

S.156

Introduced by Committee on Health and Welfare

Date: March 15, 2013

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

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

An act relating to home visiting standards

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

~~Sec. 1. PURPOSE~~

~~In recognition of the significant positive contribution that home visiting
services make with regard to enhancing family stability, family health, and
child development; fostering parenting skills; reducing child maltreatment;
promoting social and emotional health; improving school readiness; and
promoting economic self-sufficiency, the General Assembly seeks to
standardize the State's approach to the administration and delivery of home
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.~~

*(b) The Department for Children and Families and the Department of
Health in consultation with the Secretary of Human Services, the Home
Visiting Alliance, and other stakeholders shall adopt rules on or before
July 1, 2014, establishing consistent standards 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;

- 1 ~~(2) service provider training and supervision;~~
- 2 ~~(3) a structure for coordinating services at the state and local levels with~~
- 3 ~~respect to outreach efforts, family intake methods, referrals, and transitions;~~
- 4 ~~(4) access to supports, resources, and information to address short- and~~
- 5 ~~long-term family needs;~~
- 6 ~~(5) criteria identifying which home visiting programs are eligible for~~
- 7 ~~funding; and~~
- 8 ~~(6) performance evaluation and quality improvement measures,~~
- 9 ~~including mechanisms for tracking funding, utilization, and standardized~~
- 10 ~~outcomes for families and children at the state, community, and program~~
- 11 ~~levels.~~

12 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 ~~This act shall take effect on passage.~~

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

In recognition of the significant positive contribution that home visiting services make with regard to enhancing family stability, family health, and child development; fostering parenting skills; reducing child maltreatment; promoting social and emotional health; improving school readiness; and promoting economic self-sufficiency, the General Assembly seeks to ensure that home visiting services to Vermonters are of the highest quality by establishing standards for their administration, delivery, and utilization review that foster the contributions of diverse practice models.

Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

(a) As used in this section, "home visiting services" means regular, voluntary visits with a pregnant woman or a family with a young child for the purpose of providing a continuum of services that improves maternal and child health; prevents child injuries, abuse, or maltreatment; promotes social and emotional health; improves school readiness; reduces crime or domestic

violence; improves economic self-sufficiency; or enhances coordination and referrals among community resources and supports, such as food, housing, and transportation.

(b) The Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with interested providers and other stakeholders, shall develop rules establishing standards for the delivery of home visiting services throughout Vermont to be adopted by the Secretary on or before July 1, 2014.

(c) In developing standards for the delivery of home visiting services, the Secretary shall be guided by best family-centered and family-directed practices and evidence-based models. The standards adopted by rule shall address the following:

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

(2) service provider training and supervision;

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

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

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

(6) the contributions of organizations that use trained volunteers; and

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

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.