

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred Senate Bill No. 245  
3 entitled “An act relating to notice to patients of new health care provider  
4 affiliations” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by  
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF  
9 NEW AFFILIATION

10 The Green Mountain Care Board shall maintain a policy for reviewing new  
11 physician acquisitions and transfers as part of the Board’s hospital budget  
12 review responsibilities. The policy shall require hospitals to provide written  
13 notice about a new acquisition or transfer of health care providers to each  
14 patient served by an acquired or transferred health care provider, including:

15 (1) notifying the patient that the health care provider is now affiliated  
16 with the hospital;

17 (2) providing the hospital’s name and contact information;

18 (3) notifying the patient that the change in affiliation may affect his or  
19 her out-of-pocket costs, depending on the patient’s health insurance plan and  
20 the services provided; and

1           (4) recommending that the patient contact his or her insurance company  
2           with specific questions or to determine his or her actual financial liability.

3           Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9405c is added to read:

4           § 9405c. NOTICE OF ACQUISITION

5           (a) As used in this section:

6           (1) “Acquire” means a purchase or transfer through which a hospital  
7           will own or control the business of a medical practice.

8           (2) “Hospital” means a general hospital or hospital facility licensed  
9           under chapter 43 of this title.

10          (3) “Medical practice” means a business through which one or more  
11          physicians practice medicine.

12          (b) Each hospital shall provide notice to the Office of the Attorney General  
13          at least 90 days or as soon as practicable prior to the effective date of a  
14          transaction through which the hospital will acquire a medical practice. The  
15          notice shall include at least the following information:

16          (1) the name and address of the hospital acquiring the medical practice  
17          and contact information for a representative of the hospital; and

18          (2) the name and address of the medical practice being acquired and  
19          contact information for a representative of the medical practice.

20          (c) Information provided to the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to  
21          this section is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public

1 Records Act and shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to  
2 allow the Office to perform an inquiry into potentially anticompetitive  
3 practices.

4 Sec. 3. REDUCING PAYMENT DIFFERENTIALS; GUIDANCE AND  
5 IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

6 (a) On or before July 15, 2016, the Green Mountain Care Board shall  
7 provide to the Health Reform Oversight Committee, the House Committee on  
8 Health Care, and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on  
9 Finance a copy of each implementation plan for providing fair and equitable  
10 reimbursement amounts for professional services provided by academic  
11 medical centers and by other professionals, as required to be developed by  
12 health insurers pursuant to 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 23(b).

13 (b) No later than 30 days following the Board's review of each  
14 implementation plan pursuant to 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 23(b)  
15 but in no event later than December 1, 2016, the Board shall report to the  
16 Health Reform Oversight Committee, the House Committee on Health Care,  
17 and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance on its  
18 progress toward achieving fair and equitable reimbursement amounts for  
19 professional services provided by academic medical centers and by other  
20 professionals, without increasing health insurance premiums or public funding  
21 of health care, as required by 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 23(b).

1       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

2           (a) Secs. 1 (notice to patients) and 2 (notice to Attorney General) shall take  
3       effect on July 1, 2016.

4           (b) Sec. 3 (Green Mountain Care Board reports) and this section shall take  
5       effect on passage.

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11       (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE