1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 243 entitled "An act relating to combating opioid abuse in Vermont"
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Vermont Prescription Monitoring System * * *

8 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4284 is amended to read:

9 § 4284. PROTECTION AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

10 * * *

11 (g) Following consultation with the ~~Unified Pain Management System~~
12 Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council and an
13 opportunity for input from stakeholders, the Department shall develop a policy
14 that will enable it to use information from VPMS to determine if individual
15 prescribers and dispensers are using VPMS appropriately.

16 (h) Following consultation with the ~~Unified Pain Management System~~
17 Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council and an
18 opportunity for input from stakeholders, the Department shall develop a policy
19 that will enable it to evaluate the prescription of regulated drugs by prescribers.

20 * * *

1 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4289 is amended to read:
2 § 4289. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH CARE
3 PROVIDERS AND DISPENSERS
4 (a) Each professional licensing authority for health care providers shall
5 develop evidence-based standards to guide health care providers in the
6 appropriate prescription of Schedules II, III, and IV controlled substances for
7 treatment of acute pain, chronic pain**,** and for other medical conditions to be
8 determined by the licensing authority. The standards developed by the
9 licensing authorities shall be consistent with rules adopted by the Department
10 of Health. The licensing authorities shall submit their standards to the
11 Commissioner of Health, who shall review for consistency across health care
12 providers and notify the applicable licensing authority of any inconsistencies
13 identified.
14 (b)(1) Each health care provider who prescribes any Schedule II, III, or IV
15 controlled substances shall register with the VPMS by November 15, 2013.
16 (2) If the VPMS shows that a patient has filled a prescription for a
17 controlled substance written by a health care provider who is not a registered
18 user of VPMS, the Commissioner of Health shall notify the applicable
19 licensing authority and the provider by mail of the provider's registration
20 requirement pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The Commissioner of Health shall develop additional procedures to ensure that all health care providers who prescribe controlled substances are registered in compliance with subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(c) **Each dispenser who dispenses any Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances shall register with the VPMS and shall query the VPMS in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Health.** (moved to (d))

(d) Health Except in the event of electronic or technological failure, health care providers shall query the VPMS with respect to an individual patient in the following circumstances:

(1) at least annually for patients who are receiving ongoing treatment with an opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance;

(2) when starting a patient on a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance for nonpalliative long-term pain therapy of 90 days or more;

(3) the first time the provider prescribes an opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance **written to treat chronic pain (delete?)**; and

(4) prior to writing a replacement prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance pursuant to section 4290 of this title.

(d)(1) Each dispenser who dispenses any Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances shall register with the VPMS.

(2) Except in the event of electronic or technological failure, dispensers shall query the VPMS in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Health.

(3) Pharmacies and other dispensers shall report each dispensed prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance to the VPMS within 24 hours or one business day after dispensing.

(e) The Commissioner of Health shall, after consultation with the ~~Unified Pain Management System~~ Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council, adopt rules necessary to effect the purposes of this section. The Commissioner and the Council shall consider additional circumstances under which health care providers should be required to query the VPMS, including whether health care providers should be required to query the VPMS prior to writing a prescription for any opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance or when a patient requests renewal of a prescription for an opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance written to treat acute pain, and the Commissioner may adopt rules accordingly.

~~(f)(1) Each professional licensing authority for dispensers shall adopt standards, consistent with rules adopted by the Department of Health under this section, regarding the frequency and circumstances under which its respective licensees shall:~~

~~(1) query the VPMS; and~~

1 **(2)** ~~**report to the VPMS, which shall be no less than once every seven**~~
2 ~~**days.**~~ (moved to (d))
3 (g) Each professional licensing authority for health care providers and
4 dispensers shall consider the statutory requirements, rules, and standards
5 adopted pursuant to this section in disciplinary proceedings when determining
6 whether a licensee has complied with the applicable standard of care.
7 *** * * Rulemaking * * * (moved from Sec. 16)**
8 **Sec. 16. PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN;**
9 **RULEMAKING**
10 (a) The Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Controlled
11 Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council, shall adopt rules
12 governing the prescription of opioids. The rules ~~**may**~~ **shall (?)** include numeric
13 and temporal limitations on the number of pills prescribed, including a
14 maximum number of pills to be prescribed following minor medical
15 procedures, consistent with evidence-informed best practices for effective pain
16 management. The rules may require the contemporaneous prescription of
17 naloxone in certain circumstances, and shall require informed consent for
18 patients that explains the risks associated with taking opioids, including
19 addiction, physical dependence, side effects, tolerance, overdose, and death.
20 The rules shall also require prescribers prescribing opioids to patients to

