

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 ensuring that all sectors of the health care system actively  
10 participate in the State’s principles for mental health integration established  
11 pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7251(4) and (8) and as envisioned in the Department  
12 of Mental Health’s 2020 report “Vision 2030: A 10-Year Plan for an  
13 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 Disabilities, Aging, and Independent  
21 Living or designee;

1                   (F) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee.

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

4                   (H) the Secretary of Education or designee;

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

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

8                   (K) a representative appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

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

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

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

14                  (O) the executive director of OneCare Vermont or designee;

15                  (P) the Health Care Advocate established pursuant to 18 V.S.A.  
16                  § 9602;

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

19                  (R) two persons who have received mental health services in  
20                  Vermont appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, including one person  
21                  who has delivered peer services;

1                   (S) one or more youth representatives, appointed by the Governor;

2                   (T) a representative of the private health insurance market in  
3                   Vermont, appointed jointly by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont and  
4                   MVP Health Care;

5                   (U) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Information  
6                   Technology Leaders;

7                   (V) a representative, appointed by the Area Health Education  
8                   Centers; and

9                   (W) any other members the co-chairs deem appropriate.

10                  (2) The members listed in subdivisions (1)(A) through (F) of this  
11                  subsection (b) shall serve as the Council’s executive committee.

12                  (3) The Council’s executive committee may create subcommittees  
13                  comprising the Council’s members for the purpose of carrying out the  
14                  Council’s charge.

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

17                  (1) identifying obstacles to the full integration of mental health into a  
18                  holistic health care system and identifying means of overcoming those  
19                  barriers;

20                  (2) ensuring implementation of existing law to establish full  
21                  integration within each member of the Council’s area of expertise;

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

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

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 Commissioners of Mental Health and of Health shall serve as  
21           co-chairs.

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 8 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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17           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE