

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 203 entitled “An act relating to systemic improvements of the mental
4 health system” respectfully reports that it has considered the House Proposal of
5 Amendment and recommends that the Senate concur with further proposal of
6 amend as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 1, legislative intent, in subdivision (b)(1), after “capacity” and
8 before the semicolon, by inserting the phrase and which may be State operated
9 and in subdivision (b)(2), after the word “State” and before the semicolon, by
10 inserting the phrase , including consideration of maintaining the current State-
11 owned Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital as an acute inpatient facility

12 Second: By striking out the reader assistance heading before Sec. 4 and
13 inserting in lieu thereof:

14 * * * Waiver of Certificate of Need Requirements * * *

15 Third: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof as
16 follows:

17 Sec. 4. WAIVER OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS

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

20 (1) the implementation of renovations at the Brattleboro Retreat as
21 authorized in the fiscal year 2019 capital budget adjustment bill shall not be

1 considered a “new health care project” for which a certificate of need is
2 required; and

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

7 Fourth: By striking out Sec. 8 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the
8 following:

9 Sec. 8. RATES OF PAYMENTS TO DESIGNATED AND

10 SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES

11 The community-based services provided by designated and specialized
12 service agencies are a critical component of Vermont’s health care system.
13 The ability to recruit and retain qualified employees is necessary for delivery
14 of mental health services. In recognition of the importance of the designated
15 and specialized service agencies, the Agency of Human Services shall:

16 (1) Conduct ongoing financial, service delivery, and quality review
17 processes, which shall consider changes in operating costs over time, caseload
18 trends, changes in programs and practices, geographic differences in labor
19 markets, and the fiscal health of each designated and specialized service
20 agency. The review shall inform payment rates, the performance grant
21 processes, and payment reform work by drawing upon and combining current

1 review processes and not creating duplicate or redundant reporting processes
2 for either the Agency or the designated and specialized service agencies.

3 (2) On or before January 15, 2019, present a proposal, in conjunction
4 with the Green Mountain Care Board and the designated and specialized
5 service agencies, for providing the designated and specialized service agency
6 budgets to the Board for informational purposes for its work on health care
7 system costs to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and
8 on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on
9 Health and Welfare. The presentation shall be consistent with the long-term
10 goals of payment reform to address the potential for a review process of the
11 designated and specialized service agency budgets by the Board as part of an
12 integrated health care system.

13 Fifth: In Sec. 9, amending 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 3(c), by
14 striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

15 The evaluation process shall include an examination as to whether the
16 principles for mental health care reform in 18 V.S.A. § 7251 are reflected in
17 the current mental health system, and if not, where system gaps exist.

18 Sixth: In Sec. 10, report; institutions for mental disease, by striking out
19 subdivision (1) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

20 (1) a status update that shall provide possible solutions considered as
21 part of the State’s response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’

1 requirement to begin reducing federal Medicaid spending due on or before
2 November 15, 2018; and

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 (Committee vote: _____)

11

12

Senator _____

13

FOR THE COMMITTEE