

1 (b) In allocating the funds appropriated pursuant to this section, the

2 Department of Vermont Health Access shall direct:

3 (1) \$4,500,000.00 in Global Commitment funds to rate increases for
4 primary care providers beginning on January 1, 2016; and

5 (2) \$3,000,000.00 for professional services rate increases for services
6 provided to Medicaid beneficiaries beginning on January 1, 2016.

7 Sec. 38c. RATE INCREASES FOR OTHER MEDICAID PROVIDERS

8 The sum of \$9,059,656.00 in Global Commitment funds is appropriated to
9 the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2016 for the purpose of
10 increasing reimbursement rates beginning on July 1, 2015 for providers under
11 contract with the Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living,
12 of Mental Health, of Corrections, of Health, and for Children and Families to
13 provide services to Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries, as well as providers under
14 contract with the Department of Vermont Health Access to provide home
15 health services.

16 Sec. 38d. BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH INCREASES

17 The sum of \$4,085,826.00 in Global Commitment funds is appropriated to
18 the Department of Vermont Health Access in fiscal year 2016 to increase
19 payments to patient-centered medical homes and community health teams
20 pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 702.

1 Sec. 38e. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; ALL-PAYER WAIVER;
2 RATE-SETTING

3 (a) The sum of \$862,767.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care
4 Board in fiscal year 2016, of which \$184,636.00 comes from the General
5 Fund, \$224,774.00 is in Global Commitment funds, \$393,357.00 comes from
6 the Board's bill-back authority pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9374(h), and
7 \$60,000.00 comes from the Health IT-Fund.

8 (b) Of the funds appropriated pursuant to this section, the Board shall use:

9 (1) \$502,767.00 for positions and operating expenses related to the
10 Board's provider rate-setting authority, the all-payer model, and the Medicaid
11 cost shift;

12 (2) \$300,000.00 for contracts and third-party services related to the
13 all-payer model, provider rate-setting, and the Medicaid cost shift; and

14 (3) \$60,000.00 to provide oversight of the budget and activities of the
15 Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc.

16 Sec. 38f. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS

17 The sum of \$700,000.00 in Global Commitment funds is appropriated to the
18 Department of Health in fiscal year 2016 for a grant to the Area Health
19 Education Centers for repayment of educational loans for health care providers
20 and health care educators.

1 Sec. 38g. OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE;

2 APPROPRIATION; INTENT

3 (a) The Office of the Health Care Advocate has a critical function in the
4 Vermont’s health care system. The Health Care Advocate provides
5 information and assistance to Vermont residents who are navigating the health
6 care system and represents their interests in interactions with health insurers,
7 health care providers, Medicaid, the Green Mountain Care Board, the General
8 Assembly, and others. The continuation of the Office of the Health Care
9 Advocate is necessary to achieve additional health care reform goals.

10 (b) The sum of \$40,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
11 Agency of Administration in fiscal year 2016 for its contract with the Office of
12 the Health Care Advocate.

13 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that, beginning with the 2017
14 fiscal year budget, the Governor’s budget proposal developed pursuant to
15 32 V.S.A. chapter 5 should include a separate provision identifying the
16 aggregate sum to be appropriated from all State sources to the Office of the
17 Health Care Advocate.

18 * * * Cigarette Tax * * *

19 Sec. 38h. 32 V.S.A. § 7771 is amended to read:

20 § 7771. RATE OF TAX

21 * * *

1 (d) The tax imposed under this section shall be at the rate of ~~137.5~~ 187.5
2 mills per cigarette or little cigar and for each 0.0325 ounces of roll-your-own
3 tobacco. The interest and penalty provisions of section 3202 of this title shall
4 apply to liabilities under this section.

5 Sec. 38i. 32 V.S.A. § 7814(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) Cigarettes, little cigars, or roll-your-own tobacco. Notwithstanding the
7 prohibition against further tax on stamped cigarettes, little cigars, or
8 roll-your-own tobacco under section 7771 of this title, a floor stock tax is
9 hereby imposed upon every dealer of cigarettes, little cigars, or roll-your-own
10 tobacco in this State who is either a wholesaler, or a retailer who at 12:01 a.m.
11 on July 1, ~~2014~~ 2015, has more than 10,000 cigarettes or little cigars or who
12 has \$500.00 or more of wholesale value of roll-your-own tobacco, for retail
13 sale in his or her possession or control. The amount of the tax shall be the
14 amount by which the new tax exceeds the amount of the tax already paid for
15 each cigarette, little cigar, or roll-your-own tobacco in the possession or
16 control of the wholesaler or retail dealer at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, ~~2014~~ 2015,
17 and on which cigarette stamps have been affixed before July 1, ~~2014~~ 2015.
18 A floor stock tax is also imposed on each Vermont cigarette stamp in the
19 possession or control of the wholesaler at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, ~~2014~~ 2015, and
20 not yet affixed to a cigarette package, and the tax shall be at the rate of ~~\$0.13~~
21 \$1.00 per stamp. Each wholesaler and retail dealer subject to the tax shall, on

1 or before July 25, ~~2014~~ 2015, file a report to the Commissioner in such form as
2 the Commissioner may prescribe showing the cigarettes, little cigars, or
3 roll-your-own tobacco and stamps on hand at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, ~~2014~~ 2015,
4 and the amount of tax due thereon. The tax imposed by this section shall be
5 due and payable on or before July 25, ~~2014~~ 2015, and thereafter shall bear
6 interest at the rate established under section 3108 of this title. In case of timely
7 payment of the tax, the wholesaler or retail dealer may deduct from the tax due
8 two and three-tenths of one percent of the tax. Any cigarettes, little cigars, or
9 roll-your-own tobacco with respect to which a floor stock tax has been
10 imposed under this section shall not again be subject to tax under section 7771
11 of this title.

12 Second: In Sec. 40, effective dates, in subsection (b), following “28 and 29
13 (suspension and review of uniform forms),” by inserting 38a–38g
14 (appropriations), 38h and 38i (cigarette tax),

15

16

17 (Committee vote: _____)

18

19

Senator _____

20

FOR THE COMMITTEE