

1 H.666

2 Introduced by Representative Till of Jericho

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; prescription drugs; benzodiazepines

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish an
7 Advisory Council on Benzodiazepine Prescribing Practices for the purpose of
8 providing advice to the Commissioner of Health on appropriate
9 benzodiazepine prescribing practices.

10 An act relating to establishing the Advisory Council on Benzodiazepine
11 Prescribing Practices

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

13 Sec. 1. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON BENZODIAZEPINE PRESCRIBING

14 (a) Creation. There is created the Advisory Council on Benzodiazepine
15 Prescribing Practices for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of Health
16 on matters related to the appropriate prescribing of benzodiazepines and the
17 prevention of benzodiazepine abuse, misuse, and diversion.

18 (b) Membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the
19 following 15 members:

20 (1) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

- 1 (2) the Deputy Commissioner of Health for Alcohol and Drug Abuse
2 Programs or designee;
- 3 (3) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
- 4 (4) the Vermont Attorney General or designee;
- 5 (5) the Director of the Blueprint for Health or designee;
- 6 (6) the Medical Director of the Department of Vermont Health Access;
- 7 (7) the Chair of the Board of Medical Practice or designee, who shall be
8 a clinician;
- 9 (8) a representative of the Vermont Medical Society, who shall be a
10 psychiatrist;
- 11 (9) a representative of the Vermont Board of Pharmacy, who shall be a
12 pharmacist;
- 13 (10) a faculty member of the academic detailing program at the
14 University of Vermont's College of Medicine;
- 15 (11) a representative of Bi-State Primary Care Association, who shall be
16 a primary care clinician;
- 17 (12) a representative of the Vermont Ethics Network;
- 18 (13) a representative of health insurers, who shall be selected by the
19 three health insurers with the most covered lives in Vermont;

1 (14) a drug abuse counselor licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 62,
2 who shall be selected by the Deputy Commissioner of Health for Alcohol and
3 Drug Abuse Programs; and

4 (15) a representative of the Vermont Substance Abuse Treatment
5 Providers.

6 (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Council shall provide advice to the
7 Commissioner concerning rules for:

8 (1) the appropriate use of benzodiazepines;

9 (2) the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring
10 System; and

11 (3) the prevention of benzodiazepine abuse, misuse, and diversion.

12 (d) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative,
13 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Health.

14 (e) Meetings.

15 (1) The Commissioner of Health or designee shall serve as chair and
16 shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Council to occur on or before
17 September 1, 2018.

18 (2) The Advisory Council shall cease to exist on January 1, 2020.

19 (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Advisory Council
20 who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise
21 compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem

1 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.
2 These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of
3 Health.

4 (g) The Commissioner of Health, after seeking the advice of the Advisory
5 Council, may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 regarding the
6 appropriate use of benzodiazepines; the appropriate use of the Vermont
7 Prescription Monitoring System; and the prevention of benzodiazepine abuse,
8 misuse, and diversion.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.