section:
18	(A) may be subject to a prior authorization requirement under the
19	health insurance plan concerning the amount, frequency, and duration of
20	treatment; and

1	(B) for commercial health insurance plans, shall be provided in
2	compliance with rules and guidance issued by the Department of Financial
3	Regulation regarding gender-affirming health care services; and
4	(C) for Medicaid or any other public health care assistance program,
5	shall comply with all federal requirements imposed by the Centers for
6	Medicare and Medicaid Services.
7	(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health insurance plan from
8	providing greater coverage for gender-affirming health care services than is
9	required under this section.
10	(c) Cost sharing. The coverage required by this section shall not be subject
11	to any co-payment, deductible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing requirement
12	or additional charge. A health insurance plan shall not impose greater
13	coinsurance, co-payment, deductible, or other cost-sharing requirements for
14	coverage of gender-affirming health care services than apply to the diagnosis
15	and treatment of any other physical or mental condition under the plan.
16	Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 4099e is added to read:
17	§ 4099e. COVERAGE FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION-RELATED
18	<u>SERVICES</u>
19	(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

1	(1) "Abortion" means any medical treatment intended to induce the
2	termination of, or to terminate, a clinically diagnosable pregnancy except for
3	the purpose of producing a live birth.
4	(2) "Health insurance plan" means Medicaid and any other public health
5	care assistance program, any individual or group health insurance policy, any
6	hospital or medical service corporation or health maintenance organization
7	subscriber contract, or any other health benefit plan offered, issued, or renewed
8	for any person in this State by a health insurer as defined by 18 V.S.A. § 9402.
9	For purposes of this section, health insurance plan shall include any health
10	benefit plan offered or administered by the State or any subdivision or
11	instrumentality of the State. The term shall not include benefit plans providing
12	coverage for a specific disease or other limited benefit coverage, except that it
13	shall include any accident and sickness health plan.
14	(b) Coverage. Subject to requirements under federal law, A health
15	insurance plan shall provide coverage for abortion and abortion-related care.
16	(c) Cost sharing. The coverage required by this section shall not be subject
17	to any co-payment, deductible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing requirement
18	or additional charge.
19	Sec. 5. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT
20	The Agency of Human Services shall seek a state plan amendment from the
21	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or federal authorities if needed to

1	allow Vermont's Medicaid program to provide coverage consistent with this
2	act.
3	* * * Professional Regulation * * *
4	Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:
5	§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
6	* * *
7	(f) Health care providers. Notwithstanding subsection (e) of this section or
8	any other law to the contrary, no health care provider shall be subject to
9	professional disciplinary action by a board or the Director, nor shall a board or
10	the Director take adverse action on an application for certification, registration,
11	or licensure of a qualified health care provider, based solely on:
12	(1) the health care provider providing or assisting in the provision of
13	legally protected health care activity; or
14	(2) a criminal or civil action or disciplinary action against the health care
15	provider by a licensing board of another state based solely on the provider
16	providing or assisting in the provision of legally protected health care activity.
17	(3) Definitions. As used in this subsection:
18	(A) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A.
19	<u>§ 9496.</u>
20	(B) "Legally protected health care activity" has the same meaning as
21	<u>in 1 V.S.A. § 150.</u>

Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:
§ 1354. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
* * *
(d) Health care providers. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
no health care provider shall be subject to professional disciplinary action by
the Board, nor shall the Board take adverse action on an application for
certification, registration, or licensure of a qualified health care provider, based
solely on:
(1) the health care provider providing or assisting in the provision of
legally protected health care activity; or
(2) a criminal or civil action or disciplinary action against the health
care provider by a licensing board of another state based solely on the provider
providing or assisting in the provision of legally protected health care activity.
(3) Definitions. As used in this subsection:
(A) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A.
<u>§ 9496.</u>
(B) "Legally protected health care activity" has the same meaning as
<u>in 1 V.S.A. § 150.</u>

