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2 Introduced by Representatives Frank of Underhill, Mrowicki of Putney, and

3 Fisher of Lincoln

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Human services; Department for Children and Families; Department

7 of Health; home visiting services

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the

9 Departments for Children and Families and of Health to adopt rules

10 articulating standards for the provision of home visiting services.

11 An act relating to home visiting standards

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

13 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

14 In recognition of the significant positive contribution that home visiting

15 services make with regard to enhancing family stability, family health, and

16 child development; fostering parenting skills; reducing child maltreatment;

17 promoting social and emotional health; improving school readiness; and

18 promoting economic self-sufficiency, the General Assembly seeks to

19 standardize the State's approach to the administration and delivery of home

20 visiting services and for monitoring service utilization and outcomes.

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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 improve maternal and child  
5       health; prevent child injuries, abuse, or maltreatment; promote social and  
6       emotional health; improve school readiness; reduce crime or domestic  
7       violence; improve economic self-sufficiency; or enhance 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 shall adopt rules on or  
12       before July 1, 2014 establishing consistent standards for the delivery of home  
13       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 evidence-  
16       informed models. The standards adopted by rule shall address the following:

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

19            (2) service provider training and supervision;

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

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- 1           (4) access to supports, resources, and information to address short- and  
2           long-term family needs;
- 3           (5) criteria identifying which home visiting programs are eligible for  
4           funding; and
- 5           (6) performance evaluation and quality improvement measures,  
6           including mechanisms for tracking funding, utilization, and standardized  
7           outcomes for families and children at the state, community, and program level.

8           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

- 9           This act shall take effect upon passage.