

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred Senate Bill No. 239
3 entitled “An act relating to enrollment in Medicare supplemental insurance
4 policies” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the
6 Committee on Health and Welfare and when further amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 1, 8 V.S.A. § 4080e, by striking out subsection (d) in its
8 entirety and by relettering subsection (e) to be subsection (d)

9 Second: In Sec. 2, Medicare supplemental coverage; Medicare Advantage
10 Plan; Department of Financial Regulation; report, by striking out subsection
11 (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as
12 follows:

13 (b) The stakeholder group shall examine:

14 (1) the options available to older Vermonters, Vermonters under 65
15 years of age with end stage renal disease, and Vermonters under 65 years of
16 age whose disabilities make them eligible for Medicare, through Medicare
17 supplement and Medicare Advantage plans, the affordability of these options,
18 and the extent to which the State may regulate or otherwise affect the options
19 offered to Medicare beneficiaries in Vermont, including the marketing and
20 advertising of these products;

1 (2) the effects of annual or continuous open enrollment periods for
2 Medicare supplemental coverage available in other states, including whether
3 they have led to adverse selection or higher rate increases, or both; other
4 options for enabling Vermont residents to enroll in Medicare supplemental
5 coverage after their initial open enrollment period ends without experiencing
6 higher premiums or financial penalties; and the extent to which an open
7 enrollment change for Medicare supplemental coverage would be likely to
8 increase access to affordable coverage for eligible individuals and to reduce
9 medical debt;

10 (3) whether Vermont residents are receiving accurate information about
11 Medicare supplemental coverage and Medicare Advantage plan options and
12 sufficient assistance with selecting products that are in their best interests and,
13 if not, how to best remedy the situation;

14 (4) the reasons that some Medicare beneficiaries do not have secondary
15 coverage and the policy options available to increase their access; and

16 (5) any other issues that the Department deems appropriate relating to
17 the availability of, enrollment in, and use of supplemental coverage by
18 individuals enrolled in Medicare or in a Medicare Advantage plan.

1 Third: By striking out Sec. 3, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in
2 lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.

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17 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE