

1 H.56

2 Introduced by Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Black of Essex,
3 Bluemle of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Casey of
4 Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of
5 Lincoln, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill
6 of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Sibia of Dover

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Health; prescription drugs; reproductive health care; gender-affirming
10 care

11 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
12 Department of Health to establish an emergency supply of essential
13 medications for reproductive and gender-affirming care.

14 An act relating to establishing an essential medication stockpile for
15 reproductive and gender-affirming care

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

17 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 80 is added to read:

18 CHAPTER 80. ESSENTIAL MEDICATION STOCKPILE FOR

19 REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

20 § 3851. DEFINITIONS

1 As used in this chapter:

2 (1) “Essential medications for reproductive and gender-affirming care”
3 means medications needed for reproductive health care services and
4 medications needed for gender-affirming health care services, including
5 puberty blockers, hormone therapies, medications for termination of a
6 pregnancy, and contraceptive medications.

7 (2) “Gender-affirming health care services” has the same meaning as in
8 1 V.S.A. § 150.

9 (3) “Health care facility” has the same meaning as in section 9402 of
10 this title.

11 (4) “Health care provider” has the same meaning as in section 9402 of
12 this title.

13 (5) “Reproductive health care services” has the same meaning as in 1
14 V.S.A. § 150.

15 § 3852. STOCKPILE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS FOR

16 REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

17 (a) The Department of Health shall assess, purchase, and maintain an
18 emergency supply of essential medications for reproductive and gender-
19 affirming care to ensure the ongoing availability of these medications to
20 individuals in Vermont. The Department may contract or enter into

1 agreements with health care providers, health care facilities, and other
2 qualified entities as needed to establish and administer the emergency supply.

3 (b) The Department of Health shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A.
4 chapter 25 for the administration of the emergency supply, including rules
5 regarding:

6 (1) the specific essential medications for reproductive and gender-
7 affirming care to be stockpiled;

8 (2) the procurement, storage, management, and distribution of the
9 medications, including strategic placement of the medications across the State
10 to ensure equitable access, with priority for underserved and rural
11 communities; and

12 (3) protocols for inventory rotation to minimize waste and ensure
13 regulatory compliance.

14 § 3853. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

15 On or before January 15 of each year, the Department of Health shall report
16 to the General Assembly on the status of the emergency supply of essential
17 medications for reproductive and gender-affirming care, including the average
18 number of doses on hand for each category of medication during the previous
19 calendar year, utilization of each category of medication during the previous
20 calendar year, and the outlook for supply and demand during the forthcoming
21 calendar year.

1 Sec. 2. INITIAL RULEMAKING; EMERGENCY RULES

2 The potential for limitations on access to essential medications for
3 reproductive and gender-affirming care is deemed to constitute an imminent
4 peril to public health, safety, or welfare in satisfaction of the criteria set forth
5 in 3 V.S.A. § 844. In addition to the rulemaking required under 18 V.S.A.
6 § 3852(b), as enacted by Sec. 1 of this act, the Department of Health shall
7 adopt emergency rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 844 on or before
8 September 1, 2025 to establish and maintain the emergency supply of those
9 essential medications.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.