

1 S.84

2 Introduced by Senator Hardy

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health care providers; primary care; health insurance;

6 Medicaid; Medicare; Green Mountain Care Board

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health
8 insurers, the State Employees' Health Benefit Plan, and the health plans
9 offered to school employees to increase the percentage of total health care
10 spending they allocate to primary care to at least 15 percent and would require
11 the next all-payer model agreement with the federal government to include a
12 provision requiring annual increases in primary care spending in Medicare.

13 An act relating to strengthening primary care and primary care providers

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9414b is added to read:

16 § 9414b. INCREASING PRIMARY CARE SPENDING ALLOCATIONS

17 (a)(1) Each of the following entities shall increase the percentage of total
18 health care spending it allocates to primary care, using the baseline percentages
19 determined by the Green Mountain Care Board in accordance with 2019 Acts
20 and Resolves No. 17, by at least one percentage point per year until primary

1 care comprises at least 15 percent of the plan's or payer's overall annual health
2 care spending:

3 (A) each health insurer with 500 or more covered lives for
4 comprehensive, major medical health insurance in this State;

5 (B) the State Employees' Health Benefit Plan; and

6 (C) health benefit plans offered pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4947 to
7 entities providing educational services.

8 (2) Upon achieving the 15 percent primary care spending allocation
9 required by subdivision (1) of this subsection, each plan or payer shall
10 maintain or increase the percentage of total health care spending it allocates to
11 primary care at or above 15 percent.

12 (3) A plan's or payer's increased proportional spending on primary care
13 shall not:

14 (A) result in higher health insurance premiums;

15 (B) be achieved through increased fee-for-service payments to
16 providers; or

17 (C) increase the plan's or payer's overall health care expenditures.

18 (b)(1) On or before June 1 of each year, each entity listed in subdivisions
19 (a)(1)(A)–(C) of this section shall report to the Green Mountain Care Board the
20 percentage of its total health care spending that was allocated to primary care
21 during the previous plan year.

1 (2) On or before December 1 of each year from 2024 to 2029, the Green
2 Mountain Care Board shall report to the House Committee on Health Care and
3 the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance on progress
4 toward increasing the percentage of health care spending systemwide that is
5 allocated to primary care.

6 Sec. 2. ALL-PAYER MODEL; MEDICARE AGREEMENT; INCREASING
7 PRIMARY CARE SPENDING ALLOCATIONS

8 The Green Mountain Care Board and the Agency of Human Services shall
9 only enter into a new agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
10 Services to waive provisions under Title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social
11 Security Act, or into a renewal or extension of an existing agreement, if the
12 agreement includes a provision requiring the Centers for Medicare and
13 Medicaid Services to achieve annual increases in the percentage of total
14 Medicare spending in Vermont that is allocated to spending on primary care
15 services.

16 Sec. 3. INCREASING MEDICAID PRIMARY CARE PAYMENTS

17 To the greatest extent practicable, the Agency of Human Services shall
18 update and maintain its resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) fee-for-
19 service Medicaid fee schedule for primary care services at 100 percent of the
20 level of the Medicare physician fee schedule in effect for those services and
21 shall implement Medicare's evaluation and management coding changes in the

1 Medicaid program to achieve increases in the RBRVS fee schedule for primary
2 care clinicians and primary care codes.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.