

1 H.705

2 Introduced by Representatives Fisher of Lincoln and Donahue of Northfield

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; mental health; Mental Health Care Ombudsman; Health Care

6 Advocate

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to repeal the
8 statute that establishes the Mental Health Care Ombudsman and make the
9 Health Care Advocate responsible for oversight of legal protections for persons
10 receiving mental health care.

11 An act relating to repealing the Mental Health Care Ombudsman statute

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

13 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT

14 (a) The Office of the Mental Health Care Ombudsman protects the rights of
15 persons whose health care may be subject to legal intervention by the State and
16 who historically have been subject to coercive and stigmatized treatment.

17 (b) Integrating mental health into the health care system requires that the
18 responsibilities of the Office of the Mental Health Care Ombudsman be
19 maintained within the Office of the Health Care Advocate, which oversees
20 Vermont's entire health care system.

