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An act relating to licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors as participating providers in Medicaid

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

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 works for 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. 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.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on October 1, 2015.