

4.29.2021 Budget proposals comparison

HOUSE VERSION	SENATE VERSION
none	<p>Sec. 7. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM * * * (d) Specific allocations. Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary, of the funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section, the Agency of Human Services shall make the following allocations for the following purposes: (3) Up to \$3,000,000.00 for COVID-19-related expenses <u>or revenue losses</u> incurred by designated and specialized service agencies through December 30, 2020 <u>June 30, 2021</u>.</p>
none	<p><u>Sec.E.227 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS; BENCHMARK PLAN REVIEW (a) The Department of Financial Regulation, in consultation with the Department of Vermont Health Access; the Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services; the Green Mountain Care Board; representatives of health care consumers, health care providers, and health insurers; and other interested stakeholders, shall review Vermont’s benchmark plan establishing the State’s essential health benefits to determine whether to recommend requesting approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to modify the benchmark plan. As part of its review, the Department shall determine the potential impacts of modifying the benchmark plan to include coverage of each of the following: (1) hearing aids; (2) dentures; (3) vision care; (4) durable medical equipment; and (5) fertility services. (b) On or before January 15, 2022, the Department of Financial Regulation shall provide the results of its benchmark plan review, including the impacts of adding coverage for each of the items listed in subdivisions (a)(1)–(5) of this section, and any recommendations for modifications to Vermont’s benchmark plan, to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.</u></p>

<p>none</p>	<p>Sec. 2. HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE STRATEGIC PLAN; REPORT (a) The Director of Health Care Reform, in connection with the advisory group established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9491(b) in Sec. 1 of this act, shall update the health care workforce strategic plan as set forth in 18 V.S.A. § 9491 and shall submit a draft of the plan to the Green Mountain Care Board for its review and approval on or before July 1 <u>October 15, 2021</u>. The Board shall review and approve the plan within 30 days following receipt. (b) On or before August 15 <u>December 1, 2021</u>, the Director shall provide the updated health care workforce strategic plan to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.</p>
<p>none</p>	<p><u>E.300.2 AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; ALL PAYER ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION MODEL; DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM; HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</u> (a) <u>The Agency of Human Services is authorized to carry forward the sum of \$3,900,000 in Global Commitment funds to fiscal year 2022 for the following purposes related to implementation of the All-Payer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model: 76 (1) health information technology projects, including: (A) a hypertension and diabetes identification and management tool to support clinical decision making; and (B) just-in-time clinical data reporting for quality improvement to support clinical decision making; and (2) delivery system reform projects focused on implementation of the care model, including expanding trainings and performance improvement activities, and continuation of the Longitudinal Care Home Health Program and the Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone (DULCE) Program.</u></p>
<p>Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT WAIVER AMENDMENT (a) The Secretary of the Agency of Human Services is authorized to seek to extend or renew Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section</p>	<p>Sec. E.301.1 GLOBAL COMMITMENT WAIVER AMENDMENT (a) The Secretary of the Agency of Human Services is authorized to seek to extend or renew Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section</p>

<p>1115 Demonstration Waiver, which is currently set to expire on December 31, 2021.</p>	<p>1115 Demonstration Waiver, which is currently set to expire on December 31, 2021. <u>The Agency of Human Services shall strive to maintain or increase the State’s flexibility to use Global Commitment investment dollars to increase access to care and coverage, improve health outcomes, strengthen health care delivery, and promote transformation to value-based and integrated models of care.</u></p>
<p>Sec. E.306 VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE RULES (a) The Agency of Human Services may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to conform Vermont’s rules regarding health care eligibility and enrollment and the operation of the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to state and federal law and guidance. The Agency may use the emergency rules process pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 prior to June 30, 2022, but only in the event 78 that new state or federal law or guidance requires Vermont to amend or adopt its rules in a time frame that cannot be accomplished under the traditional rulemaking process. An emergency rule adopted under these exigent circumstances shall be deemed to meet the standard for the adoption of emergency rules required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).</p>	<p>Same</p>
<p>Sec. E.311 AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (a) On or before August 1, 2021, the Agency of Human Services shall determine the amount of funds remaining from the \$5,000,000 appropriated to the Agency to make strategic investments in order to expand the supply of high-quality mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals in 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. 106.1 and shall inform the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the chief executive officer of each designated and specialized service agency of the amount of funds that remain. Notwithstanding any provision of 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. 106.1 to the contrary, the Agency shall direct the chief executive officers to agree on an appropriate</p>	<p>Senate Sec. E.311 AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (a) The Agency of Human Services shall distribute the funds remaining from the \$5,000,000 appropriated to the Agency to make strategic investments in order to expand the supply of high-quality mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals in 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. 106.1 <u>to the designated and specialized service agencies equitably based on each agency’s proportion of full-time equivalent (FTE) mental health and substance use disorder treatment staff to the total number of FTE mental health and substance use disorder treatment staff across all designated and specialized service agencies statewide. The designated and specialized service agencies shall use these funds for loan repayment and tuition assistance to promote the recruitment and retention of</u></p>

allocation of the funds for strategic investments in order to expand the supply of highquality mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals available to Vermont residents in need of their services, which the officers shall report to the Agency, at which time the Agency shall distribute the funds to the designated and specialized service agencies according to the agreedupon allocation. (b) On or before January 1, 2022, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding the amounts allocated to each designated and specialized service agency and the dates of distribution.

high-quality mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals available to Vermont residents in need of their services, as set forth in subsection (b) of this section. (b)(1) Each designated and specialized service agency shall make the funds received pursuant to subsection (a) of this section available to its current and prospective employees as set forth in subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (1) on a rolling basis in exchange for a one-year service obligation to provide mental health services or substance use disorder treatment services, or both, at a designated or specialized service agency in this State. The funds may be used for the following purposes: (A) loan repayment for master's-level clinicians, bachelor's-level direct service staff, and nurses; and (B) tuition assistance for individuals pursuing degrees to become master's-level clinicians, bachelor's-level direct service staff, and nurses. (2) Loan repayment and tuition assistance funds shall be available to the current and prospective employees of designated and specialized service agencies in the form of forgivable loans, with the debt forgiven upon an employee's completion of the required service obligation. (c) Until the funds have been fully expended, the Agency of Human Services shall provide quarterly reports to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services; the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare; and the Health Reform Oversight Committee with information on the following: (1) the specific designated and specialized service agencies that have received funds to date and the programs within each of those agencies in which the financial assistance recipients will deliver services; (2) the amount of financial assistance funding provided to each recipient; (3) the specific degrees or certificates toward which the tuition assistance recipients are working and those earned by loan repayment recipients; and (4) the number of new employees attracted to the designated and specialized service agencies as a result of the financial assistance, their fields of study, and the programs in which they deliver services.

