

1 S.185

2 Introduced by Senators Lyons and McCormack

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; public health; climate change; response plan

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
7 Department of Health to develop and adopt a statewide climate change
8 response plan. It further proposes to require regional planning commissions to
9 develop a communications plan for the purpose of mitigating and responding
10 to climate change related public health risks.

11 An act relating to the adoption of a climate change response plan

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

13 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 35 is added to read:

14 CHAPTER 35. PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

15 § 1711. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN

16 The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Chief Prevention
17 Officer established pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2321, shall develop and adopt a
18 statewide climate change response plan to foster resilience to the impacts of
19 climate change in Vermont.

1 (1) Using a public health model, the Department’s response plan shall
2 seek to prevent and mitigate public health risks caused by climate change in
3 Vermont, with particular attention shown to vulnerable populations, including:

4 (A) infants and young children;

5 (B) elders;

6 (C) persons with physical disabilities;

7 (D) persons with a chronic or existing medical condition;

8 (E) persons with low income;

9 (F) persons who are homeless or lack access to transportation;

10 (G) persons living in flood plains; and

11 (H) persons whose employment occurs primarily outdoors.

12 (2) The response plan shall provide actionable strategies specific to both
13 rural and urban communities in the State, including specific strategies that
14 address:

15 (A) access to food security;

16 (B) access to potable water;

17 (C) emerging diseases;

18 (D) access to health care;

19 (E) particulate matter, including notice of emerging risks;

20 (F) energy; and

21 (G) transportation.

1 § 1712. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE COMMUNICATION

2 The Department of Health, in conjunction with the regional planning
3 commissions, shall develop a plan and communicate with both Vermont
4 communities and each other for the purpose of mitigating and responding to
5 climate change related public health risks in Vermont.

6 Sec. 2. REPORT; CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN

7 On or before November 1, 2020, the Department of Health shall submit the
8 climate change response plan adopted pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1711 to the
9 House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate
10 Committee on Health and Welfare.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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