1 provide information concerning the safe storage and disposal of controlled
2 substances.
3 **(b) The Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Board of**
4 **Pharmacy, retail pharmacists, and the Controlled Substances and Pain**
5 **Management Advisory Council, shall adopt rules regarding the**
6 **circumstances in which dispensers shall query the Vermont Prescription**
7 **Monitoring System, which shall include:**
8 **(1) prior to dispensing a prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV**
9 **controlled substance to a patient who is new to the pharmacy;**
10 **(2) when an individual for a prescription for a Schedule II, III, or**
11 **IV controlled substance without application of his or her public or private**
12 **health coverage;**
13 **(3) when a patient requests a refill of a prescription for a Schedule**
14 **II, III, or IV controlled substance substantially in advance of when a refill**
15 **would ordinarily be due; or**
16 **(4) when the dispenser is aware that the patient is being prescribed**
17 **Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances by more than one prescriber.**
18 ~~*** * * Expanding Access to Substance Abuse Treatment**~~
19 ~~**with Buprenorphine * * ***~~
20 Sec. 3. ~~**18 V.S.A. chapter 93 is amended to read:**~~
21 ~~**CHAPTER 93. TREATMENT OF OPIOID ADDICTION**~~

1 ~~Subchapter 1. Regional Opioid Addiction Treatment System~~

2 ~~§ 4751. PURPOSE~~

3 ~~It is the purpose of this chapter subchapter to authorize the department~~

4 ~~of health Departments of Health and of Vermont Health Access to~~

5 ~~establish a regional system of opioid addiction treatment.~~

6 ~~§ 4752. OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENT SYSTEM~~

7 ~~(a) The department of health Departments of Health and of Vermont~~

8 ~~Health Access shall establish by rule a regional system of opioid addiction~~

9 ~~treatment.~~

10 * * *

11 ~~(c) No later than January 15 of each year from 2013 through 2016,~~

12 ~~inclusive, the commissioner shall report to the house committees on~~

13 ~~human services and on health care and the senate committee on health~~

14 ~~and welfare regarding the regional system of opioid addiction treatment,~~

15 ~~including the system's effectiveness. [Repealed.]~~

16 * * *

17 ~~Subchapter 2. Opioid Addiction Treatment Care Coordination~~

18 ~~§ 4771. CARE COORDINATION~~

19 ~~(a) In addition to participation in the regional system of opioid~~

20 ~~addiction treatment established pursuant to subchapter 1 of this chapter,~~

21 ~~health care providers may coordinate patient care in order to provide to~~

1 ~~the maximum number of patients high quality opioid addiction treatment~~
2 ~~with buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine.~~
3 ~~(b) Care for patients with opioid addiction may be provided by a care~~
4 ~~coordination team comprising the patient's primary care provider, a~~
5 ~~qualified addiction medicine physician or nurse practitioner as described~~
6 ~~in subsection (c) of this section, and members of a medication-assisted~~
7 ~~treatment team affiliated with the Blueprint for Health.~~
8 ~~(c)(1) A primary care provider participating in the care coordination~~
9 ~~team and prescribing buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine~~
10 ~~pursuant to this section shall meet federal requirements for prescribing~~
11 ~~buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine to treat opioid~~
12 ~~addiction and shall see the patient he or she is treating for opioid~~
13 ~~addiction for an office visit at least once every three months.~~
14 ~~(2)(A) A qualified addiction medicine physician participating in a~~
15 ~~care coordination team pursuant to this section shall be a physician who is~~
16 ~~board-certified in addiction medicine or satisfies one or more of the~~
17 ~~following conditions:~~
18 ~~(i) has completed not fewer than 24 hours of classroom or~~
19 ~~interactive training in the treatment and management of opioid-dependent~~
20 ~~patients for substance use disorders provided by the American Society of~~
21 ~~Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the~~

~~**American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Psychiatric Association, or any other organization that the Commissioner of Health deems appropriate; or**~~

~~**(ii) has such other training and experience as the Commissioner of Health determines will demonstrate the ability of the physician to treat and manage opioid dependent patients.**~~

~~**(B) The qualified physician shall see the patient for addiction-related treatment other than the prescription of buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine and shall advise the patient's primary care physician.**~~

