
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 33 (H.210). Health; equity

An act relating to addressing disparities and promoting equity in the health care system

This act establishes the Health Equity Commission to promote health equity and eradicate health disparities among Vermonters, including particularly those who are Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the Commission is responsible for:

- providing strategic guidance on the development of the Office of Health Equity, which shall be established not later than January 1, 2023
- providing advice and making recommendations to the Office of Health Equity once established
- reviewing, monitoring, and advising all State agencies regarding the impact of current and emerging State policies, procedures, practices, laws, and rules on the health of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities
- identifying and examining the limitations and problems associated with existing laws, rules, programs, and services related to the health status of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colo; individuals who are LGBTQ; and individuals with disabilities
- advising the Department of Health and General Assembly on decisions related to health disparities and promoting health equity, including with regard to the distribution of federal COVID-19 funds
- to the extent funds are available, distributing grants that stimulate the development of community-based and neighborhood-based projects that will improve health outcomes
- advising the General Assembly on efforts to improve cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in the health care system through training and continuing education requirements for health care providers and other clinical professionals

This act also requires all State entities that collect health-related individual data to disaggregate health equity data by race, ethnicity, gender identity, age, primary language, socioeconomic status, disability, and sexual orientation. Data related to race shall use separate collection categories and tabulations disaggregated beyond

non-White and White based on recommendations from the Executive Director of Racial Equity and the Health Equity Advisory Commission. The act further requires the Department of Health to systematically analyze such health equity data using the smallest units of analysis feasible to detect racial and ethnic disparities as well as other disparities.

The act amends the enabling statute creating the position of Executive Director of Racial Equity to include as part of the Executive Director's duties, temporarily overseeing the establishment of the Health Equity Advisory Commission until the Office of Health Equity is established.

Lastly, the act requires reports pertaining to:

- recommendations for improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care system through training, continuing education, and investments
- fiscal year 2023 budget recommendations to fund the Health Equity Advisory Commission and the Office of Health Equity
- recommendations on appropriate and inclusive terms to replace the term "non-White" and on disaggregating data categories and tabulations beyond "non-White" and "White"
- recommendations for most effectively using funds received by the State pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act to promote health and achieve health equity by eliminating disparities on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, and LGBTQ status

Effective Date: July 1, 2021