

1 S.156

2 Introduced by Committee on Health and Welfare

3 Date:

4 Subject: Human services; Department for Children and Families; Department
5 of Health; home visiting services

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the
7 Departments for Children and Families and of Health to adopt rules
8 articulating standards for the provision of home visiting services.

9 An act relating to home visiting standards

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

11 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

12 In recognition of the significant positive contribution that home visiting
13 services make with regard to enhancing family stability, family health, and
14 child development; fostering parenting skills; reducing child maltreatment;
15 promoting social and emotional health; improving school readiness; and
16 promoting economic self-sufficiency, the General Assembly seeks to
17 standardize the State's approach to the administration and delivery of home
18 visiting services and for monitoring service utilization and outcomes.

1 Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

2 (a) As used in this section, “home visiting services” means regular,
3 voluntary visits with a family with young children or a pregnant woman for the
4 purpose of providing a continuum of services that improves maternal and child
5 health; prevents child injuries, abuse, or maltreatment; promotes social and
6 emotional health; improves school readiness; reduces crime or domestic
7 violence; improves economic self-sufficiency; or enhances coordination and
8 referrals among community resources and supports, such as food, housing, and
9 transportation.

10 (b) The Department for Children and Families and the Department of
11 Health in consultation with the Home Visiting Alliance and other stakeholders
12 shall adopt rules on or before July 1, 2014, establishing consistent standards
13 for the delivery of home visiting services throughout Vermont.

14 (c) In developing standards for the delivery of home visiting services, the
15 Departments shall be guided by best family-centered practices and
16 evidence-informed models. The standards adopted by rule shall address the
17 following:

18 (1) creation of a system of home visiting services that can respond to
19 diverse family needs;

20 (2) service provider training and supervision;

1 (3) a structure for coordinating services at the state and local levels with
2 respect to outreach efforts, family intake methods, referrals, and transitions;

3 (4) access to supports, resources, and information to address short- and
4 long-term family needs;

5 (5) criteria identifying which home visiting programs are eligible for
6 funding; and

7 (6) performance evaluation and quality improvement measures,
8 including mechanisms for tracking funding, utilization, and standardized
9 outcomes for families and children at the state, community, and program
10 levels.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.