

## Proposed House Amendment to S.197

### Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to ~~invest in primary through streamlined primary care payments that build on the Blueprint for Health and will promote the public good by increasing access to primary care~~ promote the public good by: investing in primary care, building on the Blueprint for Health, and investigating the feasibility of enacting a program of universal publicly financed primary care in order to improve the health of Vermonters and reduce health care system costs.

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### Sec. 4. PRIMARY CARE SPENDING; AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; REPORT

On or before January 1, 2027, the ~~Agency of Human Services Green Mountain Care Board~~, in consultation with the ~~Green Mountain Care Board Agency of Human Services~~, shall report to the House Committee on Health Care, ~~and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Universal Primary Care Advisory Group created under Section 11 of this act~~ the baseline per-person per-month spending on primary care services for Vermont residents overall and by each ~~health insurer, third-party administrator administering a health plan or providing administrative services only for a health plan, Medicaid, and Medicare.~~ of the following payer categories: commercial insurance (including self-funded plans), military, federal, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay or uninsured. The ~~Agency Board~~ shall use the statutory definition of primary care providers and services from the Advancing Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) Model or the definition of primary care services used by the New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) found in 33 V.S.A. § 1823(10). In preparing its report, the ~~Agency Board~~, to the extent applicable, shall use data and methodology from the report to the Vermont Legislature by the Agency of Administration dated December 16, 2015 titled "Cost Estimates for Universal Primary Care, in Accordance with Act 54 of 2015, Sections 16–19".

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### Sec. 11. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CARE ADVISORY GROUP

(a) Creation. There is created the Universal Primary Care Advisory Group to advise the Green Mountain Care Board and the General Assembly regarding the financing and implementation of a universal publicly financed primary care program.

(b) Membership. The Advisory Group shall be composed of the following nine members, to be appointed no later than October 1, 2026:

- (1) the Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee;
- (2) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee;
- (3) the Chief Health Care Advocate in the Office of the Health Care Advocate or designee;
- (4) one member of the public who represents agriculture or small business and who is not currently a member of the General Assembly,

appointed by the Governor;

(5) one member of the public who represents wage earners or organized labor and who is not currently a member of the General Assembly,

appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(6) one member of the public who is a primary care clinician and who is not currently a member of the General Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(7) one member of the public who represents older, chronically ill, or disabled Vermonters and who is not currently a member of the General Assembly, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(8) one member of the public who represents an organization that advocates for universal health care and who is not currently a member of the General Assembly, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

(9) one member of the public who is an economist or a tax policy analyst, appointed by the Chair of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

(c) Powers and duties; report. The Advisory Group shall report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2027 regarding the Advisory Group's recommendation for the financing and implementation of a program of publicly financed universal primary care. In making its recommendation, the Advisory Group shall utilize the report made by the Agency of Human Services under Section 4 of this act in order to estimate the amount of public revenue that would be required to implement universal primary care.

d) Assistance. The Advisory Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Green Mountain Care Board.

(e) Meetings. The Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Group to occur on or before March 1, 2027.

At its first meeting, the Advisory Group shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its appointed members of the public. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(f) Compensation. The public members of the Advisory Group appointed pursuant to this act shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings in calendar year 2027 and as approved by the General Assembly for following years. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board.

(g) Termination. The Advisory Group shall cease to exist following enactment and implementation by the State of Vermont of a program of universal primary care.

#### Sec. 412. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage, and ~~that~~ after passage the title of the bill shall be amended to read: "An act relating to ~~payment reform for primary care~~ investing in primary care, building on the Blueprint for Health, and investigating the feasibility of universal primary care."