1	* * * Pregnancy Centers * * *
2	Sec. 8. 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 11 is added to read:
3	Subchapter 11. Pregnancy Services Center Fraud
4	<u>§ 2490. FINDINGS</u>
5	[]
6	§ 2491. DEFINITIONS
7	As used in this subchapter:
8	(1) "Abortion" means any medical treatment intended to induce the
9	termination of, or to terminate, a clinically diagnosable pregnancy except for
10	the purpose of producing a live birth.
11	(2) "Client" means an individual who is inquiring about or seeking
12	services at a pregnancy services center.
13	(3) "Emergency contraception" means any drug approved by the U.S.
14	Food and Drug Administration as a contraceptive method for use after sexual
15	intercourse, whether provided over the counter or by prescription.
16	(4) "Health information" means any oral or written information in any
17	form or medium that relates to health insurance or the past, present, or future
18	physical or mental health or condition of a client.
19	(5) "Limited-services pregnancy center" means a pregnancy services
20	center that does not directly provide, or provide referrals to clients, for
21	abortions or emergency contraception.

1	(6) "Pregnancy services center" means a facility, including a mobile
2	facility, where the primary purpose is to provide services to individuals who
3	are or may be pregnant and that either offers obstetric ultrasounds, obstetric
4	sonograms, or prenatal care to pregnant individuals or has the appearance of a
5	medical facility. A pregnancy services center has the appearance of a medical
6	facility if two or more of the following factors are present:
7	(A) The center offers pregnancy testing or pregnancy diagnosis, or
8	both.
9	(B) The center has staff or volunteers who wear medical attire or
10	uniforms.
11	(C) The center contains one or more examination tables.
12	(D) The center contains a private or semiprivate room or area
13	containing medical supplies or medical instruments.
14	(E) The center has staff or volunteers who collect health information
15	from clients.
16	(F) The center is located on the same premises as a State-licensed
17	medical facility or provider or shares facility space with a State-licensed
18	medical provider.
19	(7) "Premises" means land and improvements or appurtenances or any
20	part thereof.
21	§ 2492. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACT

1	(a) It is an unfair and deceptive act and practice in commerce and a
2	violation of section 2453 of this title for any limited-services pregnancy center
3	to disseminate or cause to be disseminated to the public any advertising about
4	the services or proposed services performed at that center if the management
5	of the center knows or, by the exercise of reasonable care, ought to know it
6	that is untrue or clearly designed to mislead the public about the nature of
7	services provided. Advertising includes representations made directly to
8	consumers; marketing practices; communication in any print medium, such as
9	newspapers, magazines, mailers, or handouts; and any broadcast medium, such
10	as television or radio, telephone marketing, or advertising over the Internet
11	such as through websites and web ads.
12	(b) The medical director of a pregnancy services center, or the individual
13	charged with supervising health care services provided by center staff or
14	volunteers at a pregnancy services center, shall be responsible, legally and
15	professionally, for the activities of staff and volunteers performing duties for
16	and on behalf of the pregnancy services center. The medical director or
17	individual shall ensure that the staff of the pregnancy services center, including
18	the medical director or individual, and any volunteers providing health care
19	services maintain a level of supervision, training, and practice consistent with
20	legal requirements established under Vermont law, including those set forth in
21	Title 26, and professional standards of practice. Failure to conduct or to

1	ensure that health care services are conducted in accordance with state
2	law and professional standards of practice may constitute unprofessional
3	conduct under 3 V.S.A. § 129a and 26 V.S.A. § 1354.
4	(c) [PLACEHOLDER – Notice/Disclosure Requirement?]
5	(d) The Attorney General or State's Attorney has the same authority to
6	make rules, conduct civil investigations, and bring civil actions with respect to
7	violations of subsection (a) of this section as provided under subchapter 1 of
8	this chapter. For purposes of this chapter, advertising or the provision of
9	services by a limited-services pregnancy center is an act in commerce.
10	The Attorney General or State's Attorney has the power to issue
11	subpoenas in connection with an investigation conducted pursuant to this
12	subchapter.
13	* * * Reports; Interstate Compacts * * *
14	Sec. 9. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE
15	BOARD; ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER-
16	AFFIRMING CARE SERVICES
17	On or before January 15, 2024, the Department of Health and the Green
18	Mountain Care Board shall, following consultation with relevant stakeholders,
19	submit a report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate
20	Committee on Health and Welfare identifying areas of the State in which
21	people do not have access to abortion or birth care or gender affirming health

