

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Gage of Rutland City to H. 875

That the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. B.1101, fiscal year 2017 one-time General Fund appropriations, by striking out subsection (d) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(d) The sum of \$140,000 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board to contract with an independent third party for analysis of the current functionality and long-term sustainability of the technology for Vermont Health Connect pursuant to Sec. E.127.1 of this act.

Second: By striking out Sec. C.100, Dr. Dynasaur expansion study; report, in its entirety

Third: By striking out Sec. E.127.1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. E.127.1. VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE TECHNOLOGY; SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS; REPORT

(a) The Green Mountain Care Board, through a contract with an independent third party, shall provide a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2016 with an analysis of the current functionality and long-term sustainability of the technology for Vermont's Health Benefit Exchange, including a review of the deficiencies in Vermont Health Connect functionality and the integration, connectivity, and business logic of each as they pertain to both the back end systems and the user interface of Vermont Health Connect. The analysis shall provide recommendations for improving the function, efficiency, reliability, operations, and customer experience of the technology going forward. The report shall include an evaluation of the investment value of existing components of the Exchange technology and the contractor's assessment of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of leveraging existing components of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange as part of the technology for a larger, integrated eligibility system, including reviewing changes other states have made to the Exchange components of their technology infrastructure. The analysis and report shall provide a comparison of the investments required to ensure a sustainable State-based Exchange through further investment in Vermont Health Connect's current technology, including any opportunities to build on other states' Exchange technology, with the estimated investments that would be required to transition to a fully or partially federally facilitated Exchange.

(b) In preparing its request for proposal, the Green Mountain Care Board shall consult with health insurers offering qualified health plans on Vermont Health Connect.

(c) Based on the results of the analysis required by subsection (a) of this section, on or before January 15, 2016, the Green Mountain Care Board shall recommend to the General Assembly whether it would be more advantageous for Vermont residents to maintain the existing Vermont Health Connect, with any modifications identified in the analysis, or to transition to a fully federally facilitated Exchange or a federally facilitated State-based Exchange. If the Board recommends moving to a new Exchange model, the plan shall include a description of the federally facilitated Exchange model selected, estimates of the costs associated with the transition and with ongoing participation in the federally facilitated Exchange, options for financing the transition and participation costs, and a detailed timeline of the steps necessary to ensure that the transition will take place without causing any disruption to Medicaid or private health insurance coverage. The plan shall also include a description of the steps needed to dismantle unnecessary functions of Vermont Health Connect while minimizing financial exposure to the State.