

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 Senate Proposal of  
5 Amendment to the House Proposal of Amendment and recommends that the  
6 House concur with further proposal of amendment as follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof as  
8 follows:

9 Sec. 4. WAIVER OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

9                   Second: By striking out Sec. 9, amending 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 82,  
10                   Sec. 3(c), in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof:

11                   Sec. 9. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 3(c) is amended to read:

12                   (c) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit a  
13                   comprehensive evaluation of the overarching structure for the delivery of  
14                   mental health services within a sustainable, holistic health care system in  
15                   Vermont to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House  
16                   Committees on Health Care and on Human Services,~~including.~~ The Secretary  
17                   shall ensure that the evaluation process provides for input from persons who  
18                   identify as psychiatric survivors, consumers, or peers; family members of such  
19                   persons; providers of mental. The evaluation shall include:

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1           (5) how mental health care is being fully integrated into health care  
2 payment reform; ~~and~~

3           (6) any recommendations for structural changes to the mental health  
4 system that would assist in achieving the vision of an integrated, holistic health  
5 care system;

6           (7) how Vermont’s mental health system currently addresses, or should  
7 be revised better to address, the goals articulated in 18 V.S.A. § 7629 of  
8 achieving “high-quality, patient-centered health care, which the Institute of  
9 Medicine defines as ‘providing care that is respectful of and responsive to  
10 individual patient preferences, needs, and values and ensuring that patient  
11 values guide all clinical decisions”” and of achieving a mental health system  
12 that does not require coercion;

13           (8) recommendations for encouraging regulators and policymakers to  
14 account for mental health care spending growth as part of overall cost growth  
15 within the health care system rather than singled out and capped by the State’s  
16 budget;

17           (9) recommendations for ensuring parity between providers with similar  
18 job descriptions regardless of whether they are public employees or are  
19 employed by a State-financed agency;

1           (10) whether the principles for mental health care reform in 18 V.S.A.  
2           § 7251 are reflected in the current mental health system, and if not, where gaps  
3           exist; and

4           (11) the steps to develop, in consultation with stakeholders, a written  
5           statement articulating a common, long-term, statewide vision of how  
6           integrated, recovery- and resiliency-oriented services as part of a  
7           comprehensive and holistic health care system guide the implementation of  
8           recommendations for structural changes.

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13           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE