

Sen. Ayer - Acupuncture study language for budget bill

Sec. ____ . RESEARCH STUDY ON EFFECTS OF INCREASED ACCESS TO
ACUPUNCTURE CARE; REPORT

(a) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Vermont Health Access in fiscal year 2019 to conduct a research study into the effects of increased access to acupuncture care on utilization of and expenditures on other medical services for individuals enrolled in Medicaid and commercial health insurance in Vermont. The results of a recent study on the use of acupuncture services by Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries suggest that acupuncture may offer an effective nonpharmacological alternative to treating pain without the use of opioids. This new study provides an opportunity to build on the results of the first study while also evaluating the impact of increased access to acupuncture care on the utilization of other health care services, which should enable the Department to estimate the net costs of adding acupuncture as a Medicaid covered service.