

S.103 - Senator Pollina amendments

Sec. 3. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; UNIVERSAL HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM PROPOSAL

(a) On or before January 15, 2017, the Green Mountain Care Board shall deliver to the General Assembly and the Governor a proposal for a publicly financed, universal health care system to be implemented for all Vermont residents beginning in 2018. The proposal shall be designed to:

(1) Reduce health care costs and strengthen the Vermont economy. The financing shall be sustainable and the system shall reduce administrative costs. The system shall focus on cost-containment and delivery of high-quality health care services, and it shall ensure that health care professionals will be reimbursed at levels sufficient to allow Vermont to recruit and retain high-quality health care professionals.

(2) Provide all Vermont residents with coverage with an overall actuarial value of 94 percent, which shall include first-dollar coverage for primary and preventive services and an 87 percent actuarial value for specialty and hospital care. Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur beneficiaries shall also receive at least the benefits required under federal law as well as optional Medicaid benefits at the discretion of the Board.

(3) Be phased in over time, beginning with coverage for primary and specialty care, followed by hospital outpatient care and finally hospital inpatient care, except that the Board may, in its discretion, choose to propose implementation of the entire system at one time.

(4) Include public financing based on each resident's ability to pay.

The proposal shall create a special fund into which federal funds for health care will be deposited, as well as revenue from a progressive payroll tax levied to finance primary and specialty care. Hospital care shall be reimbursed based on global hospital budgets to be financed primarily through progressive income and payroll taxes and, if necessary, out-of-pocket payments from the highest income Vermont residents. The payroll taxes shall be phased in over time in order to have the least disruptive impact on employers.

(5) Provide coverage only to Vermont residents and not to residents of other states who work in Vermont.

(6) Maintain provider taxes throughout the transition to the universal health care system.

(b) In developing the publicly financed, universal health care system, the Green Mountain Care Board shall consider:

(1) Alternative Financing Concepts 10 and 11 from the appendices to the report entitled "Green Mountain Care: A Comprehensive Model for Building Vermont's Universal Health Care System," submitted to the General Assembly by the Governor on December 30, 2014; and

(2) the Equitable Financing Plan for Vermont's Universal Healthcare System, written by the Healthcare is a Human Right campaign in February 2015.