

1 H.293

2 An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry disclosure  
3 requirements

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

5 \* \* \* Health Equity Data Reporting \* \* \*

6 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

7 § 253. DATA RESPONSIVE TO HEALTH EQUITY INQUIRIES

8 \* \* \*

9 (b)(1) The Department of Health shall systematically analyze such health  
10 equity data using the smallest appropriate units of analysis feasible to detect  
11 racial and ethnic disparities, as well as disparities along the lines of primary  
12 language, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and  
13 socioeconomic status, and report the results of such analysis on the  
14 Department's website periodically, but not less than biannually. The  
15 Department's analysis shall be used to measure over time the impact of actions  
16 taken to reduce health disparities in Vermont. The data informing the  
17 Department's analysis shall be made available to the public in accordance with  
18 State and federal law.

19 (2) ~~Annually~~ Every three years beginning in 2028, on or before January  
20 15, the Department shall submit a report containing the results of the analysis  
21 conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to the Senate

1 Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committees on Health  
2 Care and on Human Services.

3 \* \* \* Cancer Registry Disclosure Requirements \* \* \*

4 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 155 is amended to read:

5 § 155. DISCLOSURE

6 \* \* \*

7 (b) The Commissioner may furnish confidential information to the National  
8 Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, other states' cancer  
9 registries, federal cancer control agencies, or health researchers in order to  
10 collaborate in a national cancer registry or to collaborate in cancer control and  
11 prevention research studies. However, before releasing confidential  
12 information, the Commissioner shall first obtain from such state registries,  
13 agencies, or researchers ~~an agreement in writing to keep~~ written assurances  
14 acceptable to the Commissioner that the identifying information shall be kept  
15 confidential and privileged as required by law. In the case of researchers, the  
16 Commissioner shall also first obtain written evidence of the approval of ~~their~~  
17 ~~academic committee for the protection of human subjects established in~~  
18 ~~accordance with 45 C.F.R. part 46~~ an institutional review board or privacy  
19 board in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (B).

20 \* \* \* Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry Disclosure Requirements \* \* \*

21 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 174 is amended to read:

§ 174. CONFIDENTIALITY

(a)(1) All identifying information regarding an individual patient or health care provider is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Commissioner may enter into data sharing and protection agreements with researchers or state, regional, or national amyotrophic lateral sclerosis registries for bidirectional data exchange, provided access under such agreements is consistent with the privacy, security, and disclosure protections in this chapter. In the case of researchers, the Commissioner shall also first obtain written evidence of the approval of ~~their academic committee for the protection of human subjects established in accordance with 45 C.F.R. Part 46~~ an institutional review board or privacy board in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (B). The Commissioner shall disclose the minimum information necessary to accomplish a specified research purpose.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.