

S.257 - Self-insurance by public institutions of higher education

Sec. ____ . 16 V.S.A. chapter 78 is added to read:

CHAPTER 78. SELF-INSURANCE BY PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

§ 2501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, "institution of higher education" means an educational institution that:

- (1) is legally authorized in this State to provide a program of education beyond high school;
- (2)(A) provides an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's or higher degree or provides a program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree; or
 - (B) awards a degree that is acceptable for admission to a graduate or professional degree program; and
- (3) is accredited by a nationally or regionally recognized accrediting agency or association.

§ 2502. SELF-INSURANCE BY PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(a)(1) Subject to approval by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, a public institution of higher education in this State may establish and enter into agreements through which it shall self-insure an established employee welfare benefit plan or student health plan, or both.

(2) Plans for self-insured health coverage for employees or students of a public institution of higher education, or both, shall include all of the health care services required to be covered under 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

(b)(1) A public institution of higher education seeking to self-insure shall submit to the Commissioner for review and approval a plan of operation, including the contracts, agreements,

stop-loss or reinsurance agreements, and other relevant documents underlying or implementing the plan, as well as any subsequent amendments or modifications to those documents.

(2) Within 60 days following receipt of a completed plan of operation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall issue an order approving, approving with modifications, or denying the institution's plan.

(c) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to ensure the plan's continued solvency and that its claims and benefits practices are fair and equitable and are applied in a consistent manner.