~~**(3)(A) A qualified addiction medicine nurse practitioner participating in a care coordination team pursuant to this section shall be an advanced practice registered nurse who is certified as a nurse practitioner and who satisfies one or more of the following conditions:**~~

~~**(i) has completed not fewer than 24 hours of classroom or interactive training in the treatment and management of opioid-dependent patients for substance use disorders provided by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Psychiatric Association, or any other organization that the Commissioner of Health deems appropriate; or**~~

1 ~~**(ii) has such other training and experience as the**~~
2 ~~**Commissioner of Health determines will demonstrate the ability of the**~~
3 ~~**nurse practitioner to treat and manage opioid dependent patients.**~~
4 ~~**(B) The qualified nurse practitioner shall see the patient for**~~
5 ~~**addiction-related treatment other than the prescription of buprenorphine**~~
6 ~~**or a drug containing buprenorphine and shall advise the patient's**~~
7 ~~**primary care physician.**~~
8 ~~**(d) The primary care provider, qualified addiction medicine physician**~~
9 ~~**or nurse practitioner, and medication-assisted treatment team members**~~
10 ~~**shall coordinate the patient's care and shall communicate with one**~~
11 ~~**another as often as needed to ensure that the patient receives the highest**~~
12 ~~**quality of care.**~~
13 ~~**(e) The Director of the Blueprint for Health shall recommend to the**~~
14 ~~**Commissioner of Vermont Health Access whether to increase payments to**~~
15 ~~**primary care providers participating in the Blueprint who choose to**~~
16 ~~**engage in care coordination by prescribing buprenorphine or a drug**~~
17 ~~**containing buprenorphine for patients with opioid addiction pursuant to**~~
18 ~~**this section.**~~ **[Deleted.]**

Sec. 4. TELEMEDICINE FOR TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**~~; PILOT~~**

~~(a) The Green Mountain Care Board and Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop a pilot program to enable a patient taking buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine for a substance use disorder to receive treatment from an addiction medicine specialist delivered through telemedicine at a health care facility that is capable of providing a secure telemedicine connection and whose location is convenient to the patient. The Board and the Department shall ensure that both the specialist and the hosting facility are reimbursed for services rendered.~~

~~(b)(1) Patients beginning treatment for a substance use disorder with buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine shall not receive treatment through telemedicine. A patient may receive treatment through telemedicine only after a period of stabilization on the buprenorphine or drug containing buprenorphine, as measured by an addiction medicine specialist using an assessment tool approved by the Department of Health.~~

~~(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, patients whose care has been transferred from a regional specialty addictions treatment center may begin receiving treatment~~

1 ~~**through telemedicine immediately upon the transfer of care to an office-**~~
2 ~~**based opioid treatment provider.**~~
3 ~~**(c) On or before January 15, 2017 and annually thereafter, the Board**~~
4 ~~**and the Department shall provide a progress report on the pilot program**~~
5 ~~**to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the**~~
6 ~~**Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.**~~
7 **In order to facilitate the use of telemedicine in treating substance use**
8 **disorder, health insurers providing coverage for telemedicine pursuant to**
9 **8 V.S.A. § 4100k and the Department of Vermont Health Access shall**
10 **ensure that both the treating clinician and the hosting facility are**
11 **reimbursed for the services rendered.**
12 * * * Expanding Role of Pharmacies and Pharmacists * * *
13 Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 2022 is amended to read:
14 § 2022. DEFINITIONS
15 As used in this chapter:
16 * * *
17 (14)(A) "Practice of pharmacy" means:
18 (i) the interpretation and evaluation of prescription orders;
19 (ii) the compounding, dispensing, and labeling of drugs and
20 legend devices (except labeling by a manufacturer, packer, or distributor of

1 nonprescription drugs and commercially packaged legend drugs and legend
2 devices);
3 (iii) the participation in drug selection and drug utilization
4 reviews;
5 (iv) the proper and safe storage of drugs and legend devices and
6 the maintenance of proper records therefor;
7 (v) the responsibility for advising, where necessary or where
8 regulated, of therapeutic values, content, hazards, and use of drugs and legend
9 devices; ~~and~~
10 (vi) the providing of patient care services within the pharmacist's
11 authorized scope of practice;
12 (vii) the optimizing of drug therapy through the practice of clinical
13 pharmacy; and
14 (viii) the offering or performing of those acts, services, operations,
15 or transactions necessary in the conduct, operation, management, and control
16 of pharmacy.
17 (B) "Practice of clinical pharmacy" means:
18 (i) the health science discipline in which, in conjunction with the
19 patient's other practitioners, a pharmacist provides patient care to optimize
20 medication therapy and to promote disease prevention and the patient's health
21 and wellness;

