

Act No. 152 (S.255). Health; hospitals; health insurance; managed care organizations

An act relating to regulation of hospitals, health insurers, and managed care organizations

This act requires hospitals to post on their websites information about their community health needs assessment and allows them to meet the requirement through compliance with federal standards. It requires hospitals to provide information on their websites about the membership of their governing body and replaces a requirement for individual hospital community reports with a statewide comparative report from the Department of Health, to which hospitals must provide a link on their own websites. The act provides a role for the Office of the Health Care Advocate in hospital budget reviews, moves authority over health care provider bargaining groups from the Department of Financial Regulation to the Green Mountain Care Board, and requires all managed care organizations to be accredited by a national independent accreditation organization approved by the Department of Financial Regulation. It directs the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to prepare an annual report providing the number of complaints received during the previous calendar year regarding violations of standards governing managed care organizations, including specifying the aggregate number of complaints related to each standard. It adds to annual reporting requirements for health insurers and requires the Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Administration and others to identify opportunities for and make recommendations regarding alignment between federal requirements for accountable care organizations, the Department of Vermont Health Access in its role as a public managed care organization, and rules applicable to managed care organizations. It imposes certain requirements on the Department of Vermont Health Access for utilization review determinations beginning on January 1, 2017. The act also adds developmental disabilities to the Department of Health's public health surveillance and planning authority, authorizes the Department to adopt rules regarding screening for chronic diseases and developmental disabilities in newborns, and requires the Department to adopt rules requiring screening for congenital heart defects in all newborns.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 31, 2016