
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 26 (H.528). Health; rural health care; mental health; housing

An act relating to the Rural Health Services Task Force

This act creates the 14-member Rural Health Services Task Force to evaluate the current state of rural health care in Vermont and identify ways to sustain the system and to ensure it provides access to affordable, high-quality health care services. The Task Force must provide its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 15, 2020.

The act directs the Department of Mental Health to evaluate and determine the mental health bed needs for residential programs across the State by geographic area and provider type and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 15, 2019. The act also requires the Department of Mental Health, in collaboration with community service organizations, to initiate efforts to increase the number of affordable housing opportunities for individuals with mental health needs by identifying potential funding sources for supportive housing and by maximizing the use of Section 8 vouchers. If funding is available to invest in affordable housing opportunities, the act expresses legislative intent that the funds be used to create new options for affordable permanent housing around the State based on evidence-based supportive housing models.

Effective Date: May 16, 2019