

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 218 entitled “An act relating to the Department of Health’s Ten-Year
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 Sec. 1. MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION COUNCIL; REPORT

8 (a) Creation. There is created the Mental Health Integration Council for
9 the purpose of helping to ensure that all sectors of the health care system
10 actively participate in the State’s principles for mental health integration
11 established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7251(4) and (8) and as envisioned in the
12 Department of Mental Health’s 2020 report “Vision 2030: A 10-Year Plan
13 for an Integrated and Holistic System of Care.”

14 (b) Membership.

15 (1) The Council shall be composed of the following members:

16 (A) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

17 (B) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

18 (C) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;

19 (D) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

20 (E) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

21 (F) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee;

1 (G) the executive director of the Green Mountain Care Board or
2 designee;

3 (H) the Secretary of Education or designee;

4 (I) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;

5 (J) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association for
6 Hospitals and Health Systems;

7 (K) a representative, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

8 (L) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association of
9 Mental Health and Addiction Recovery;

10 (M) a representative, appointed by Bi-State Primary Care;

11 (N) a representative, appointed by the University of Vermont
12 Medical School;

13 (O) the chief executive officer of OneCare Vermont or designee;

14 (P) the Health Care Advocate established pursuant to 18 V.S.A.
15 § 9602;

16 (Q) the Mental Health Care Ombudsman established pursuant to 18
17 V.S.A. § 7259;

18 (R) a representative, appointed by the insurance plan with the
19 largest number of covered lives in Vermont;

1 (S) two persons who have received mental health services in
2 Vermont, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, including one person
3 who has delivered peer services;

4 (T) one family member of a person who has received mental health
5 services, appointed by the Vermont chapter of National Alliance on Mental
6 Illness; and

7 (U) one family member of a child who has received mental health
8 services, appointed by the Vermont Federation of Families for Children’s
9 Mental Health.

10 (2) The Council may create subcommittees comprising the Council’s
11 members for the purpose of carrying out the Council’s charge.

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Council shall address the integration of
13 mental health in the health care system including:

14 (1) identifying obstacles to the full integration of mental health into a
15 holistic health care system and identifying means of overcoming those
16 barriers;

17 (2) helping to ensure the implementation of existing law to establish
18 full integration within each member of the Council’s area of expertise;

19 (3) establishing commitments from non-state entities to adopt practices
20 and implementation tools that further integration;

1 (4) proposing legislation where current statute is either inadequate to
2 achieve full integration or where it creates barriers to achieving the principles
3 of integration; and

4 (5) fulfilling any other duties the Council deems necessary to achieve
5 its objectives.

6 (d) Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative, technical, and
7 legal assistance of Department of Mental Health.

8 (e) Report.

9 (1) On or before December 15, 2021, the Commissioners of Mental
10 Health and of Health shall report on the Council’s progress to the Joint
11 Health Reform Oversight Committee.

12 (2) On or before January 15, 2023, the Council shall submit a final
13 written report to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate
14 Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and any
15 recommendations for legislative action, including a recommendation as to
16 whether the term of the Council should be extended.

17 (f) Meetings.

18 (1) The Commissioner of Mental Health shall call the first meeting of
19 the Council.

20 (2) The Commissioner of Mental Health shall serve as chair. The
21 Commissioner of Health shall serve as vice chair.

1 (3) The Council shall meet bimonthly between July 1, 2020 and
2 January 1, 2023.

3 (4) The Council shall cease to exist on July 30, 2023.

4 (g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Council shall be
5 entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as
6 permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These
7 payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of
8 Mental Health.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE