

H.679

Senator Kitchel moves that the report of the Committee on Appropriations be amended by striking out Sec. 72a in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a Sec. 72a to read as follows:

Sec. 72a. MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS) PLAN

(a) Pursuant to Sec. 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in October 2021 the State submitted a Home- And Community-Based Services (HCBS) spending plan to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This plan **currently** totals \$146,600,000 consisting of the following major components:

- (1) \$77,800,000 allocated to improve services.
- (2) \$25,000,000 allocated to promote a high-performing and stable HCBS workforce.
- (3) \$43,800,000 allocated to improve HCBS care through data systems, value-based payment models and oversight.

(b) The Agency of Human Services (AHS) is authorized to transfer General Fund appropriations made in fiscal year 2022 in the Global Commitment line to a new onetime General Fund HCBS appropriation departmental ID. The amount transferred shall be no greater than the amount accounted for in fiscal year 2022 as a result of the 10% match rate allowed under ARPA Sec. 9817. The estimate of this transfer is between \$65,000,000 and \$69,000,000. **Up to \$7,540,128 of funds transferred and appropriated in this subsection may be used in FY22 as state matching funds in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74 Sec. B. 301 for the \$17,136,654 HCBS Global Commitment rate increases provide in Act 74.** AHS shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in July 2022 on the actual amount transferred by this authority, and the amount expended as state match for **all** the HCBS plan expenditures in fiscal year 2022. Funds transferred and appropriated under this subsection shall carry forward until expended and may only be used as state matching funds for the HCBS plan.

(c) In fiscal year 2022 a total of \$59,457,740 is appropriated from the Global Commitment Fund to AHS to meet the objectives of the HCBS plan. This appropriation consists of, **\$17,136,654 as appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74 for a 3% rate increase to HCBS providers including the assistive community care rates and children integrated services rates, and** the following appropriations in distinct one-time departmental IDs:

(1) \$25,000,000 is appropriated for the retention and recruitment grant program for HCBS providers as specified in Sec. 72 of this act.

(2) \$3,447,500 is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services – Secretary’s Office.

(3) \$2,370,000 is appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(4) \$6,171,000 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health.

(5) \$390,000 is appropriated to the Department of Vermont Health Access.

(6) \$4,942,586 is appropriated to the Department of Health.

(d) The Global Commitment Fund appropriated in subsection (c) of this section may be obligated in fiscal year 2022 for the purposes of bringing HCBS plan spending authority forward into fiscal year 2023. The funds appropriated in subsections (b and c) of this act may be transferred on a net neutral basis in fiscal year 2022 in the same manner as the Global Commitment appropriations referenced in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.301.2. The Agency shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee in September 2022 on transfers of appropriations made and final amounts expended by department in fiscal year 2022 and any obligated funds carried forward to be expended in fiscal year 2023.