

1 S.189

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; mental health; emergency response; protocol

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
7 Department of Mental Health to develop and distribute mental health response
8 protocols to municipalities. It further requires the Department to enter into
9 memorandums of understanding with State entities providing mental health
10 response services consistent with the protocols developed for municipalities.

11 An act relating to mental health response service protocols

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

13 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 7260 is added to read:

14 § 7260. MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE SERVICE PROTOCOLS

15 (a) The Department shall develop protocols for use by municipalities,
16 including emergency medical technicians and public safety personnel, such as
17 law enforcement officers as defined by 20 V.S.A. § 2351a and firefighters as
18 defined in 20 V.S.A. § 3151, who are employed or under contract with a
19 municipality. The protocols shall prescribe best practices for de-escalation and
20 for mental health response services, including crisis response services. The

1 Department shall distribute the protocols to municipalities and publish the
2 protocols on the Department's website.

3 (b) The Department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with
4 any State entity providing mental health response services, including crisis
5 response services, consistent with the protocols developed pursuant to
6 subsection (a) of this section.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.