
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. 37 (S.42). Mental health; emergency service providers; wellness commission

An act relating to establishing the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission

This act establishes the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission for the purposes of:

- identifying where increased or alternative supports or strategic investments within the emergency service provider community, designated or specialized service agencies, or other community service systems could improve the physical and mental health outcomes of emergency service providers
- identifying how Vermont can increase capacity of qualified clinicians in the treatment of emergency service providers to ensure that the services of qualified clinicians are available for this purpose
- creating materials and information, including a list of qualified clinicians
- educating the public, emergency service providers, State and local governments, employee assistance programs, and policymakers about best practices, tools, personnel, resources, and strategies for the prevention and intervention of the effects of trauma experienced by emergency service providers
- identifying gaps and strengths in Vermont's system of care for both emergency service providers who have experienced trauma and their immediate family
- recommending how peer support services and qualified clinician services can be delivered regionally or statewide
- recommending how to support emergency service providers in communities that are resource challenged, remote, small, or rural
- recommending policies, practices, training, legislation, rules, and services that will increase successful interventions and support for emergency service providers to improve health outcomes, job performance, and personal well-being and reduce health risks, violations of employment, and violence associated with the impact of untreated trauma

- consulting with federal, State, and municipal agencies, organizations, entities, and individuals in order to make any other recommendations the Commission deems appropriate

This act requires the Commission to report its conclusions and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly as the Commission deems necessary but not less frequently than once per calendar year.

Effective Date: July 1, 2021