

1 Introduced by Committee on Health and Welfare

2 Date:

3 Subject: Health; health care emergency State plan

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require: (1)
5 departments and agencies involved in Vermont's response to the COVID-19
6 pandemic to submit data to the Secretary of the Administration pertaining to
7 their respective responses to the pandemic; and (2) the Secretary of the
8 Administration to establish a task force for the purpose of creating a strategic
9 State plan to address any future statewide health care emergencies that may
10 arise.

11 An act relating to establishing a health care emergency State plan

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

13 Sec. 1. HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY STATE PLAN

14 (a)(1) On or before January 1, 2021, the Secretary of the Administration
15 shall begin to consolidate data collected by each department and agency
16 involved in Vermont's response to the COVID-19 pandemic regarding the
17 respective department or agency's role in responding to the pandemic. Data
18 collected by responsive departments and agencies shall include:

1 (A) policy modifications implemented in response to the pandemic,
2 including the effectiveness and limitation of each modification;

3 (B) identification of any populations, regions, or infrastructures that
4 would have benefitted from more timely or robust State interventions, or both;

5 (C) alternative responses and policies that would have better served
6 Vermonters;

7 (D) opportunities to prevent, mitigate, and better respond to future
8 health care emergencies; and

9 (E) any other relevant information necessary ensure that Vermont’s
10 experience during the COVID-19 pandemic informs future statewide health
11 emergency responses.

12 (2) On or before August 1, 2021, responsive departments and agencies
13 shall submit all data required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the
14 Secretary of the Administration.

15 (b) On or before August 1, 2021, the Secretary of Administration shall
16 convene a task force for the purpose of evaluating Vermont’s response to the
17 COVID-19 pandemic and developing a strategic State plan for addressing
18 future statewide health care emergencies.

19 (c) The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

20 (1) the Secretary of Administration, who shall serve as chair;

21 (2) the Agency of Human Services or designee;

- 1 (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;
- 2 (4) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;
- 3 (5) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or
4 designee;
- 5 (6) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;
- 6 (7) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;
- 7 (8) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
- 8 (9) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- 9 (10) the Secretary of Education or designee;
- 10 (11) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;
- 11 (12) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development;
- 12 (13) the Secretary of State or designee; and
- 13 (14) any other persons the Secretary of Administration believes would
14 be helpful in carrying out the Task Force’s charge.

15 (d)(1) The Task Force shall review and use data submitted pursuant to
16 subsection (a) of this section to create a strategic State plan for addressing any
17 future statewide health care emergencies that may arise. On or before
18 November 1, 2021, the Task Force shall submit a proposed strategic State plan
19 to the General Assembly, highlighting any legislative changes necessary to
20 implement a final strategic State plan.

1 (2) On or before June 1, 2022, after soliciting input from the relevant
2 subject matter committees of the General Assembly, the Task Force shall adopt
3 a final strategic State plan for health care emergencies.

4 (e) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal
5 assistance of the Agency of the Administration.

6 (f)(1) The Task Force shall convene not less than four times to carry out its
7 charge pursuant to this section.

8 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.