

1 S.173

2 Introduced by Senator Benning

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; Vermont Health Benefit Exchange

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to enable  
7 individuals and small groups to purchase health insurance outside the Vermont  
8 Health Benefit Exchange through December 31, 2014.

9 An act relating to the purchase of health insurance outside the Exchange

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

11 Sec. 1. INTENT

12 It is the intent of the General Assembly that individuals and small  
13 businesses in Vermont be allowed to choose whether to purchase health  
14 insurance through the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange or in the traditional  
15 health insurance marketplace during calendar year 2014. While the  
16 administration works out the details of implementing the Exchange,  
17 Vermonters should be comfortable with the choices available to them and free  
18 to choose from among all available insurance options, whether through the  
19 Exchange or outside it.

1       Sec. 2. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 171, Sec. 41a(c) is amended to read:

2           (c) Notwithstanding Sec. 41(i) of this act, repealing 8 V.S.A. §§ 4080a and  
3       4080b, and notwithstanding the provisions of 33 V.S.A. § 1811, the  
4       ~~department of financial regulation~~ Department of Financial Regulation and the  
5       Green Mountain Care ~~board may~~ Board shall continue to approve rates and  
6       forms for nongroup and small group health insurance plans under the statutes  
7       and rules in effect prior to the date of repeal ~~if the Vermont health benefit~~  
8       ~~exchange is not operational by January 1, 2014 and the department of Vermont~~  
9       ~~health access or a health insurer is unable to facilitate enrollment in health~~  
10      ~~benefit plans through another mechanism, including paper enrollment. In the~~  
11      ~~alternative, the department of financial regulation may allow individuals and~~  
12      ~~small employers to extend coverage under an existing health insurance plan.~~  
13      ~~The department of financial regulation and the Green Mountain Care board~~  
14      ~~shall maintain their authority pursuant to this subsection until the exchange is~~  
15      ~~able to enroll all qualified individuals and small employers who apply for~~  
16      ~~coverage through the exchange~~ through December 31, 2014, as long as such  
17      plans comply with Affordable Care Act requirements for health insurance  
18      plans offered outside a health benefit exchange.

19      Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20           This act shall take effect on passage.