1	care services within a 50-mile radius, including recommendations to facilitate
2	access to those services in the identified areas.
3	(a) The Agency of Human Services shall include access to reproductive
4	health care services and access to gender-affirming health care services as
5	indicators for equitable access to health care in its Community Profiles of
6	Health and Well-Being analysis.
7	(b) The Green Mountain Care Board shall include reproductive health
8	care service and gender-affirming health care service needs in the Health
9	Resource Allocation Plan analysis pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9405.
10	Sec. 10. BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE; OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
11	REGULATION; INTERSTATE COMPACTS; REPORT;
12	On or before November 1, 2024, the Office of Professional Regulation, in
13	consultation with the Board of Medical Practice, in consultation with the
14	Office of Professional Regulation, shall submit a report to the House
15	Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
16	with findings and recommendations for legislative action to address any
17	concerns regarding the State's participation, or contemplated participation,
18	in interstate licensure compacts as a result of the provisions of this act,
19	specifically including the State's participation in the Nurse Licensure

1	Compact pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 5 and the Interstate
2	Medical Licensure Compact pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23, subchapter 3A.
3	Sec. 10a. 26 V.S.A. chapter 56 is amended to read: [NEW SECTION]
4	Chapter 56. OUT-OF-STATE TELEHEALTH LICENSURE &
5	REGISTRATION AND INTERSTATE COMPACTS
6	Subchapter 1. Out-of-State Telehealth Licensure And Registration
7	* * *
8	Subchapter 2. Interstate Compacts; Legally Protected Health Care
9	<u>Activity</u>
10	§ 3071. LEGALLY PROTECTED HEALTH CARE ACTIVITY;
11	DIRECTION TO VERMONT REPRESENTATIVES
12	(a) The General Assembly finds that a state's prohibition on or
13	limitation of legally protected health care activity, as defined by 1 V.S.A.
14	§ 150, prohibits health care providers from following health care best
15	practices and is a failure on the part of the state to provide health care
16	services that are medically necessary and clinically appropriate for its
17	residents. Therefore, it is the General Assembly's intent to protect the
18	ability of professionals licensed, certified, or registered in Vermont, and
19	applicants from other member states seeking to practice a profession in
20	Vermont pursuant to an interstate compact or agreement, to have the
21	benefit of compacts and agreements while at the same time engaging in,

1	providing, or otherwise facilitating, personally or professionally, legally
2	protected health care activity.
3	(b) Vermont's representative or delegate for an interstate compact or
4	agreement related to health care shall seek an amendment or exception to
5	compact language, rules, or by-laws, as necessary, to recognize and permi
6	the provision of legally protected health care activity in states which are
7	participating in the compact or agreement.
8	* * * Emergency Contraception * * *
9	Sec. 11. 26 V.S.A. chapter 36, subchapter 1 is amended to read:
10	Subchapter 1. General Provisions
11	* * *
12	§ 2022. DEFINITIONS
13	As used in this chapter:
14	* * *
15	(22) "Emergency contraception" means any drug approved by the U.S.
16	Food and Drug Administration as a contraceptive method for use after sexual
17	intercourse, whether provided over the counter or by prescription.
18	§ 2023. CLINICAL PHARMACY; PRESCRIBING
19	* * *
20	(b) A pharmacist may prescribe in the following contexts:
21	* * *

1	(2) State protocol.
2	(A) A pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer in a manner
3	consistent with valid State protocols that are approved by the Commissioner of
4	Health after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the
5	Board and the ability for public comment:
6	* * *
7	(ix) emergency prescribing of albuterol or glucagon while
8	contemporaneously contacting emergency services; and
9	(x) tests for SARS-CoV for asymptomatic individuals or related
10	serology for individuals by entities holding a Certificate of Waiver pursuant to
11	the Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. § 263a); and
12	(xi) emergency contraception.
13	* * *
14	Sec. 11a. 26 V.S.A. § 2077 is added to read:
15	§ 2077. EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION; VENDING MACHINES
16	(a) A retail or institutional drug outlet licensed under this chapter may
17	make over-the-counter emergency contraception and other nonprescription
18	drugs or articles for the prevention of pregnancy or conception available
19	through a vending machine or similar device.
20	(b) The Board may adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to
21	regulate the location, operation, utilization, and oversight of the vending

