

S.203

An act relating to systemic improvements of the mental health system

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment to the House proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. WAIVER OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS

Notwithstanding any provisions of 18 V.S.A. chapter 221, subchapter 5 to the contrary:

(1) the implementation of renovations at the Brattleboro Retreat as authorized in the fiscal year 2019 capital budget adjustment bill shall not be considered a “new health care project” for which a certificate of need is required; and

(2) the proposal by the University of Vermont Health Network to expand psychiatric inpatient capacity at the Central Vermont Medical Center campus shall be exempt from the requirement to secure a conceptual development phase certificate of need pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9434(c) if the University of Vermont Health Network:

(A) consults with the Secretary of Human Services in identifying the appropriate number and type of additional inpatient beds needed in the State;

(B) ensures that the planning process for designing its proposed expansion of inpatient psychiatric bed capacity at the Central Vermont Medical Center campus includes broad stakeholder input, including from patients and providers; and

(C) works with the Green Mountain Care Board for ongoing oversight of expenditures.

Second: In Sec. 9, amending 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 3(c), by striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The evaluation process shall include such stakeholder involvement in working toward an articulation of a common, long-term vision of full integration of mental health services within a comprehensive and holistic health care system.