

1 H.505

2 Introduced by Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes and Yacovone of

3 Morrystown

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Health; health insurance; Medicare supplemental insurance; open

7 enrollment

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create annual
9 open enrollment periods for Medicare supplemental insurance policies and to
10 prohibit health insurers from charging additional premiums, fees, or penalties
11 based on an individual's failure to enroll in a Medicare supplemental insurance
12 policy within six months following the individual's 65th birthday. The bill
13 would also permit enrollees to change at any time from one Medicare
14 supplemental insurance policy to another policy with comparable or lesser
15 benefits.

16 An act relating to enrollment in Medicare supplemental insurance policies

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

2 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4080e is amended to read:

3 § 4080e. MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE

4 POLICIES; COMMUNITY RATING; DISABILITY; OPEN

5 ENROLLMENT

6 * * *

7 (d)(1) A health insurance company, hospital or medical service
8 corporation, or health maintenance organization offering a Medicare
9 supplemental insurance policy shall guarantee acceptance of an individual's
10 application for coverage during the six-month period following the individual's
11 65th birthday and during an annual open enrollment period that shall coincide
12 with the federal open enrollment period for Medicare Part D plans. A health
13 insurance company, hospital or medical service corporation, or health
14 maintenance organization offering a Medicare supplemental insurance policy
15 shall not make any premium rate distinctions or charge any additional fees or
16 penalty amounts based on an applicant's failure to enroll in a Medicare
17 supplemental insurance policy during the applicant's initial open enrollment
18 period upon attaining 65 years of age.

19 (2) A health insurance company, hospital or medical service
20 corporation, or health maintenance organization offering a Medicare
21 supplemental insurance policy shall allow an enrollee to change at any time

1 from one Medicare supplemental insurance policy to another policy offering
2 comparable or lesser benefits.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.