

1 H.800  
2 Introduced by Representatives Cole of Hartford, Maguire of Rutland City,  
3 McFaun of Barre Town, and McGill of Bridport  
4 Referred to Committee on  
5 Date:  
6 Subject: Human services; older Vermonters; area agencies on aging  
7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a  
8 single, statewide area agency on aging for the State of Vermont and to revise  
9 the agency's duties to include a focus on coordinating with other service  
10 providers in delivering services and supports to older Vermonters.

11 An act relating to a single, statewide area agency on aging  
12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:  
13 \* \* \* Single Area Agency on Aging \* \* \*  
14 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 6203 is amended to read:  
15 § 6203. DEFINITIONS  
16 As used in this subchapter:  
17 (1) “Area agency on aging” means ~~an~~ the organization designated by the  
18 State to develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated system of  
19 services, supports, and protections for older Vermonters, family caregivers,

1 and kinship caregivers ~~within a defined planning and service area of~~ across the  
2 State.

3 \* \* \*

4 (13) “State Plan on Aging” means the plan required by the Older  
5 Americans Act that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the State and the  
6 area ~~agencies~~ agency on aging in administering and carrying out the Older  
7 Americans Act.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 6205 is amended to read:

10 § 6205. AREA ~~AGENCIES~~ AGENCY ON AGING; DUTIES

11 (a) ~~Consistent~~ Vermont shall have a single, statewide area agency on aging,  
12 which, consistent with the Older Americans Act and in consultation with local  
13 home- and community-based service providers, ~~each area agency on aging~~  
14 shall:

15 (1) develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated system of  
16 services, supports, and protections for older Vermonters, family caregivers,  
17 and kinship caregivers ~~within the agency’s designated service area~~ across  
18 Vermont, in alignment with the Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well  
19 developed pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 3;

6 (4) develop an area plan with goals, objectives, and performance

7 measures, and a corresponding budget, and submit them to the State Unit on  
8 Aging for approval;

17 (6) coordinate services with the Agency of Human Services field offices  
18 to utilize existing administrative infrastructure and ensure that services and  
19 supports are available throughout the State;

20                   (7) designate community focal points for colocation of supports and  
21                   services for older Vermonters;

- 1        (8) notify relevant providers when applying for direct service waivers;
- 2        (9) develop and implement clear and understandable statewide
- 3        eligibility criteria for home-delivered and congregate meals, in consultation
- 4        with providers of these services, which shall include applicable funding
- 5        formulas and analyses of meal costs; and
- 6        (7)(10) conduct outreach activities to identify individuals eligible for
- 7        assistance.

10 (1) promote the principles established in section 6202 of this subchapter  
11 across the ~~agencies'~~ agency's programs and shall collaborate with stakeholders  
12 to educate the public about the importance of each principle;

18                   (4) ensure that any marketing or fundraising materials issued by or on  
19                   behalf of the agency recognize the efforts of the direct service providers with  
20                   whom the agency contracts to deliver services; and

1                   (5) report annually on or before January 15 to the Commissioner of  
2                   Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, the House Committee on Human  
3                   Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the  
4                   number of individuals who were enrolled in services and supports funded by  
5                   the agency during the previous calendar year and the number of individuals  
6                   who sought but were denied those services and supports.

7                   \* \* \* Conforming Revisions \* \* \*

8                   Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 3085b is amended to read:

9                   § 3085b. COMMISSION ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED  
10                   DISORDERS

11                   \* \* \*

12                   (b) The Commission shall be composed of 21 members: the  
13                   Commissioners of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Health  
14                   or designees, the Executive Director of Blueprint for Health or designee, one  
15                   Senator chosen by the Senate Committee on Committees, one Representative  
16                   chosen by the Speaker of the House, and 16 members appointed by the  
17                   Governor. The members appointed by the Governor shall represent the  
18                   following groups and organizations: physicians; social workers; hospitals and  
19                   nursing home managers, including the administrators of the Vermont Veterans'  
20                   Home; the clergy; adult day center providers; registered nurses; residential care  
21                   home operators; family care providers; the home health agency; the legal

1 profession; mental health service providers; the area ~~agencies~~ agency on aging;  
2 University of Vermont's Center on Aging; the Support and Services at Home  
3 (SASH) program; and the Alzheimer's Association. The members appointed  
4 by the Governor shall have direct expertise or experience working with or  
5 caring for individuals impacted by Alzheimer's disease and related disorders,  
6 expertise in clinical and medical research on Alzheimer's disease and related  
7 disorders, or knowledge of health systems and policies to equitably address  
8 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and shall represent, to the degree  
9 possible, the five regions of the State.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 4. 14 V.S.A. § 3091 is amended to read:

12 § 3091. OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIAN ESTABLISHED

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) The Commissioner ~~of the Department~~ of Disabilities, Aging, and  
15 Independent Living shall employ persons as public guardians to act as  
16 designees of the Office and to carry out the duties of the Office of Public  
17 Guardian. Public guardians shall be available for appointment in each ~~of the~~  
18 ~~planning and service areas served by the area agencies on aging~~ region of the  
19 State.

20 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 5. 14 V.S.A. § 3095 is amended to read:

2 § 3095. STATISTICS TO BE MAINTAINED

3 The Office of Public Guardian shall maintain annual statistics concerning  
4 the public guardianship program. The statistics shall include at least the  
5 following:

6 (1) The number of wards for which the Office of Public Guardian was  
7 appointed during the year for each ~~planning service area served by the area~~  
8 ~~agencies on aging region of the State.~~

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 6703 is amended to read:

11 § 6703. CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

12 \* \* \*

13 (b) The Commissioner shall not be required to enter into contracts under  
14 this section if both of the following conditions are met:

15 \* \* \*

16 (2) The Commissioner determines that the program is not accomplishing  
17 its goal of protecting dual eligible individuals from improper denials of  
18 Medicare coverage. The Commissioner shall base this determination on  
19 information obtained from the contractors, providers of health care, the area  
20 agencies agency on aging, and other individuals and organizations affected by  
21 the program.

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

## 2 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

3        This act shall take effect on October 1, 2026, and shall apply to the new  
4        State Plan on Aging that becomes effective on that date.