
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 Counsel 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. 159 (H.795). Health; Green Mountain Care Board; hospitals; health care providers; health insurance

An act relating to increasing hospital price transparency, hospital sustainability planning, provider sustainability and reimbursements, and regulators' access to information

This act requires the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to develop and maintain a public, interactive, Internet-based price transparency dashboard that will allow consumers to compare health care prices for certain health care services across Vermont. The GMCB must report to the legislative committees of jurisdiction by February 1, 2021 on its progress in developing and implementing the dashboard and must demonstrate the dashboard to the committees by February 1, 2022 and provide them with recommendations for expanding the dashboard in the future. The act requires the GMCB, in consultation with interested stakeholders, to consider ways to increase the financial sustainability of Vermont hospitals in order to achieve population-based health improvements while maintaining community access to services. It also requires the GMCB, in collaboration with others, to identify processes for improving provider sustainability and increasing equity in reimbursement amounts among providers.

The act requires a health insurer to provide to the GMCB, upon the GMCB's request in connection with a rate review, detailed information about the insurer's payments to specific providers. It also specifies that individually identifying information submitted to the GMCB as part of a hospital budget review must be kept confidential and allows the GMCB to examine and discuss confidential information outside a public hearing or meeting. The act specifies that the Department of Financial Regulation's authority to adopt emergency rules expanding health insurance coverage for, and waiving or limiting cost-sharing requirements directly related to, COVID-19 diagnosis, testing, and prevention applies to other tests performed in connection with making a COVID-19 diagnosis and to the treatment of COVID-19 when it is the primary or a secondary diagnosis. The act also delays the first possible date for a meeting of the Mental Health Integration Council from October 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021.

Effective Date: Multiple effective dates, beginning on October 5, 2020