
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 15 (S. 37). An act relating to access to legally protected health care activity and regulation of health care providers

Subjects: Health insurance; professional regulation; health care; Office of Professional Regulation; health care providers; Board of Medical Practice; pregnancy centers; reproductive health care services; gender-affirming health care services; medical malpractice insurance; emergency contraception; protected health information

This act adds definitions to statute for the terms “gender-affirming health care services,” “legally protected health care activity,” and “reproductive health care services;” prohibits a medical malpractice insurer from adjusting a health care provider’s risk classification or premium charges based on the health provider providing legally protected health care activity; requires (in statute) that health insurance plans and Medicaid cover gender-affirming health care services and abortion-related services; prohibits a health care provider from being subject to professional disciplinary action for providing or assisting in the provision of legally protected health care activity and establishes new unprofessional conduct standards; establishes a new “unfair and deceptive act” regarding limited-services pregnancy centers to prohibit false and misleading advertising about services; requires the Green Mountain Care Board and the Agency of Human Services to include access to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services as part of ongoing projects and analyses; requires the Office of Professional Regulation to submit a report regarding the State’s participation in interstate compacts (current and future) and directs Vermont compact delegates to support protections for health care providers in compacts; allows pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraception and permits pharmacies and colleges and universities to make nonprescription emergency contraception and other contraceptives available by vending machine; requires Vermont’s public institutions of higher education to report on their students’ access to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services; and, lastly, limits the circumstances under which covered entities and business associates may disclose information regarding legally protected health care activity.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 10, 2023