

1 S.53

2 Senator Ayer moves that the report of the Committee on Appropriations be
3 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu
4 thereof the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (c) The Green Mountain Care Board shall provide regular updates to the
7 Health Reform Oversight Committee after adjournment of the General
8 Assembly in 2018 on the Board’s progress in developing recommendations
9 and proposals pursuant to this section and may request clarifications and
10 guidance from the Committee as needed.

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

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

17 (a) If the Green Mountain Care Board determines that achieving universal
18 coverage for primary care in Vermont is feasible and that the benefits to
19 Vermont residents outweigh the estimated financial costs, the Board, in
20 consultation with the Agency of Human Services and other interested
21 stakeholders with applicable subject matter expertise, shall prepare a draft

1 operational plan for achieving universal coverage for primary care based on the
2 recommendations and proposals developed pursuant to Sec. 1 of this act. In
3 determining feasibility, benefits, and cost estimates, the Board shall take into
4 account existing studies indicating the potential savings and improvements to
5 population health from providing access to primary care services.

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

12 Sec. 3. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD RESOURCES;

13 LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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

17 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.

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