

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 185 entitled “An act relating to the adoption of a climate change response
4 plan” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that
5 the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Climate Change Response Plan * * *

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

9 CHAPTER 35. PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

10 § 1711. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN

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

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

18 (A) infants and young children;

19 (B) elders;

20 (C) persons with physical disabilities;

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

1 (E) persons with low income;

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

3 (G) persons living in flood plains; and

4 (H) persons whose employment occurs primarily outdoors.

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

8 (A) mental health;

9 (B) vector-borne diseases;

10 (C) waterborne and foodborne diseases;

11 (D) hot weather;

12 (E) cyanobacteria;

13 (F) extreme storm events; and

14 (G) air pollution and pollen.

15 § 1712. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE COMMUNICATION

16 The Department of Health, in coordination with the regional planning
17 commissions, regional emergency management providers, and the Citizens
18 Assistance Registry for Emergencies, shall develop a plan and communicate
19 with both Vermont communities and each other for the purpose of mitigating
20 and responding to climate change related public health risks in Vermont.

1 Sec. 2. REPORT; CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN

2 On or before July 1, 2021, the Department of Health shall submit the
3 climate change response plan adopted pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1711 to the
4 House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate
5 Committee on Health and Welfare.

6 * * * Regional Planning Commission Involvement in Identifying
7 Health Care-Related Needs * * *

8 Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4345a is amended to read:

9 § 4345a. DUTIES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

10 A regional planning commission created under this chapter shall:

11 * * *

12 (21) Consult with and assist hospitals licensed pursuant to 18 V.S.A.
13 chapter 43 regarding the development of health needs assessments and other
14 initiatives as needed in accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9405a.

15 (22) Consult with and assist the Agency of Human Services, Department
16 of Health, and Vermont Emergency Management to incorporate public health
17 and safety concerns related to climate change into State and local emergency
18 and hazard mitigation, response, and recovery plans.

19 Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9405a is amended to read:

20 § 9405a. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

1 (a) Each hospital shall have a protocol for meaningful public participation
2 in its strategic planning process for identifying and addressing health care
3 needs that the hospital provides or could provide in its service area. Regional
4 planning commissions shall be available for consultation and assistance
5 pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4345a. Needs identified through the process shall be
6 integrated with the hospital’s long-term planning. Each hospital shall post on
7 its website a description of its identified needs, strategic initiatives developed
8 to address the identified needs, annual progress on implementation of the
9 proposed initiatives, opportunities for public participation, and the ways in
10 which the hospital ensures access to appropriate mental health care that meets
11 standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components
12 of health care as part of an integrated, holistic system of care. Hospitals may
13 meet the community health needs assessment and implementation plan
14 requirement through compliance with the relevant Internal Revenue Service
15 community health needs assessment requirements for nonprofit hospitals.

16 * * *

17 * * * Effective Date * * *

18 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

1 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
2 to adopting a climate change response plan and regional planning commission
3 involvement in identifying health care-related needs”

4

5 (Committee vote: _____)

6

7

Representative _____

8

FOR THE COMMITTEE