1 (ii) the provision of patient care services within the pharmacist's
2 authorized scope of practice, including medication therapy management,
3 comprehensive medication review, and postdiagnostic disease state
4 management services; or
5 (iii) the practice of pharmacy by a pharmacist pursuant to a
6 collaborative practice agreement.
7 (C) A rule shall not be adopted by the Board under this chapter that
8 shall require the sale and distribution of nonprescription drugs by a licensed
9 pharmacist or under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or otherwise
10 interfere with the sale and distribution of such medicines.
11 * * *
12 (19) "Collaborative practice agreement" means a written agreement
13 between a pharmacist and a health care facility or prescribing practitioner that
14 permits the pharmacist to engage in the practice of clinical pharmacy for the
15 benefit of the facility's or practitioner's patients.
16 Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 2023 is added to read:
17 § 2023. CLINICAL PHARMACY
18 In accordance with rules adopted by the Board, a pharmacist may engage in
19 the practice of clinical pharmacy.
20 Sec. 7. 8 V.S.A. § 4089j is amended to read:

§ 4089j. RETAIL PHARMACIES; FILLING OF PRESCRIPTIONS

(a) ~~A health insurer and pharmacy benefit manager doing business in Vermont shall permit a retail pharmacist licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 36 to fill prescriptions in the same manner and at the same level of reimbursement as they are filled by mail order pharmacies with respect to the quantity of drugs or days' supply of drugs dispensed under each prescription.~~

~~(b)~~ As used in this section:

(1) "Health insurer" ~~is defined by~~ shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9402 and shall also include Medicaid and any other public health care assistance program.

(2) "Pharmacy benefit manager" means an entity that performs pharmacy benefit management. "Pharmacy benefit management" means an arrangement for the procurement of prescription drugs at negotiated dispensing rates, the administration or management of prescription drug benefits provided by a health insurance plan for the benefit of beneficiaries, or any of the following services provided with regard to the administration of pharmacy benefits:

(A) mail service pharmacy;

(B) claims processing, retail network management, and payment of claims to pharmacies for prescription drugs dispensed to beneficiaries;

(C) clinical formulary development and management services;

1 (D) rebate contracting and administration;
2 (E) certain patient compliance, therapeutic intervention, and generic
3 substitution programs; and
4 (F) disease management programs.
5 (3) "Health care provider" means a person, partnership, or corporation,
6 other than a facility or institution, that is licensed, certified, or otherwise
7 authorized by law to provide professional health care service in this State to an
8 individual during that individual's medical care, treatment, or confinement.
9 (b) A health insurer and pharmacy benefit manager doing business in
10 Vermont shall permit a retail pharmacist licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 36
11 to fill prescriptions in the same manner and at the same level of reimbursement
12 as they are filled by mail order pharmacies with respect to the quantity of drugs
13 or days' supply of drugs dispensed under each prescription.
14 (c) ~~This section shall apply to Medicaid and any other public health care~~
15 ~~assistance program.~~ Notwithstanding any provision of a health insurance plan
16 to the contrary, if a health insurance plan provides for payment or
17 reimbursement that is within the lawful scope of practice of a pharmacist, the
18 insurer may provide payment or reimbursement for the service when the
19 service is provided by a pharmacist.
20 Sec. 8. ROLE OF PHARMACIES IN PREVENTING OPIOID ABUSE;
21 REPORT

1 (a) The Department of Health, in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy,
2 pharmacists, prescribing health care practitioners, health insurers, pharmacy
3 benefit managers, and other interested stakeholders shall consider the role of
4 pharmacies in preventing opioid misuse, abuse, and diversion. The
5 Department's evaluation shall include a consideration of whether, under what
6 circumstances, and in what amount pharmacists should be reimbursed for
7 counting or otherwise evaluating the quantity of pills, films, patches, and
8 solutions of opioid controlled substances prescribed by a health care provider
9 to his or her patients.
10 (b) On or before January 15, 2017, the Department shall report to the
11 House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate
12 Committee on Health and Welfare its findings and recommendations with
13 respect to the appropriate role of pharmacies in preventing opioid misuse,
14 abuse, and diversion.
15 * * * Continuing Medical Education * * *
16 Sec. 9. CONTINUING EDUCATION~~; PROFESSIONAL LICENSING~~
17 ~~BOARDS~~
18 (a) ~~On or before December 15, 2016, the professional boards that~~
19 ~~license~~ **All** physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, pharmacists, advanced
20 practice registered nurses, optometrists, and naturopathic physicians ~~shall~~
21 ~~amend their continuing education rules to require a total of at least two~~

