

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

H.832

Introduced by Representative Campion of Bennington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; consumer protection; mobile telephones; study committee

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a study committee to assess the health impacts of mobile telephone use, specifically with regard to any potential dangers to children under 18 years of age.

An act relating to a mobile telephone health impact study committee

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

Sec. 1. STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF MOBILE  
TELEPHONE USE; REPORT

(a) Creation. A study committee is established to identify and examine the health effects of mobile telephone use, specifically with regard to any potential dangers to children under 18 years of age. The Mobile Telephone Health Impact Study Committee (Committee) is created to review and curate existing research and peer-reviewed sources pertaining to any potential health impacts of mobile telephone use, considering especially the impacts on users under 18 years of age. The Committee is also charged with determining whether the public has adequate information about any potential health impacts.

1        (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following  
2        members:

3            (1) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

4            (2) the Attorney General or designee;

5            (3) a public health professional with expertise related to neurology,  
6        neuroradiology, oncology, pediatrics, or other relevant field, appointed by the  
7        Governor;

8            (4) a member of the faculty of a medical school or hospital with  
9        expertise related to neurology, neuroradiology, oncology, pediatrics, or other  
10       relevant field, appointed the Governor; and

11           (5) a consumer protection advocate, appointed by the Governor.

12        (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall examine whether there are any  
13        known health impacts of mobile telephone use, including the following issues:

14           (1) the negative health impacts of consistent mobile telephone use,  
15        if any;

16           (2) the negative health impacts of consistent mobile telephone use on  
17        children under 18 years of age, if any;

18           (3) the severity and prevalence of any negative health impacts;

19           (4) whether consumers are adequately informed of any negative health  
20        impacts that may exist;

1           (5) appropriate precautions that may be taken against any negative  
2 health impacts that may exist; and

3           (6) any other issues as the Committee deems necessary and appropriate.

4           (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
5 and legal assistance of the Department of Health.

6           (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2014, the Committee shall submit a  
7 written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic  
8 Development, on Education, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the  
9 Senate Committees on Economic Development, on Education, on Housing and  
10 General Affairs, and on Health and Welfare with its findings and  
11 recommendations, including any recommendations for legislative action.

12           (f) Meetings.

13           (1) The Commissioner of Health shall call the first meeting of the  
14 Committee to occur on or before July 1, 2014.

15           (2) The Commissioner of Health or designee shall be the chair of the  
16 Committee.

17           (3)(A) A majority of the members of the Committee shall be physically  
18 present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

19           (B) A member may vote only if physically present at the meeting  
20 location.

1           (C) Action shall be taken only if there is both a quorum and a  
2 majority vote of all members of the Committee.

3           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 31, 2014.

4           (g) Reimbursement. Members of the Committee who are not employees of  
5 the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed  
6 for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
7 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than four  
8 meetings.

9           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10           This act shall take effect on passage.