

1 H.44

2 Introduced by Representative Till of Jericho

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; home visiting; parenting classes

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
7 universal home visiting program for families caring for a newborn infant and
8 parenting classes within obstetric and midwifery practices.

9 An act relating to universal home visiting and parenting classes

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

11 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 3404 is added to read:

12 § 3404. UNIVERSAL HOME VISITING PROGRAM

13 (a) The Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development, in
14 consultation with interested stakeholders, shall develop and implement a
15 statewide program that ensures universal home visiting services to families
16 caring for a newborn infant. The Director shall initially conduct an assessment
17 of home visiting services provided in each district of the State to determine
18 where there are unmet needs and which evidence- and research-based home
19 visiting model or models are appropriate.

1 (b) On or before January 15, 2024 and every two years thereafter, the
2 Director shall report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the
3 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with his or her findings and
4 recommendations related to the effectiveness of the universal home visiting
5 program.

6 Sec. 2. PARENTING CLASSES; APPROPRIATION

7 The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2022 to provide grants for up to three
9 parent-child centers in the State for the creation of pilot programs offering
10 parenting classes. The classes shall be conducted in the offices of health care
11 professionals providing obstetric or midwifery care and shall use the
12 parent-child centers' own curriculum. The purpose of the pilot programs shall
13 be to interrupt the widespread, multigenerational problem of childhood trauma
14 and its subsequent severe related health problems.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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