1 ~~**hours of continuing education for each licensing period for all licensees**~~
2 with a registration number from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
3 (DEA), who have a pending application for a DEA number, or who dispense
4 controlled substances **shall complete a total of at least two hours of**
5 **continuing education for each licensing period beginning on or after July**
6 **1, 2016** on the topics of the abuse and diversion, safe use, and appropriate
7 storage and disposal of controlled substances; the appropriate use of the
8 Vermont Prescription Monitoring System; risk assessment for abuse or
9 addiction; pharmacological and nonpharmacological alternatives to opioids for
10 managing pain; medication tapering; and relevant State and federal laws and
11 regulations concerning the prescription of opioid controlled substances.
12 (b) The Department of Health shall consult with the Board of Veterinary
13 Medicine and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to develop
14 recommendations regarding appropriate safe prescribing and disposal of
15 controlled substances prescribed by veterinarians for animals and dispensed to
16 their owners, as well as appropriate continuing education for veterinarians on
17 the topics described in subsection (a) of this section. On or before January 15,
18 2017, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the
19 House Committees on Agriculture and Forest Products and on Human Services
20 and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Health and Welfare.
21 * * * Medical Education Core Competencies * * *

1 Sec. 10. MEDICAL EDUCATION CORE COMPETENCIES;
2 PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIPTION
3 DRUG MISUSE
4 The Commissioner of Health shall convene medical educators and other
5 stakeholders to develop appropriate curricular interventions and innovations to
6 ensure that students in medical education programs have access to certain core
7 competencies related to safe prescribing practices and to screening, prevention,
8 and intervention for cases of prescription drug misuse and abuse. The goal of
9 the core competencies shall be to support future health care professionals over
10 the course of their medical education to develop skills and a foundational
11 knowledge in the prevention of prescription drug misuse. These competencies
12 should be clear baseline standards for preventing prescription drug misuse,
13 treating patients at risk for substance use disorders, and managing substance
14 use disorders as a chronic disease, as well as developing knowledge in the
15 areas of screening, evaluation, treatment planning, and supportive recovery.
16 * * * Community Grant Program for Opioid Prevention * * *
17 Sec. 11. REGIONAL PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS
18 To the extent funds are available, the Department of Health shall establish a
19 community grant program for the purpose of supporting local opioid
20 prevention strategies. This program shall support evidence-based approaches
21 and shall be based on a comprehensive community plan, including community

education and initiatives designed to increase awareness or implement local programs, or both. Partnerships involving schools, local government, and hospitals shall receive priority.

* * * Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Fee * * *

Sec. 12. 33 V.S.A. § 2004 is amended to read:

§ 2004. MANUFACTURER FEE

(a) Annually, each pharmaceutical manufacturer or labeler of prescription drugs that are paid for by the Department of Vermont Health Access for individuals participating in Medicaid, Dr. Dynasaur, or VPharm shall pay a fee to the Agency of Human Services. The fee shall be ~~0.5~~ 1.5 percent of the previous calendar year's prescription drug spending by the Department and shall be assessed based on manufacturer labeler codes as used in the Medicaid rebate program.

(b) Fees collected under this section shall fund collection and analysis of information on pharmaceutical marketing activities under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4632 and 4633~~,~~; analysis of prescription drug data needed by the Office of the Attorney General for enforcement activities~~,~~; the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 84A~~,~~; the evidence-based education program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2~~,~~; statewide unused prescription drug disposal initiatives; prevention of prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion; treatment of substance use

