

1 S.198

2 Introduced by Senator Mullin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; public health; department of health; advisory panel; lupus

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create an advisory panel on lupus  
7 within the department of health.

8 An act relating to a lupus advisory panel within the department of health

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

10 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 35 is added to read:

11 CHAPTER 35. LUPUS ADVISORY PANEL

12 § 1711. CREATION; MEMBERSHIP

13 (a) There is hereby created a lupus advisory panel within the department of  
14 health for the purposes of assessing and improving the state of lupus education  
15 and awareness in Vermont.

16 (b) The lupus advisory panel shall consist of the following members:

17 (1) the commissioner of the department of health or designee, who shall  
18 serve as chair;

19 (2) the commissioner of the department of Vermont health access or  
20 designee;

1           (3) the commissioner of the department of banking, insurance,  
2           securities, and health care administration or designee;

3           (4) one member of the house committee on human services, chosen by  
4           the speaker of the house;

5           (5) one member of the house committee on health care, chosen by the  
6           speaker of the house;

7           (6) one member of the senate committee on health and welfare, chosen  
8           by the president pro tempore;

9           (7) one medical professional with training or experience treating patients  
10          with lupus, appointed by the governor; and

11          (8) one member from the lupus advocacy community, appointed by the  
12          governor.

13          (c) Commissioners shall serve for the duration of their time in office or  
14          until a successor has been appointed. Members of the general assembly shall  
15          be appointed for two years or until their successors are appointed, beginning on  
16          or before the first year of a biennium. Members of the panel designated by a  
17          commissioner or the governor shall serve at the direction of the designating  
18          authority.

19          (d) A majority of the members of the panel shall constitute a quorum. The  
20          panel shall act only by vote of a majority of its entire membership and only at  
21          meetings called by the chair or by any three of the members.

1       (e) The first meeting of the advisory panel shall be convened by the chair  
2       no later than September 1, 2012. The panel is authorized to meet as many as  
3       six times annually.

4       (f) Advisory panel members who are not commissioners or otherwise  
5       regularly employed by the state shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as  
6       provided by 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

7       § 1712. DUTIES

8       The advisory panel shall have the following duties:

9           (1) To analyze the current state of lupus education;

10          (2) To evaluate lupus-related educational materials and resources  
11       produced by government agencies, hospitals, and advocacy organizations;

12          (3) To conduct a needs assessment to identify gaps in current lupus  
13       education modalities, the findings of which shall be reported to the senate  
14       committee on health and welfare and the house committees on health care and  
15       on human services; and

16          (4) To use the results of the needs assessment in developing and  
17       implementing a comprehensive lupus education and awareness plan, which  
18       shall be presented to the senate committee on health and welfare and the house  
19       committees on health care and on human services on or before  
20       January 15, 2013.

1        § 1713. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

2            (a) In coordination with the department of health and the University of  
3        Vermont College of Medicine, the lupus education and awareness plan shall  
4        promote the education and training of health and human services providers on  
5        the most current and accurate medical information regarding lupus, including:

6            (1) Diagnosis;

7            (2) Treatment;

8            (3) Medications;

9            (4) Research advances; and

10          (5) Therapeutic decision-making.

11          (b)(1) The department of health shall maintain information about the  
12        advisory panel and the lupus education and awareness plan on its website.

13          (2) In consultation with the following entities, the department of health  
14        shall post scientifically and medically accurate information about lupus on its  
15        website, including links to state resources:

16            (A) Hospitals within the state;

17            (B) The University of Vermont College of Medicine;

18            (C) Health care providers;

19            (D) Human services providers;

20            (E) Employer wellness programs;

21            (F) Women's health organizations; and

1           (G) Lupus advocacy organizations.

2           § 1714. FUNDING

3           The department of health may accept grants and services from the federal  
4           government, public entities, and private entities for the purpose of advancing  
5           the goals of this chapter. The department of health is authorized to pursue any  
6           federal waiver needed to maximize federal funds for public education  
7           about lupus.

8           Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

9           Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 1711(c), the first legislative members  
10          appointed to the lupus advisory panel shall serve from the effective date of this  
11          act until new members are appointed for the 2013–2014 legislative session.

12          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.