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**Act No. 204 (S.261). Human services; childhood adversity**

**An act relating to ensuring a coordinated public health approach to addressing childhood adversity and promoting resilience**

This act aims to build upon 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 43 to better coordinate services throughout the State that address childhood adversity and toxic stress and build resiliency. It establishes a Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development within the Office of the Secretary of Human Services for the purpose of directing and coordinating systemic approaches across State government that build childhood resiliency and mitigate toxic stress by implementing a public health approach. In addition to the Director's other responsibilities, he or she is responsible for submitting a status update to the General Assembly on the response plan required pursuant to 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 4. This act amends some of the reporting requirements in the response plan.

The act adds a principle to the Blueprint for Health, which suggests that providers assess trauma and toxic stress to ensure the whole needs of the person are addressed and opportunities to build resilience and community supports are maximized. It further amends the criteria required to certify an accountable care organization to operate in the State to include the provision of connections and incentives to existing community services for preventing and addressing the impact of childhood adversity.

The act also requires the Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with Vermont Care Partners, to identify opportunities to streamline and better coordinate the provision of services provided pursuant to 1988 Acts and Resolves No. 264.

Effective Date: July 1, 2018