

1 H.2

2 Introduced by Representative Donahue of Northfield

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; mental health; inpatient psychiatric hospitalization; budget

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to transfer all
7 inpatient hospitalization budget lines from the Department of Mental Health's
8 budget to the Department of Vermont Health Access.

9 An act relating to an integrated mental health budget

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

11 Sec. 1. INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; BUDGET

12 TRANSFER FROM DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO
13 DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS

14 (a) The legislative budget process is an essential structural component of
15 ensuring that the State is supporting the principle of fully integrated mental
16 health into the health care system. The separation of Medicaid mental health
17 expenditures between the Department of Vermont Health Access's and the
18 Department of Mental Health's proposed budgets is an obstacle to achieving
19 the General Assembly's mental health reform principle of "ensur[ing] equal
20 access to appropriate mental health care in a manner equivalent to other

1 aspects of health care as part of an integrated, holistic system of care,” as
2 codified in 18 V.S.A. § 7251(4).

3 (b) The Agency of Human Services and the Departments of Mental Health
4 and of Vermont Health Access shall integrate funding for inpatient mental
5 health services to the extent feasible with the funding for other health care
6 services within the Department of Vermont Health Access budget. Federal
7 funding requirements shall be adhered to, and the Department shall establish
8 oversight, utilization review, care management, and data collection
9 responsibilities based on statutory and legal custodial obligations and
10 responsibilities. This integrated funding shall begin in fiscal year 2024, with a
11 plan for integrated funding provided to the House Committees on
12 Appropriations and on Health Care and the Senate Committees on
13 Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on or before April 15, 2022.

14 Sec. 2. MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET PRESENTATION; FISCAL
15 YEAR 2023

16 (a) In anticipation of the fiscal year 2024 budget realignment, the
17 Departments of Mental Health and of Vermont Health Access shall provide a
18 report on caseload, expenditures, and utilization as part of their fiscal year
19 2023 budget presentation, identifying the budget categories incorporated into
20 each Department’s budget for inpatient services by the following funding

1 categories, including any subdivision between persons by the community

2 rehabilitation and treatment program:

3 (1) the State-run inpatient hospital;

4 (2) Level 1 inpatient psychiatric services delivered in private hospitals;

5 (3) other involuntary inpatient psychiatric services; and

6 (4) voluntary inpatient psychiatric services.

7 (b) The Departments' fiscal year 2023 budget presentations shall also

8 include any implementation recommendations to achieve integrated funding in

9 accordance with Sec. 1(b) of this act.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.