

1 H.282

2 Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Cina of Burlington,
3 Colburn of Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, McCullough of
4 Williston, and Till of Jericho

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Health; health care reform; Agency of Human Services; Department
8 of Corrections; inmates

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
10 working group in the Agency of Human Services that would explore
11 opportunities to integrate the inmate population into new and existing health
12 care payment and delivery system reform initiatives in order to promote inmate
13 health and constrain State spending by managing chronic conditions, focusing
14 on wellness and preventive care, and making appropriate use of existing
15 programs and resources.

16 An act relating to integration of Vermont's inmate population into the
17 State's health care reform initiatives

18 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

19 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

20 The General Assembly finds that:

1 (1) The Department of Corrections spent \$21 million on inmate health
2 care during fiscal year 2018, of which \$20.2 million was the cost of the State's
3 contract with a vendor to administer and deliver health care services in
4 Vermont's correctional facilities.

5 (2) According to a recent study of health care system costs in Vermont's
6 Department of Corrections, the small size of Vermont's facilities and
7 comparatively low average daily inmate populations inhibit the delivery of
8 cost-effective health care in a correctional facility setting.

9 (3) High-quality health care services are currently being delivered by
10 health care providers throughout the State in a variety of inpatient, outpatient,
11 and community settings.

12 (4) Vermont has a history of implementing innovative health care
13 reform initiatives designed to improve health outcomes and bend the cost
14 curve, including the Blueprint for Health, accountable care organizations, and
15 the All-Payer Model.

16 (5) The Agency of Human Services and other stakeholders should
17 explore opportunities to integrate the inmate population into new and existing
18 health care payment and delivery system reform initiatives in order to promote
19 inmate health and constrain State spending by managing chronic conditions,
20 focusing on wellness and preventive care, and making efficient and appropriate
21 use of existing programs and resources.

1 Sec. 2. INTEGRATING VERMONT INMATES INTO HEALTH CARE
2 REFORM INITIATIVES; REPORT

3 (a) Creation. The Secretary of Human Services shall convene a working
4 group to explore opportunities to integrate Vermont's inmate population into
5 new and existing health care payment and delivery system reform initiatives.

6 (b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following
7 members:

8 (1) the Secretary of Human Services or designee, who shall be the
9 Chair;

10 (2) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

11 (3) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;

12 (4) the Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee;

13 (5) the Executive Director of the Blueprint for Health or designee;

14 (6) the Chief Health Care Advocate from the Office of the Health Care
15 Advocate or designee; and

16 (7) other interested stakeholders.

17 (c) Powers and duties. The working group shall explore opportunities to
18 integrate the inmate population into new and existing health care payment
19 and delivery system reform initiatives in order to promote inmate health and
20 constrain State spending by managing chronic conditions, focusing on

1 wellness and preventive care, and making efficient and appropriate use of
2 existing programs and resources

3 (d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative,
4 technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Human Services.

5 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2019, the working group shall
6 submit a written report to the House Committees on Corrections and
7 Institutions and on Health Care, the Senate Committees on Institutions, on
8 Judiciary, and on Health and Welfare, and the Joint Legislative Justice
9 Oversight Committee with its findings and any recommendations for
10 legislative action.

11 (f) Meetings.

12 (1) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall call the first
13 meeting of the working group to occur on or before July 1, 2019.

14 (2) The working group shall cease to exist upon submission of its
15 report pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.