1	machines and similar devices described in subsection (a) of this section in a
2	manner that balances consumer access with appropriate safeguards for theft
3	prevention and safety.
4	* * * Higher Education; Health Care Services * * *
5	Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. chapter 78 is added to read:
6	CHAPTER 78. ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER-
7	AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE SERVICES
8	§ 2501. DEFINITIONS
9	As used in this chapter:
10	(1) "Gender-affirming health care readiness" means each institution's
11	preparedness to provide gender-affirming health care services to students or
12	assist students in obtaining gender-affirming health care services, including
13	having in place equipment, protocols, patient educational materials,
14	informational websites, and training for staff; provided, however, that gender-
15	affirming health care readiness may include the provision of gender-affirming
16	health care services.
17	(2) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as in
18	1 V.S.A. § 150.
19	(3) "Institution" means the University of Vermont or a college in the
20	Vermont State College system.

1	(4) "Medication abortion" means an abortion provided by medication
2	techniques.
3	(5) "Reproductive health care services" has the same meaning as in 1
4	V.S.A. § 150 and includes medication abortion.
5	(6) "Reproductive health care readiness" means each institution's
6	preparedness to provide reproductive health care services to students or assist
7	students in obtaining reproductive health care services, including having in
8	place equipment, protocols, patient educational materials, informational
9	websites, and training for staff; provided, however, that reproductive health
10	care readiness may include the provision of reproductive health care services.
11	(7) "Telehealth" has the same meaning as in 26 V.S.A. § 3052.
11	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE
12	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE
12 13	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE READINESS; REPORTS
12 13 14	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE READINESS; REPORTS (a) Each institution shall report to the Department of Health annually, on or
12 13 14 15	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE READINESS; REPORTS (a) Each institution shall report to the Department of Health annually, on or before November 1, on the current status of its gender-affirming health care
12 13 14 15 16	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE READINESS; REPORTS (a) Each institution shall report to the Department of Health annually, on or before November 1, on the current status of its gender-affirming health care and reproductive health care readiness, including:
12 13 14 15 16	§ 2502. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE READINESS; REPORTS (a) Each institution shall report to the Department of Health annually, on or before November 1, on the current status of its gender-affirming health care and reproductive health care readiness, including: (1) whether the institution has an operational health center on campus;

1	on campus and the supports that the institution provides to students who
2	receive those services;
3	(4) the institution's efforts to assist students with obtaining gender-
4	affirming health care services and reproductive health care services from
5	licensed health care professionals through telehealth;
6	(5) the institution's proximity to a hospital, clinic, or other facility that
7	provides gender-affirming health care services or reproductive health care
8	services, or both, that are not available to students on campus;
9	(6) the referral information that the institution provides regarding
10	facilities that offer gender-affirming health care services and reproductive
11	health care services that are not available to students on campus,
12	including information regarding the scope of the services that are
13	available at each such facility; and
14	(7) the availability, convenience, and cost of public transportation
15	between the institution and the closest facility that provides gender-affirming
16	health care services or reproductive health care services, or both.
17	(b) On or before January 31 of each year, the Department of Health shall
18	compile the materials submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and
19	report to the House Committees on Education, on Health Care, and on Human
20	Services and the Senate Committees on Education and on Health and Welfare

1	on the status of gender-affirming health care and reproductive health care
2	readiness at Vermont's institutions.
3	Sec. 13. GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE
4	HEALTH CARE READINESS; IMPLEMENTATION
5	Each institution shall submit its first report on the status of its gender-
6	affirming health care and reproductive health care readiness as required under
7	16 V.S.A. § 2502(a) to the Department of Health on or before November 1,
8	2023, and the Department provide its first legislative report on or before
9	January 31, 2024.
10	* * * Prohibition on Disclosure of Protected Health Information * * *
11	Sec. 14. 18 V.S.A. § 1881 is amended to read:
12	§ 1881. DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION
13	PROHIBITED
14	(a) As used in this section:
15	(1) "Business associate" has the same meaning as in 45 C.F.R.
16	<u>§ 160.103.</u>
17	(2) "Covered entity" shall have has the same meaning as in 45 C.F.R. §
18	160.103.
19	(3) "Legally protected health care activity" has the same meaning as in
20	<u>V.S.A. § 150.</u>

