

1 S.293

2 Introduced by Senator Brock

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; catastrophic health plans

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
7 Agency of Human Services to seek a waiver to expand access to catastrophic  
8 health plans to Vermonters up to 40 years of age.

9 An act relating to expanding access to catastrophic health plans

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

11 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

12 The General Assembly finds that:

13 (1) According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, from 2014 to 2024, the  
14 average benchmark premium for the second-lowest-cost silver-level plan in  
15 Vermont increased by 130 percent, which represents one of the largest  
16 premium increases in the nation over that time period.

17 (2) According to the 2021 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey  
18 conducted by the Vermont Department of Health pursuant to 18 V.S.A.  
19 § 9410(i), Vermonters 25 to 34 years of age had an uninsured rate of eight  
20 percent, which is significantly higher than the statewide average.

1           (3) Catastrophic health plans are low-premium, high-deductible plans  
2           created pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No.  
3           111-148, that are typically available only to individuals under 30 years of age.

4           (4) Expanding eligibility for catastrophic plans to include Vermonters  
5           up to 40 years of age would help expand access to health insurance and reduce  
6           costs.

7           Sec. 2. EXPANDED ACCESS TO CATASTROPHIC PLANS; WAIVER

8           On or before January 1, 2025, the Secretary of Human Services shall apply  
9           to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a waiver to expand  
10          eligibility for catastrophic health plans authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 18002(e)  
11          to individuals who have not attained 40 years of age before the beginning of  
12          the plan year.

13          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14          This act shall take effect on passage.