



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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S.126 – An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform

As Passed by the Senate^{1,i}

Bill Summary

The bill proposes to enact certain health care payment and delivery system reforms to promote the transformation of Vermont’s health care system. The bill would:

- Direct the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to implement reference-based pricing and establish standards for global hospital budgets;
- Require hospitals to disclose more information regarding executive compensation;
- Require the Agency of Human Services (AHS), in collaboration with GMCB, the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR), the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC), the Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA), and an advisory committee (also created in the bill) to develop an integrated Statewide Health Care Delivery Plan; and
- Require AHS to develop an integrated system of clinical and claims data.

Fiscal Impact

The bill as introduced by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare included five new permanent positions and an appropriation of \$1.5 million to GMCB and two new limited-service positions and an appropriation of \$1.78 million to AHS. The bill as passed by the Senate did not include any positions or appropriations.

On April 23, the Senate Committee on Appropriations voted on an amendment to H.493 – An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government – which included appropriations in support of S.126 as passed by the Senate (on March 27, 2025). This included an appropriation of \$2.5 million to the Agency of Human Services and an appropriation of \$3.7 million to the Green Mountain Care Board, including 3 new positions. These appropriations are based on information provided by AHS and the GMCB for what they estimate are the resources needed to fulfill the work envisioned in S.126.

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.

Updated Fiscal Information - S.126	GF	HIT Fund	TOTAL
Agency of Human Services (AHS) - Year One (half of stated need by AHS)			
To support feasibility analysis and transformation plan development with hospitals, DA's, primary care organizations, and other community-based providers	\$2,250,000		
To support development of quality and access measures, targets, and monitoring strategies for a statewide population health plan	\$125,000		
To support development of hospital global budgets or other alternative payment models for Medicaid	\$125,000		
TOTAL TO AHS	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000

Note: AHS estimates the total need is \$5 million. Chart above reflects one-year of funding.

Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB)			
3 classified positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Reference-Based Pricing • Project Manager, Reference Based Pricing • Operations, Procurement, Contractual oversight 	\$512,500		
Contracts	\$500,000		
Standardization of electronic hospital budget data submissions		\$150,000	
TOTAL to GMCB	\$1,012,500	\$150,000	\$1,162,500
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$3,512,500	\$150,000	\$3,662,500

Appendix: Resources

- Green Mountain Care Board – 2024 Reference-Based Pricing and Data Analysis Report, in accordance with Act 113 of 2024, Sec. E.345.2. <https://gmcboard.vermont.gov/Reference-Base-Pricing>
- Vermont State Auditor – Strategies to Control the Rising Costs of State Employee Health Care: Investigative Report 21-07 (2021). <https://auditor.vermont.gov/sites/auditor/files/documents/20211110%20%20State%20Employee%20Health%20Care%20Price%20Variation%20Report.pdf>

ⁱ The bill as introduced is available here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/S-0126/S-0126%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.