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H.654

Representative Pugh of South Burlington moves that the report of the

Committee on Health Care be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, as amended and further amended, following Sec. 9 of that act and its ellipses, by inserting the following:

Sec. 12. BUPRENORPHINE; PRESCRIPTION RENEWALS

Through March 31, ~~2022~~ 2023, to the extent permitted under federal law, a health care professional authorized to prescribe buprenorphine for treatment of substance use disorder may authorize renewal of a patient’s existing buprenorphine prescription without requiring an office visit.

Sec. 13. 24-HOUR FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS; BED-HOLD DAYS

Through March 31, ~~2022~~ 2023, to the extent permitted under federal law, the Agency of Human Services may reimburse Medicaid-funded long-term care facilities and other programs providing 24-hour per day services for their bed-hold days.

* * *

Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 9721 is amended to read:

§ 9721. ADVANCE DIRECTIVES; COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY;
REMOTE WITNESSES AND EXPLAINERS

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(c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection 9703(b) of this title to the contrary, an advance directive executed by a principal between June 15, 2020 and ~~June 30, 2022~~ March 31, 2023 shall be deemed to be valid even if the principal signed the advance directive outside the physical presence of one or both of the required witnesses, provided all of the following conditions are met with respect to each remote witness:

* * *

(d)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection 9703(d) or (e) of this title to the contrary, an advance directive executed by a principal between February 15, 2020 and ~~June 30, 2022~~ March 31, 2023 while the principal was being admitted to or was a resident of a nursing home or residential care facility or was being admitted to or was a patient in a hospital shall be deemed to be valid even if the individual who explained the nature and effect of the advance directive to the principal in accordance with subsection 9703(d) or (e) of this title, as applicable, was not physically present in the same location as the principal at the time of the explanation, provided the individual delivering the explanation was communicating with the principal by video or telephone.

(2) An advance directive executed in accordance with this subsection shall remain valid as set forth in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, as applicable.

* * *

- 1 And by renumbering the remaining section, effective date, to be Sec. 7