



STATE OF VERMONT
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
From: Representative Bill Lippert, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Date: January 18, 2019
Subject: FY19 Budget Adjustment

Thank you for the opportunity to review provisions of the Governor's FY 2019 budget adjustment proposal. The House Committee on Health Care is generally supportive of the provisions referred to us by the House Committee on Appropriations, with two recommended language changes.

Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD)

The House Committee on Health Care recommends modifying the language in Sec. 4 of the Governor's proposal to add context as follows:

Sec. 4. INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASE; GLOBAL COMMITMENT

WAIVER AMENDMENT

(a) It is the public policy of the State of Vermont to develop a fully integrated continuum of mental health services. In recognition that Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs) are an essential part of the current continuum of care, the Secretary of Human Services may seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 waiver as it relates to the phase out of coverage of treatment for serious mental illness provided in IMDs.

Employer assessment

The House Committee on Health Care recommends modifying the language in the Governor's proposal as it relates to determining the amount of the employers' health care fund contribution assessment in 32 V.S.A. § 10503(b), as recommended to our Committee by the House Committee on Ways and Means, to read:

Sec. X. 32 V.S.A. § 10503 is amended to read:

§ 10503. HEALTH CARE FUND CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT

(a) The Commissioner of Taxes shall assess and an employer shall pay a quarterly Health Care Fund contribution for each full-time equivalent uncovered employee employed during that quarter in excess of four full-time equivalent employees.

(b) The amount of the contribution shall be \$158.77 for each full-time equivalent employee in excess of four. Starting in calendar year 2018, the amount of the contribution shall be adjusted annually by a percentage equal to any percentage change in premiums for the second lowest-cost silver-level plan, whether offered in or outside the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

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Please note that this revision to 32 V.S.A. § 10503(b) does not affect the additional change to 32 V.S.A. § 10503(d) in the Governor's proposal relating to depositing revenue from the employers' health care fund contribution assessment in the General Fund rather than the State Health Care Resources Fund.