

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE

The Committee on Health & Welfare to which was referred House Bill No. H. 20, entitled "An act relating to licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors as participating providers in Medicaid"

respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 26 V.S.A. § 3242, by striking out the word "is" after "regardless of whether the counselor" and inserting in lieu thereof works for

Second: By inserting a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. LICENSURE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS

(a) The Department of Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) and the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) shall work collaboratively to develop and propose to the General Assembly a plan to move the licensure of alcohol and drug abuse counselors from the purview of ADAP to that of OPR. The plan shall include the statutory amendments necessary to conform to OPR's regulatory structure and the positions necessary to implement the program. ADAP and OPR shall jointly submit the plan to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Human Services and on Government Operations on or before January 15, 2016.

(b) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 605(b)(2), ADAP and OPR shall recommend for inclusion in the Governor's fiscal year 2017 Executive Branch fee report a licensure fee for alcohol and drug abuse counselors that offsets the cost to OPR of assuming oversight of this profession.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

*Brian
Collamore*

Senator Collamore
FOR THE COMMITTEE

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H.20

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Introduced by Representatives Dickinson of St. Albans Town and Huntley of

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Cavendish

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Referred to Committee on

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Date:

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Subject: Health; professions and occupations; Medicaid; licensed alcohol and

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drug abuse counselors

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Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow licensed

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alcohol and drug abuse counselors who are in private practice to participate

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in Medicaid.

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An act relating to licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors as

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participating providers in Medicaid

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

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~~Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3242 is added to read:~~

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~~§ 3242. MEDICAID PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS~~

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~~The Department of Vermont Health Access shall grant authorization to a~~

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~~licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor to participate as a Medicaid~~

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~~provider to deliver clinical and case coordination services to Medicaid~~

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~~beneficiaries, regardless of whether the counselor is a preferred provider.~~

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~~Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE~~

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~~This act shall take effect on October 1, 2015.~~

Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3242 is added to read:

§ 3242. MEDICAID PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall grant authorization to a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor acting within the scope of his or her practice to participate as a Medicaid provider to deliver clinical and case coordination services to Medicaid beneficiaries consistent with federal law, regardless of whether the counselor is a preferred provider.

(b) The Department shall amend Vermont's Medicaid State Plan as necessary to comply with subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

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