

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred Senate Bill No. 203
3 entitled “An act relating to systemic improvements of the mental health
4 system” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all
6 after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Legislative Intent * * *

8 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

9 (a) The General Assembly recognizes the need for additional inpatient
10 psychiatric beds in Vermont. To achieve an increase in the number inpatient
11 psychiatric beds in a manner that ensures clinical best practice, the General
12 Assembly supports identifying the appropriate number of beds needed and
13 developing corresponding capacity within existing hospital and health care
14 systems. The General Assembly further supports the intent of the University
15 of Vermont Health Network to initiate a proposal expanding inpatient
16 psychiatric bed capacity at the Central Vermont Medical Center campus.

17 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Agency of Human
18 Services shall:

19 (1) work towards replacing the temporary Middlesex Secure Residential
20 Recovery Facility with a permanent facility that has a 16-bed capacity and is
21 located in the same geographic region as the existing facility;

1 (2) assist the University of Vermont Health Network in identifying the
2 appropriate number of additional inpatient psychiatric beds needed in the
3 State; and

4 (3) aim to implement the increased number of inpatient psychiatric beds
5 in a manner that maximizes the State's ability to leverage Medicaid dollars.

6 * * * Order of Non-Hospitalization Study Committee * * *

7 Sec. 2. ORDER OF NON-HOSPITALIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE

8 (a) Creation. There is created the Order of Non-Hospitalization Study
9 Committee to examine the strengths and weaknesses of Vermont's orders of
10 non-hospitalizations for the purpose of improving patient care.

11 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
12 12 members:

13 (1) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

14 (2) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

15 (3) the Chief Superior Judge or designee;

16 (4) a member appointed by the Vermont Care Partners;

17 (5) a member appointed by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and
18 Health Systems;

19 (6) a member appointed by Vermont Legal Aid's Mental Health Project;

20 (7) a member appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of
21 State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;

1 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than
2 four meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the
3 Department of Mental Health.

4 * * * Waiver of Certificate of Need Requirement for Renovations at the
5 Brattleboro Retreat * * *

6 Sec. 3. WAIVER OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENT FOR
7 RENOVATIONS AT THE BRATTLEBORO RETREAT

8 Notwithstanding the provisions of 18 V.S.A. chapter 221, subchapter 5, the
9 implementation of renovations at the Brattleboro Retreat as authorized in the
10 fiscal year 2019 capital bill shall not be considered a “new health care project”
11 for which a certificate of need is required.

12 * * * Use of Emergency Involuntary Procedures in the Secure Residential
13 Recovery Facility * * *

14 Sec. 4. EMERGENCY INVOLUNTARY PROCEDURES IN
15 SECURE RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES

16 In the event that the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent
17 Living amends its rules pertaining to secure residential recovery facilities to
18 allow the use of emergency involuntary procedures in them, the rules adopted
19 shall be identical to those rules adopted by the Department of Mental Health
20 that govern the use of emergency involuntary procedures in psychiatric
21 inpatient units.