1	(4) "Protected health information" shall have has the same meaning as
2	in 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.
3	(b) A covered entity or business associate shall not disclose protected
4	health information unless the disclosure is permitted under the Health
5	Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
6	(c) In order to protect patients and providers who engage in legally
7	protected health care activity, a covered entity or business associate shall not
8	disclose protected health information related to a legally protected health care
9	activity for use in a civil or criminal action, a proceeding preliminary to a civil
10	or criminal action, or a probate, legislative, or administrative proceeding that is
11	adverse to a patient or to a patient's health care provider unless the disclosure
11 12	adverse to a patient or to a patient's health care provider unless the disclosure meets one or more of the following conditions:
12	meets one or more of the following conditions:
12 13	meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) The disclosure is authorized by the patient; or the patient's
12 13 14	meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) The disclosure is authorized by the patient; or the patient's conservator, guardian, or other authorized legal representative; or, if the
12 13 14 15	meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) The disclosure is authorized by the patient; or the patient's conservator, guardian, or other authorized legal representative; or, if the patient is a minor, the patient's parent or legal guardian.
12 13 14 15 16	meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) The disclosure is authorized by the patient; or the patient's conservator, guardian, or other authorized legal representative; or, if the patient is a minor, the patient's parent or legal guardian. (2) The disclosure is specifically required by federal law, Vermont law,
12 13 14 15 16 17	meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) The disclosure is authorized by the patient; or the patient's conservator, guardian, or other authorized legal representative; or, if the patient is a minor, the patient's parent or legal guardian. (2) The disclosure is specifically required by federal law, Vermont law, or rules adopted by the Vermont Supreme Court.

1	include the court's determination that good cause exists to require disclosure of
2	the information related to legally protected health care activity.
3	(4) The disclosure is to be made to a person designated by the covered
4	entity or business associate and will be used solely in the defense of the
5	covered entity or business associate against a claim that has been made, or
6	there is a reasonable belief will be made, against the covered entity or business
7	associate in a civil or criminal action, a proceeding preliminary to a civil or
8	criminal action, or a probate, legislative, or administrative proceeding.
9	(5) The disclosure is to the Vermont's Board of Medical Practice or the
10	Office of Professional Regulation, as applicable, in connection with a bona fide
11	investigation in Vermont of a licensed, certified, or registered health care
12	provider.
13	* * * Effective Dates * * *
14	Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES
15	(a) This section, Sec. 1 (definitions), Sec. 2 (medical malpractice), Secs. 6–
16	7 (unprofessional conduct), Sec. 8 (pregnancy services centers), Sec. 9–10
17	(reports), Sec. 12–13 (gender-affirming health care and reproductive health
18	care readiness; reports), and Sec. 14 (prohibition on disclosure of protected
19	health information) shall take effect on passage.
20	(b) Secs. 3–4 (insurance coverage) shall take effect on January 1, 2024 and
21	shall apply to all health insurance plans issued on and after January 1, 2024 on

1	such date as a health insurer offers, issues, or renews the health insurance plan,
2	but in no event later than January 1, 2025.
3	(c) Sec. 5 (state plan amendment) shall take effect on January 1, 2024,
4	except that the Agency of Human Services shall submit its request for approval
5	of Medicaid coverage of the services prescribed in Sec. 4 of this act, if needed,
6	to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on or before July 1, 2023,
7	and the Medicaid coverage shall begin on the later of the date of approval or
8	January 1, 2024.
9	(d) Sec. 10a (interstate compacts; state representatives) shall take
10	effect on July 1, 2023.
11	(e) Sec. 11 (emergency contraception) shall take effect on or before
12	September 1, 2023, on such date as the Commissioner of Health approves the
13	State protocol.
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	(Committee vote:)
19	
20	Senator
21	FOR THE COMMITTEE