



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Kitty Toll, Chair, Committee on Appropriations
From: Rep. Ann Pugh, Chair, Committee on Human Services
Cc: Representative Mitzi Johnson, Speaker, House of Representatives
Date: January 19, 2017
Subject: FY17 Budget adjustment recommendations

As requested, the House Committee on Human Services (Committee) has reviewed provisions of the proposed FY17 budget adjustment act pertaining to the Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, of Mental Health, and for Children and Families. The Committee thanks the House Committee on Appropriations for the opportunity to comment on these provisions.

B.314. Mental Health

The Committee accepts the proposed budget adjustment.

Sec. 60. Fund Transfers

The Committee accepts the proposed budget adjustments. However, the Committee notes that according to current forecasting by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, the expenditures in the developmental services program are likely to exceed its appropriation, which could affect services to clients. With regard to Choices for Care, the Committee further notes that the Department's proposal includes using one-time savings for ongoing expenses for which the Department has no clear future funding plans.

Sec. 62. Home Heating Fuel Assistance Fund Repeal and Transfer

The Committee concurs with the proposed amendment.

Sec. 73. 32 V.S.A. § 308b:

While the Committee concurs with the amendments proposed to subsection (b), it does not support the addition of the Department of Corrections in subsection (a). The Committee believes that the addition of the Department of Corrections as an entity that can withdraw from the Human Services Caseload Reserve is inappropriate given that the Department is unlikely to contribute funds.

Global Commitment—Substance Use Disorder

The Committee supports the following addition to the budget adjustment act:

Sec. XX. TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER; WAIVER AMENDMENT

The Secretary of Human Services may seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 waiver to include the design, development, and implementation of a substance use disorder treatment system that includes a continuum of services to improve care and outcomes for individuals with substance use disorder.

Sec. XY. EFFECTIVE DATES

Sec. XX (treatment for substance use disorder; waiver amendment) shall take effect on passage.