

1 S.225

2 Introduced by Senators Lyons and McCormack

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; regional planning commissions; Health Resource Allocation

6 Plan; State Health Improvement Plan

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the  
8 regional planning commissions to identify health care-related needs in their  
9 regions and to participate in future revisions to the Health Resource Allocation  
10 Plan and State Health Improvement Plan.

11 An act relating to regional planning commission involvement in identifying  
12 health care-related needs

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

14 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 4345a is amended to read:

15 § 4345a. DUTIES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

16 A regional planning commission created under this chapter shall:

17 \* \* \*

18 (21) Identify health care-related needs in the region and in each of its  
19 municipalities at least annually, including needs related to hospital and other  
20 facility-based services, community-based services, nutrition, health promotion,

1 disease prevention, and transportation to health care services. A regional  
2 planning commission shall provide information about the health care-related  
3 needs of its region to the Secretary of Human Services and the Green Mountain  
4 Care Board as part of their periodic revisions to the State Health Improvement  
5 and Health Resource Allocation Plans developed pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9405.

6 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9405 is amended to read:

7 § 9405. STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN; HEALTH RESOURCE  
8 ALLOCATION PLAN

9 (a) The Secretary of Human Services or designee, in consultation with the  
10 Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board, the regional planning commissions,  
11 and health care professionals and after receipt of public comment, shall adopt a  
12 State Health Improvement Plan that sets forth the health goals and values for  
13 the State. The Secretary may amend the Plan as the Secretary deems necessary  
14 and appropriate. The Plan shall include health promotion, health protection,  
15 nutrition, and disease prevention priorities for the State; identify available  
16 human resources as well as human resources needed for achieving the State's  
17 health goals and the planning required to meet those needs; identify gaps in  
18 ensuring equal access to appropriate mental health care that meets standards of  
19 quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care  
20 as part of an integrated, holistic system of care; and identify geographic parts  
21 of the State needing investments of additional resources in order to improve

1 the health of the population. Copies of the Plan shall be submitted to members  
2 of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on  
3 Health Care.

4 (b) The Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with the Secretary of  
5 Human Services or designee, shall publish on its website the Health Resource  
6 Allocation Plan identifying Vermont's critical health needs, goods, services,  
7 and resources, which shall be used to inform the Board's regulatory processes,  
8 cost containment and statewide quality of care efforts, health care payment and  
9 delivery system reform initiatives, and any allocation of health resources  
10 within the State. The Plan shall identify Vermont residents' needs for health  
11 care services, programs, and facilities; the resources available and the  
12 additional resources that would be required to realistically meet those needs  
13 and to make access to those services, programs, and facilities affordable for  
14 consumers; and the priorities for addressing those needs on a statewide basis.  
15 The Board may expand the Plan to include resources, needs, and priorities  
16 related to the social determinants of health. The Plan shall be revised  
17 periodically, but not less frequently than once every four years.

18 (1) In developing the Plan, the Board shall:

19 (A) consider the principles in section 9371 of this title, as well as the  
20 purposes enumerated in sections 9401 and 9431 of this title;

21 (B) identify priorities using information from:

- 1 (i) the State Health Improvement Plan;
- 2 (ii) information on regional health care-related needs identified by  
3 the regional planning commissions in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4345a(21);
- 4 (iii) the community health needs assessments required by section  
5 9405a of this title;
- 6 ~~(iii)~~(iv) available health care workforce information;
- 7 ~~(iv)~~(v) materials provided to the Board through its other regulatory  
8 processes, including hospital budget review, oversight of accountable care  
9 organizations, issuance and denial of certificates of need, and health insurance  
10 rate review; and
- 11 ~~(v)~~(vi) the public input process set forth in this section;

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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