1 disorder; exploration of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management;
2 ~~a hospital antimicrobial program for the purpose of reducing~~
3 ~~hospital-acquired infections~~ **(delete?)**; the purchase and distribution of
4 naloxone to emergency medical services personnel; and any opioid-antagonist
5 education, training, and distribution program operated by the Department of
6 Health or its agents. The fees shall be collected in the Evidence-Based
7 Education and Advertising Fund established in section 2004a of this title.
8 (c) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall make rules for the
9 implementation of this section.
10 (d) A pharmaceutical manufacturer that fails to pay a fee as required under
11 this section shall be assessed penalties and interest in the same amounts and
12 under the same terms as apply to late payment of income taxes pursuant to
13 32 V.S.A. chapter 151. The Department shall maintain on its website a list of
14 the manufacturers who have failed to provide timely payment as required
15 under this section.
16 Sec. 13. 33 V.S.A. § 2004a(a) is amended to read:
17 (a) The Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund is established in
18 the State Treasury as a special fund to be a source of financing for activities
19 relating to fund collection and analysis of information on pharmaceutical
20 marketing activities under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4632 and 4633,; for analysis of
21 prescription drug data needed by the Office of the Attorney General for

1 enforcement activities,; for the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System
2 established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 84A,; for the evidence-based education
3 program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2,; for statewide
4 unused prescription drug disposal initiatives; for the prevention of prescription
5 drug misuse, abuse, and diversion; for treatment of substance use disorder; for
6 exploration of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management; ~~**for a**~~
7 ~~**hospital antimicrobial program for the purpose of reducing**~~
8 ~~**hospital-acquired infections**~~ **(delete?)**; for the purchase and distribution of
9 naloxone to emergency medical services personnel; and for the support of any
10 opioid-antagonist education, training, and distribution program operated by the
11 Department of Health or its agents. Monies deposited into the Fund shall be
12 used for the purposes described in this section.
13 * * * Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council * * *
14 Sec. 14. 18 V.S.A. § 4255 is added to read:
15 § 4255. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND PAIN MANAGEMENT
16 ADVISORY COUNCIL
17 (a) There is hereby created a Controlled Substances and Pain Management
18 Advisory Council for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of Health on
19 matters related to the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System and to the
20 appropriate use of controlled substances in treating acute and chronic pain and
21 in preventing prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion.

1 (b)(1) The Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council
2 shall consist of the following members:
3 (A) the Commissioner of Health or designee, who shall serve as
4 chair;
5 (B) the Deputy Commissioner of Health for Alcohol and Drug Abuse
6 Programs or designee;
7 (C) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
8 (D) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
9 (E) the Vermont Attorney General or designee;
10 (F) the Director of the Blueprint for Health or designee;
11 (G) the Medical Director of the Department of Vermont Health
12 Access;
13 (H) the Chair of the Board of Medical Practice or designee, who shall
14 be a clinician;
15 (I) a representative of the Vermont State Dental Society, who shall be
16 a dentist;
17 (J) a representative of the Vermont Board of Pharmacy, who shall be
18 a pharmacist;
19 (K) a faculty member of the academic detailing program at the
20 University of Vermont's College of Medicine;

1 (L) a faculty member of the University of Vermont's College of
2 Medicine with **expertise in the treatment of addiction or chronic pain**
3 **management (??)**;
4 (M) a representative of the Vermont Medical Society, who shall be a
5 primary care clinician;
6 (N) a representative of the American Academy of Family Physicians,
7 Vermont chapter, who shall be a primary care clinician;
8 (O) a representative from the Vermont Board of Osteopathic
9 Physicians, who shall be an osteopath;
10 (P) a representative of the Federally Qualified Health Centers, who
11 shall be a primary care clinician selected by the Bi-State Primary Care
12 Association;
13 (Q) a representative of the Vermont Ethics Network;
14 (R) a representative of the Hospice and Palliative Care Council of
15 Vermont;
16 (S) a representative of the Office of the Health Care Advocate;
17 (T) a clinician who works in the emergency department of a hospital,
18 to be selected by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems in
19 consultation with any nonmember hospitals;

1 (U) a member of the Vermont Board of Nursing Subcommittee on
2 APRN Practice, who shall be an advanced practice registered nurse **(add**
3 **suggested language from nurse anesthetists?)**;
4 (V) a representative from the Vermont Assembly of Home Health
5 and Hospice Agencies;
6 (W) a psychologist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 55 who
7 has experience in treating chronic pain, to be selected by the Board of
8 Psychological Examiners;
9 (X) a drug and alcohol abuse counselor licensed pursuant to
10 33 V.S.A. chapter 8, to be selected by the Deputy Commissioner of Health for
11 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs;
12 (Y) a retail pharmacist, to be selected by the Vermont Pharmacists
13 Association;
14 (Z) an advanced practice registered nurse full-time faculty member
15 from the University of Vermont's College of Nursing and Health Sciences
16 **(add suggested language from nurse anesthetists?)**;
17 (AA) a licensed acupuncturist with experience in pain management,
18 to be selected by the Vermont Acupuncture Association;
19 (BB) a representative of the Vermont Substance Abuse Treatment
20 Providers Association;

