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S.243

Representative McCullough of Williston moves that the House propose to the Senate that the report of the Committee on Human Services be amended in Sec. 15, acupuncture as alternative treatment for pain management and substance use disorder; reports, by adding a subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d)(1) The Green Mountain Care Board shall consider the use of nonpharmacological approaches to treating chronic pain and substance use disorder, including the use of complementary and alternative medicine, in lieu of or as a complement to a lower dose of a prescription drug. In its consideration, the Board shall review relevant studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and other evidence-based materials and may consult with interested stakeholders and others knowledgeable about the use of complementary and alternative medicine and its application to treating chronic pain or substance use disorder, or both.

(2) On or before January 15, 2017, the Board shall report its findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, including:

(A) the appropriate role of complementary and alternative medicine and other nonpharmacological approaches in the treatment of chronic pain or substance use disorder, or both;

1           (B) the evidence supporting the use of complementary and alternative  
2           medicine and other nonpharmacological approaches in the treatment of chronic  
3           pain or substance use disorder, or both;

4           (C) the estimated savings to the health care system from the use of  
5           complementary and alternative medicine and other nonpharmacological  
6           approaches in lieu of or in addition to prescription drugs; and

7           (D) the Board’s recommendations, including proposed statutory  
8           changes to effect the Board’s recommendations.