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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Fisher, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
From: Rep. Heath, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
Date: January 24, 2014
Subject: Review of Provisions in Governor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

The House Appropriations Committee is in the process of taking testimony on the Governor's fiscal year 2015 proposed budget. There are some new provisions that fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Health Care. It would be helpful if your committee could review the provisions and provide recommendations by March 15th.

Please find below the items that I would like your committee to review. Thank you very much for your consideration.

New Positions Requested in the Budget:

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH – POSITION AUTHORIZATIONS

(a) The establishment of the following new permanent positions is authorized in fiscal year 2015 as follows:

(6) In the Department of Vermont Health Access - two (2) classified positions – one (1) Clinical Operations Nurse Case Manager and one (1) Health Programs Administrator.

EXPLANATION: These two positions will be used to provide diagnosis and treatment of early childhood developmental disorders under 8 VSA Sec 4088i, including prior authorizations for new Medicaid services and handling grievances and appeals related to these services.

Language Sections:

Sec. E. 306 32 V.S.A. Sec. 307(d) is amended to read:

(d) The Governor's budget shall include his or her recommendations for an annual budget for Medicaid and all other health care assistance programs administered by the Agency of Human Services. The Governor's proposed Medicaid budget shall include a proposed annual financial plan, and a proposed five-year financial plan, with the following information and analysis:

* * *

(5) health care inflation trends consistent with provider reimbursements approved under 18 V.S.A. § 9376 and ~~hospital budgets approved by the Green Mountain Care Board under 18 V.S.A. chapter 221, subchapter 7~~ expenditure trends reported under 18 V.S.A. Sec. 9375a;

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EXPLANATION: This amendment shifts the Medicaid budget inflation increase benchmark from the hospital budgets to be consistent with the expenditure analysis done by the Green Mountain Care Board.

Sec. E. 306.1 EMERGENCY RULES

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to December 31, 2014 to conform Vermont's rules regarding operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to federal guidance and regulations implementing the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152. The rules shall be adopted to achieve timely compliance with federal laws and guidance and shall be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

EXPLANATION: This language allows the Agency of Human Services to use emergency rule making prior to 12/31/14 in the event that the state needs to update, adopt or change rules because new federal guidance is released or regulations are implemented related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.