

1 H.860

2 Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro,
3 Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Colburn of
4 Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Gonzalez of Winooski, and
5 Ralph of Hartland

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Health; universal, unified health care system; Green Mountain Care

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require
10 execution of certain activities that are preconditions for implementation of
11 Green Mountain Care, with a target implementation date on or before
12 January 1, 2024.

13 An act relating to next steps for implementation of Green Mountain Care

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

15 Sec. 1. PURPOSE; INTENT

16 The purpose of this act is to set in motion the actions necessary to trigger
17 implementation of Green Mountain Care, the universal, unified health care
18 system developed in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 48, as set forth in 33 V.S.A.
19 § 1822, with a target date for implementation on or before January 1, 2024. It
20 is the intent of the General Assembly that Green Mountain Care shall be

1 implemented and administered in a manner that is consistent with the
2 principles established in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 48, as set forth in 18
3 V.S.A. § 9371.

4 Sec. 2. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BENEFIT PACKAGE; REPORT

5 On or before December 15, 2020, the Green Mountain Care Board shall
6 approve an initial benefit package for Green Mountain Care that complies with
7 the provisions of 33 V.S.A. § 1825. On or before January 1, 2021, the Board
8 shall submit a detailed summary of the benefit package, and a proposed three-
9 year budget for Green Mountain Care that complies with the provisions of 33
10 V.S.A. § 1828, to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care,
11 and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on
12 Health and Welfare, and on Finance.

13 Sec. 3. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE FINANCING PLAN; REPORTS

14 (a)(1) On or before December 15, 2020, the Agency of Human Services
15 shall recommend a detailed plan for the sustainable financing of Green
16 Mountain Care to the House Committees on Health Care and on Ways and
17 Means, the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance, the
18 Health Reform Oversight Committee, and the Joint Fiscal Committee. The
19 financing plan, which shall be based on progressive taxation of individuals and
20 businesses, shall provide the amounts and specific mechanisms required to
21 finance Green Mountain Care based on the benefit package approved by the

1 Green Mountain Care Board pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act and to support any
2 systems improvements needed to achieve a public-private universal health care
3 system. The financing plan shall be consistent with the principles expressed in
4 18 V.S.A. § 9371 and shall be designed to enable the State to meet the
5 implementation conditions set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 1822.

6 (2) In developing the financing plan, the Agency shall consult with and
7 solicit input from interested stakeholders, including health care professionals,
8 employers, and members of the public, to determine:

9 (A) the potential impacts of various taxation models on individuals,
10 households, businesses, public sector entities, the nonprofit community, and
11 the State's economy and economic climate;

12 (B) levels of deductibility associated with each potential taxation
13 model; and

14 (C) the extent to which each potential taxation model is consistent
15 with the principles of equity expressed in 18 V.S.A. § 9371.

16 (b) On or before July 15 and October 15, 2020, the Agency of Human
17 Services shall provide updates to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and
18 the Joint Fiscal Committee on the Agency's progress in developing the
19 financing plan required by this section.

1 Sec. 4. SECTION 1332 WAIVER APPLICATION

2 The Agency of Human Services shall apply to the U.S. Department of
3 Health and Human Services for a waiver under Section 1332 of the Patient
4 Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. No. 111–148), as amended by the
5 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. No.
6 111–152), as soon as reasonably possible to allow the State to suspend
7 operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange, to implement Green
8 Mountain Care, and to receive the maximum amount of federal pass-through
9 funds practicable in support of Green Mountain Care.

10 Sec. 5. FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

11 (a) The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
12 Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2021 to enable the Board to contract
13 with experts as needed in its design of the benefit package for Green Mountain
14 Care required by Sec. 2 of this act.

15 (b) The sum of \$750,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
16 Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2021 to enable the Agency to
17 contract with actuaries, consultants, and other experts as needed in its
18 development of the financing plan for Green Mountain Care required by Sec. 3
19 of this act and the Section 1332 waiver application required by Sec. 4 of this
20 act.

1 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.