1 (CC) a consumer representative who is either a consumer in recovery
2 from prescription drug abuse or a consumer receiving medical treatment for
3 chronic noncancer-related pain; and
4 (DD) up to three adjunct members appointed by the Commissioner in
5 consultation with the Opioid Prescribing Task Force.
6 (2) In addition to the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of
7 this subsection (b), the Council shall consult with specialists and other
8 individuals as appropriate to the topic under consideration.
9 (c) Advisory Council members who are not employed by the State or
10 whose participation is not supported through their employment or association
11 shall be entitled to a per diem and expenses as provided by 32 V.S.A. § 1010.
12 (d)(1) The Advisory Council shall provide advice to the Commissioner
13 concerning rules for the appropriate use of controlled substances in treating
14 acute pain and chronic noncancer pain; the appropriate use of the Vermont
15 Prescription Monitoring System; and the prevention of prescription drug abuse,
16 misuse, and diversion.
17 (2) The Advisory Council shall evaluate the use of nonpharmacological
18 approaches to treatment for pain, including the appropriateness, efficacy, and
19 cost-effectiveness of using complementary and alternative therapies such as
20 chiropractic, acupuncture, and massage.

1 (e) The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.
2 chapter 25 regarding the appropriate use of controlled substances in treating
3 acute pain and chronic noncancer pain; the appropriate use of the Vermont
4 Prescription Monitoring System; and the prevention of prescription drug abuse,
5 misuse, and diversion, after seeking the advice of the Council.

6 * * * Acupuncture * * *

7 Sec. 15. ACUPUNCTURE AS ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT FOR PAIN
8 MANAGEMENT AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER; REPORTS

9 (a) **(delete?)** The Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of
10 Administration, in consultation with the Departments of Health and of Human
11 Resources, shall review Vermont State employees' experience with
12 acupuncture for treatment of pain. On or before December 1, 2016, the
13 Director shall report his or her findings to the House Committees on Health
14 Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and
15 Welfare.

16 (b) Each nonprofit hospital and medical service corporation licensed to do
17 business in this State **pursuant to both 8 V.S.A. chapters 123 and 125** and
18 providing coverage for pain management shall evaluate the evidence
19 supporting the use of ~~**acupuncture as a modality for**~~ **nonpharmacological**
20 **approaches to** treating and managing pain in its enrollees, including the
21 experience of other states in which ~~**acupuncture is**~~ **nonpharmacological**

1 **approaches are** covered by health insurance plans. On or before January 15,
2 2017, each such corporation shall report to the House Committees on Health
3 Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
4 its assessment of whether its insurance plans should provide coverage for
5 ~~**acupuncture when used to treat or manage**~~ **nonpharmacological**
6 **approaches to treating or managing** pain.
7 (c) On or before January 15, 2017, the Department of Health, Division of
8 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs shall make available to its preferred
9 provider network evidence-~~**based**~~ **informed** best practices related to the use of
10 ~~**acupuncture**~~ **nonpharmacological approaches** to treat substance use
11 disorder.
12 Sec. 15a. ACUPUNCTURE; MEDICAID PILOT PROJECT
13 (a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop a pilot project
14 to offer acupuncture services to Medicaid-eligible Vermonters with a diagnosis
15 of chronic pain. The project would provide acupuncture services for a defined
16 period of time to determine if acupuncture treatment as an alternative or
17 adjunctive to prescribing opioids is as effective or more effective than opioids
18 alone for returning individuals to social, occupational, and psychological
19 function. The project shall include:

1 (1) an advisory group of pain management specialists and acupuncture
2 providers familiar with the current science on evidence-based use of
3 acupuncture to treat or manage chronic pain;
4 (2) specific patient eligibility requirements regarding the specific cause
5 or site of chronic pain for which the evidence indicates acupuncture may be an
6 appropriate treatment; and
7 (3) input and involvement from the Department of Health to promote
8 consistency with other State policy initiatives designed to reduce the reliance
9 on opioid medications in treating or managing chronic pain.
10 (b) On or before January 15, 2017, the Department of Vermont Health
11 Access**, in consultation with the Department of Health,** shall provide a
12 progress report on the pilot project to the House Committees on Health Care
13 and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare that
14 includes an implementation plan for the pilot project described in this section.
15 In addition, the Departments shall consider any appropriate role for
16 acupuncture in treating substance use disorder, including consulting with
17 health care providers using acupuncture in this manner, and shall make
18 recommendations in ~~**its**~~ **the** progress report regarding the use of acupuncture in
19 treating Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorder.
20 ~~*** * * Rulemaking * * ***~~
21 ~~**Sec. 16. PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN;**~~

