

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

Date: Updated 3/20/15
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S.139- An act relating to pharmacy benefit managers, hospital observation status, and chemicals of high concern to children

S.139 started in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee as an omnibus committee bill. The sections of the bill listed below had provisions with fiscal implications for the state budget.

On 3/20/15, The Senate Appropriations Committee amended the bill by striking out these sections along with Sec. 5 – which related to the development of a prospective payment methodology for home health agencies because it was also related to Sec. 13 (listed below) – because they had state budget implications. They will be considered as part of the overall budget.

Sec. 6 –Health Care Oversight Committee

This section proposes to reinstate the Health Care Oversight Committee which ceased at the end of 2014. The committee would consist of 10 members of the legislature who would be eligible for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses. It is estimated the committee will meet at least six times in FY'16.

Fiscal impact = \$12,300

Sec. 7 – Mental Health Oversight Committee

This section proposes to reinstate the Mental Health Oversight Committee which also ceased at the end of 2014. The committee would consist of 8 members of the legislature who would be eligible for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The committee is authorized to meet up to six times and will cease to exist after January 1, 2016.

Fiscal impact = \$9,840

Sec. 8 – Long-Term Care Evaluation Task Force

This section creates a Long-Term Care Evaluation Task Force to assess and catalogue those in-home, long-term care programs that are either operated by the state or subsidized by the state. The 10 member task force would include two members of the legislature who would be eligible for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The task force will meet at least four times and will cease to exist on February 1, 2016.

Fiscal Impact = \$2,460

Sec. 13 – Home Health Medicaid Reimbursement Increase

This section appropriates \$1,250,000 to increase Medicaid reimbursements rates for home health agencies and for the implementation of a prospective payment methodology set forth in Sec. 5 of the bill.

Fiscal Impact = \$562,125 (state) / \$1,250,000 (gross)

VT LEG #306859 v.3

TOTAL FISCAL IMPLICATIONS as passed by the Senate Health & Welfare Committee:

	State	Gross
Per Diems and Expense Reimbursements =	\$24,600	\$24,600
Home Health Medicaid Rate Increase =	\$562,125	\$1,250,000
Total	\$586,725	\$1,274,600

TOTAL FISCAL IMPLICATIONS as amended by the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Total = \$0