

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