

**Act No. 144 (H.596). Health; health insurance; Vermont Health Benefit Exchange; Green Mountain Care**

**An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to health care laws**

This act makes several changes to Vermont's health care laws and requires the Administration to submit a number of reports. It allows small employers and their employees to purchase Vermont Health Benefit Exchange plans through the Exchange website, through navigators, by telephone, or directly from a health insurer. It details the process by which the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) reviews rates and forms for non-major medical insurance plans and delays for one year the date on which health care providers, health insurers, and other payers must begin using standardized edits and payment rules. The act requires the Agency of Human Services to report on or before January 15, 2015 on the elements of Green Mountain Care for which the Agency plans to solicit bids for administration, as well as the dates by which it will solicit the bids and award contracts. It directs the Secretary of Administration to submit a conceptual waiver application expressing the State's intent to seek a federal Waiver for State Innovation and the State's interest in beginning the application process. The act requires urgent care clinics to accept patients of all ages and prohibits them from discriminating against patients or prospective patients based on insurance status or type of health coverage. It requires pharmacy benefit managers to pay pharmacies within 14 days after receiving a claim and to disclose at least annually the amount they retained on prescription claims, and it places restrictions on the co-payment requirements pharmacy benefit managers may impose. The act also repeals legislators' and session-only legislative employees' eligibility to purchase the State Employees Health Benefit Plan at full cost and allows the Green Mountain Care Board to develop and implement global budgeting pilot projects at up to two hospitals.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 27, 2014