1 ~~RULEMAKING~~

2 ~~(a) The Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Controlled~~
3 ~~Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council, shall adopt rules~~
4 ~~governing the prescription of opioids. The rules may include numeric and~~
5 ~~temporal limitations on the number of pills prescribed, including a~~
6 ~~maximum number of pills to be prescribed following minor medical~~
7 ~~procedures, consistent with evidence-informed best practices for effective~~
8 ~~pain management. The rules may require the contemporaneous~~
9 ~~prescription of naloxone in certain circumstances, and shall require~~
10 ~~informed consent for patients that explains the risks associated with~~
11 ~~taking opioids, including addiction, physical dependence, side effects,~~
12 ~~tolerance, overdose, and death. The rules shall also require prescribers~~
13 ~~prescribing opioids to patients to provide information concerning the safe~~
14 ~~storage and disposal of controlled substances.~~ **(moved to Sec. 3)**

15 * * * Appropriations* * *

16 Sec. 17. APPROPRIATIONS

17 (a) The sum of $250,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based
18 Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year
19 2017 for the purpose of funding the evidence-based education program
20 established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2, including evidence-based

1 information about safe prescribing of controlled substances and alternatives to
2 opioids for treating pain.
3 (b) The sum of $625,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based
4 Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year
5 2017 for the purpose of funding statewide unused prescription drug disposal
6 initiatives, of which $100,000.00 shall be used for a ~~MedSafe~~ **secure**
7 **prescription drug** collection and disposal program and program coordinator,
8 $50,000.00 shall be used for unused medication envelopes for a mail-back
9 program, $225,000.00 shall be used for a public information campaign on the
10 safe disposal of controlled substances, and $250,000.00 shall be used for a
11 public information campaign on the responsible use of prescription drugs.
12 (c) The sum of $150,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based
13 Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year
14 2017 for the purpose of purchasing and distributing opioid antagonist
15 rescue kits.
16 (d) The sum of $250,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based
17 Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year
18 2017 for the purpose of establishing a hospital antimicrobial program to reduce
19 hospital-acquired infections.
20 (e) The sum of $32,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based
21 Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year

1 2017 for the purpose of purchasing and distributing naloxone to emergency
2 medical services personnel throughout the State.
3 (f) The sum of $200,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based
4 Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Vermont Health Access
5 in fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of exploring nonpharmacological
6 approaches to pain management by implementing the pilot project established
7 in Sec. 15a of this act to evaluate the use of acupuncture in treating chronic
8 pain in Medicaid beneficiaries.
9 Sec. 18. REPEAL
10 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 75, Sec. 14, as amended by 2014 Acts and
11 Resolves No. 199, Sec. 60 (Unified Pain Management System Advisory
12 Council) is repealed.
13 * * * Effective Dates * * *
14 Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES
15 (a) Secs. 1–2 (VPMS), 3 (opioid addiction treatment care coordination),
16 13 (use of Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund), 14 (Controlled
17 Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council), 17 (appropriations), and
18 18 (repeal) shall take effect on July 1, 2016, except that in Sec. 2, 18 V.S.A.
19 § 4289(f)(2) (dispenser reporting to VPMS) shall take effect 30 days following
20 notice and a determination by the Commissioner of Health that daily reporting
21 is practicable.

1 (b) Secs. 4 (telemedicine pilot), 5–7 (clinical pharmacy), 8 (role of
2 pharmacies; report), 10 (medical education), 11 (regional partnerships),
3 15–15a (acupuncture studies), 16 (rulemaking), and this section shall take
4 effect on passage.
5 (c) Sec. 9 (continuing education) shall take effect on July 1, 2016 and shall
6 apply beginning with licensing periods beginning on or after that date.
7 (d) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 12 (manufacturer fee) shall take
8 effect on passage and shall apply retroactive to January 1, 2016.
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16 (Committee vote: ___________)
17 _______________________
18 Representative ___________
19 FOR THE COMMITTEE