

* * * State of Emergency; Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. STATE OF EMERGENCY; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that, if the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues its expected spread in the State of Vermont, the Governor should exercise the authority granted by 20 V.S.A. § 9 to declare a state of emergency based on the all-hazards event of the COVID-19 disease-related emergency. In addition to the emergency powers granted to the Governor by 20 V.S.A. §§ 9 and 11 during a state of emergency, such a declaration may initiate opportunities to expand access to necessary health care services. For example, 3 V.S.A. § 129(a)(10) allows certain professional licensing boards to issue temporary licenses during a declared state of emergency to health care providers who are licensed in good standing in another state to allow them to practice in Vermont for up to 90 days. These temporary licensees will likely be necessary to help provide critical health care services to Vermonters who become afflicted with COVID-19.

* * * Measures to Support Health Care and Human Service Provider Sustainability * * *

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS; TEMPORARY PROVIDER

TAX WAIVER AUTHORITY

The Commissioner of Vermont Health Access may waive, modify, or postpone payment of the assessment imposed by 33 V.S.A. chapter 19, subchapter 2 for one or more classes of health care providers for all or a prorated portion of fiscal years 2020 and 2021 if the following two conditions are met:

(1) the Governor has declared a state of emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

(2) the waiver, modification, or postponement is necessary to preserve the ability of the providers to continue offering necessary health care services.