

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 126 entitled “An act relating to health care payment and delivery system
4 reform” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the report of the House Committee on Health Care be amended as follows:

6 First: By striking out Sec. 11c, health care system transformation; incentives;
7 telehealth, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 11c to read as
8 follows:

9 Sec. 11c. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION; INCENTIVES;

10 TELEHEALTH

11 (a) To encourage hospitals to engage proactively, think expansively, and
12 propose transformation initiatives that will reduce costs to Vermont’s health
13 care system without negatively affecting health care quality or jeopardizing
14 access to necessary services, the Agency of Human Services shall award grants
15 to the hospitals in State fiscal year 2026 that actively participate in health care
16 transformation efforts to assist them in building partnerships, reducing hospital
17 costs for hospital fiscal year 2026, and expanding Vermonters’ access to health
18 care services, including those delivered using telehealth. It is the intent of the
19 General Assembly that the funds appropriated in Sec. 18(b) of this act should
20 be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the funds have been
21 distributed.

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2 **(b) On or before November 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall**
3 **report to the Health Reform Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal**
4 **Committee regarding how much of the \$2,000,000.00 appropriated to the**
5 **Agency pursuant to Sec. 18(b) of this act was obligated as of November 1,**
6 **2025 and how much had already been disbursed to hospitals as of that date.**

7 **Second:** By adding striking out Sec. 17, effective dates, and its reader
8 assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 * * * Positions; Appropriations * * *

10 Sec. 17. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; POSITIONS

11 **(a) The establishment of the following three new permanent classified**
12 **positions is authorized at the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026:**

13 **(1) one Director, Reference-Based Pricing;**

14 **(2) one Project Manager, Reference-Based Pricing; and**

15 **(3) one Operations, Procurement, and Contractual Oversight Manager.**

16 **(b) These positions shall be transferred and converted from existing vacant**
17 **positions in the Executive Branch.**

18 Sec. 18. APPROPRIATIONS

19 **(a) The sum of \$2,200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the**
20 **Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for use as follows:**

1 (1) \$2,000,000.00 for feasibility analysis and transformation plan
2 development with hospitals, designated agencies, primary care organizations,
3 and other community-based providers;

4 (2) \$100,000.00 for development of quality and access measures,
5 targets, and monitoring strategies for the Statewide Health Care Delivery
6 Strategic Plan; and

7 (3) \$100,000.00 to support the development of alternative payment
8 models.

9 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary,
10 the sum of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the
11 Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2026 for grants to hospitals for the
12 collaborative efforts to reduce hospital costs in accordance with Secs. 11a and
13 11c of this act and to expand access to health care services, such as by
14 enhancing telehealth infrastructure development.

15 (c)(1) The sum of \$1,062,500.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain
16 Care Board in fiscal year 2026 for use as follows:

17 (A) \$512,500.00 for the positions authorized in Sec. 17 of this act, as
18 set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection (c);

19 (B) \$500,000.00 from the General Fund for contracts, including
20 contracts for assistance with implementing reference-based pricing in
21 accordance with this act; and

1 (C) \$50,000.00 from the General Fund for a contract with the
2 Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care to engage in quality initiatives in
3 accordance with this act.

4 (2) Of the funds appropriated in subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection:

5 (A) \$205,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund; and

6 (B) \$307,500.00 is appropriated from the Green Mountain Care
7 Board Regulatory and Administrative Fund.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 10301 to the contrary,
9 the sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the Health IT-Fund to the Green
10 Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026 for expenses associated with
11 increased standardization of electronic hospital budget data submissions in
12 accordance with Sec. 4 of this act.

13 * * * Effective Dates * * *

14 Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 (a) Secs. 16 (18 V.S.A. § 9375(d); Green Mountain Care Board annual
16 report), 17 (Green Mountain Care Board; positions), and 18 (appropriations)
17 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

18 (b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.
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5 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE