Sec. X. FEASIBILITY PLAN; FORENSIC FACILITY

On or before January 15, 2027, the Secretary of Human Services shall submit a feasibility plan for the development and operation of a forensic facility to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Corrections and Institutions, on Health Care, on Human Services, and on Judiciary and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, on Institutions, and on Judiciary. The feasibility plan shall address the following:

(1) the proposed location of a forensic facility, which shall be independent from a correctional facility, and, if on the same grounds of a correctional facility, shall be separated by sight and sound;

(2) the proposed design plans for a forensic facility that allows for the ability to separate residents by sex or gender and clinical need;

(3) the number of beds within a forensic facility;

(4) the entity or entities responsible for operating and providing services in a forensic facility, which shall not be the Department of Corrections;

(4) the timeline for constructing a stand-alone forensic facility or fitting up an existing stand-alone facility to operate as a forensic facility;

(5) the estimated cost of constructing or fitting up a forensic facility;

(6) the proposed staffing and clinical services available at a forensic facility, including competency restoration services;

(7) whether any opportunities exist for out-of-state placement of the forensic facility population in clinically appropriate programming while development of a forensic facility in Vermont is pending; and

(8) any recommendations for legislative action to effectuate the development of a therapeutic, trauma-informed forensic facility.