

H.742 – Overview of health care- and human service-related provisions as recommended by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

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The amendment to H.742 recommended by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare would enact a number of provisions designed to provide administrative and provider flexibility in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It would allow the Agency of Human Services and the Green Mountain Care Board to waive or modify certain regulatory processes and requirements as appropriate to prioritize direct patient care, allow flexible staffing, and preserve provider sustainability. It would direct the Department of Financial Regulation to consider adopting emergency rules to expand health insurance coverage for and reduce out-of-pocket costs related to COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment, and prevention; modify or suspend deductible requirements for prescription drugs; and expand access to and reimbursement for health care services delivered remotely. The amendment would permit patients to refill their maintenance medications early, would allow pharmacists to extend prescriptions for maintenance medications, and would allow pharmacists to substitute a substantially equivalent prescription drug if a prescribed medication is unavailable. It would allow recently retired Vermont health care professionals and health care professionals licensed in other states to deliver health care services to Vermonters using telehealth, as part of the staff of a licensed facility, or under a temporary license, and would allow the Office of Professional Regulation and Board of Medical Practice flexibility to waive certain requirements during a state of emergency. The amendment would also expand health insurance coverage for telehealth, including requiring coverage for teledentistry and for health care services delivered using store-and-forward means. And the amendment would allow the Commissioner for Children and Families to use additional funds from its fiscal year 2020 appropriation for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program to help child care programs at risk of closing due to financial hardship.