

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No. 53  
3 entitled “An act relating to a universal, publicly financed primary care system “  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. UNIVERSAL COVERAGE FOR PRIMARY CARE; REPORT

8 (a) The Green Mountain Care Board shall convene interested stakeholders  
9 with applicable subject matter expertise to develop recommendations on all of  
10 the following:

11 (1) The specific services, including mental health and substance use  
12 disorder services, and providers that constitute primary care. The  
13 determinations may be based in relevant part on those services on which a  
14 health insurance plan imposes a primary care co-payment, as well as those  
15 services on which a plan would impose a primary care co-payment in the  
16 absence of a federal requirement for first dollar coverage.

17 (2) How to achieve universal coverage for primary care services for all  
18 Vermonters, whether the services are publicly financed or covered by health  
19 insurance or other means.

1           (3) How to make coverage for primary care services affordable for all  
2           Vermonters, such as through income-sensitized, State-funded cost-sharing  
3           assistance.

4           (4) How to resolve coordination of benefits issues for individuals with  
5           more than one form of health coverage and for health care services that are not  
6           considered primary care.

7           (b) The Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Financial  
8           Regulation shall cooperate with and provide legal assistance to the Green  
9           Mountain Care Board in identifying and analyzing any potential legal issues  
10           with achieving universal coverage for primary care in Vermont and in  
11           developing proposals to address any legal issues identified.

12           (c) The Green Mountain Care Board shall provide updates to the Health  
13           Reform Oversight Committee every two months beginning on July 1, 2018 on  
14           the Board's progress in developing recommendations and proposals pursuant  
15           to this section and may request clarifications and guidance from the Committee  
16           as needed.

17           (d) On or before January 15, 2019, the Green Mountain Care Board and the  
18           stakeholders shall provide the recommendations and proposals developed  
19           pursuant this section and any proposals for legislative action to the House  
20           Committees on Appropriations and on Health Care and the Senate Committees  
21           on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Finance.

1       Sec. 2. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CARE; DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN

2           (a) If the Green Mountain Care Board determines that achieving universal  
3           coverage for primary care in Vermont is feasible and that the benefits to  
4           Vermont residents outweigh the estimated financial costs, the Board, in  
5           consultation with the Agency of Human Services and other interested  
6           stakeholders with applicable subject matter expertise, shall prepare a draft  
7           operational plan for achieving universal coverage for primary care based on the  
8           recommendations and proposals developed pursuant to Sec. 1 of this act. In  
9           determining feasibility, benefits, and cost estimates, the Board shall take into  
10          account existing studies indicating the potential savings and improvements to  
11          population health from providing access to primary care services.

12          (b) On or before October 15, 2019, the Green Mountain Care Board shall  
13          provide the preliminary draft operational plan developed pursuant to this  
14          section, if any, to the Health Reform Oversight Committee. On or before  
15          January 15, 2020, the Board shall provide the final draft operational plan to the  
16          House Committees on Appropriations and on Health Care and the Senate  
17          Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Finance.

18       Sec. 3. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD RESOURCES;

19                   LEGISLATIVE INTENT

1        It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide sufficient resources to  
2        the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 to enable the  
3        Board to carry out the duties set forth in Secs. 1 and 2 of this act.

4        Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

5        This act shall take effect on passage.

6        and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
7        to recommendations for achieving universal coverage for primary care in  
8        Vermont”

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16        (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE