

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 545 entitled “An act relating to issuing immunization recommendations”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Immunization Recommendations \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1130 is amended to read:

9 § 1130. IMMUNIZATION FUNDING

10 (a) As used in this section:

11 \* \* \*

12 (4) “Immunizations Recommended immunization” means ~~vaccines~~ an  
13 immunization and the application of the ~~vaccines~~ immunization as  
14 recommended by the practice guidelines for children and adults established by  
15 the ~~Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for~~  
16 ~~Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Commissioner pursuant to section~~  
17 1130a of this title.

18 \* \* \*

19 (b)(1) The Department of Health shall administer an immunization  
20 program with the goals of ensuring universal access to vaccines recommended  
21 immunizations for all ~~Vermonters~~ individuals domiciled in the State at no

1 charge to the individual and reducing the cost at which the State may purchase  
2 ~~vaccine~~ recommended immunizations. The Department shall purchase,  
3 provide for the distribution of, and monitor the use of ~~vaccine~~ recommended  
4 immunizations as provided for in this subsection and subsection (c) of this  
5 section. The cost of the ~~vaccine~~ recommended immunizations and an  
6 administrative surcharge shall be reimbursed by health insurers as provided for  
7 in subsections (e) and (f) of this section.

8 (2) The Department shall solicit, facilitate, and supervise the  
9 participation of health care professionals, health care facilities, and health  
10 insurers in the immunization program in order to accomplish the State's goal  
11 of universal access to recommended immunizations at the lowest practicable  
12 cost to individuals, insurers, and State health care programs.

13 (3) The Department shall gather and analyze data regarding the  
14 immunization program for the purpose of ensuring its quality and maximizing  
15 protection of Vermonters against diseases preventable by ~~vaccination~~  
16 immunization.

17 (c) The Department shall determine which recommended immunizations  
18 shall be purchased under the program. The immunization program shall  
19 purchase ~~vaccine~~ recommended immunizations from the federal Centers for  
20 Disease Control and Prevention or another vendor at the lowest available cost

1       identified by the Department. The Department shall determine annually which  
2       vaccines for adults shall be purchased under the program.

3           (d) The immunization program shall provide for distribution of the  
4       vaccines recommended immunizations to health care professionals and health  
5       care facilities for administration to patients.

6           (e) Health insurers shall remit to the Department the cost of vaccines  
7       recommended immunizations, as that cost is established by the Commissioner  
8       of Health based on the recommendation of the Immunization Funding  
9       Advisory Committee established in subsection (g) of this section.

10          (f) The Department shall charge each health insurer a surcharge for the  
11       costs and administration of the immunization program. The surcharge shall be  
12       deposited into an existing special fund and used solely for the purpose of  
13       administering the program.

14           (g)(1) The Immunization Funding Advisory Committee is established to  
15       provide the Commissioner of Health with an annual per-member per-month  
16       cost for vaccines recommended immunizations for the pediatric population, an  
17       annual per-member per-month cost for vaccines recommended immunizations  
18       for the adult population, and a recommendation for the amount of the yearly  
19       vaccine immunization assessment. The Committee shall comprise the  
20       following nine members:

21                  (A) the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy;



9 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1130a is added to read:

## § 1130a. RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATIONS

18                   (b) Prior to issuing recommendations under subsection (a) of this section,  
19                   the Commissioner shall:

20                   (1) consult with the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council,  
21                   established under section 1131 of this title; and

1                   (2) consider recommendations for immunizations issued by the Centers  
2                   for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization  
3                   Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American  
4                   Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American College of  
5                   Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American College of Physicians  
6                   (ACP), and any other organizations the Commissioner may deem necessary.

7                   (c) A health care professional who prescribes, dispenses, or administers an  
8                   immunization in accordance with the recommendations issued pursuant to  
9                   subsection (a) of this section shall be immune from civil and administrative  
10                   liability for immunization-caused adverse events, unless the health care  
11                   professional's actions regarding prescribing, dispensing, or administering an  
12                   immunization constituted gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional  
13                   misconduct.

14                   (d) The Commissioner may issue a standing order authorizing health care  
15                   professionals, including pharmacists, to prescribe, dispense, or administer  
16                   recommended immunizations, or any combination thereof, to the extent that  
17                   prescribing, dispensing, or administering recommended immunizations is  
18                   within the scope of the health care professional's scope of practice.

19                   (e) As used in this section, "health care professional" and "recommended  
20                   immunization" have the same meanings as in section 1130 of this title.

1 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1131 is amended to read:

2 § 1131. VERMONT IMMUNIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

3 (a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Immunization Advisory  
4 Council for the purpose of providing education policy, medical, and  
5 epidemiological expertise and advice to the Department with regard to the  
6 safety of immunizations and immunization schedules.

7 (b) Membership. The Council shall be composed of the following  
8 members:

9 (1) a representative of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice,  
10 appointed by the Governor;

11 (2) the Secretaries of Human Services and of Education or their  
12 designees;

13 (3) the State epidemiologist or designee;

14 (4) the Department of Health's Immunization Program Manager or  
15 designee;

16 (5) a practicing pediatrician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or  
17 33, appointed by the Governor;

18 (6) two individuals who are professors, researchers, or physicians  
19 licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, or any combination these  
20 individuals, with expertise in infectious disease and human immunizations,  
21 appointed by the Governor;

1                   (7) a family or internal medicine physician licensed pursuant to 26

2                   V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, appointed by the Governor;

3                   (5)(8) a representative of both public and independent schools,

4                   appointed by the Governor; and

5                   (6)(9) any other persons deemed necessary by the Commissioner.

6                   (c) Powers and duties Duties. The Council shall:

7                   (1) review and make recommendations regarding the State's  
8                   immunization schedule for attendance in schools and child care facilities; and

9                   (2) provide any other advice and expertise requested by the

10                   Commissioner, including advice regarding immunization recommendations  
11                   issued by the Commissioner pursuant to subsection 1130a(a) of this title.

12                   (d) Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative, ~~technical, and~~  
13                   legal assistance of the Department.

14                   (e) Meetings.

15                   (1) The Council shall convene at the call of the Commissioner, ~~but no~~  
16                   ~~less than once each year.~~

17                   (2) The Council shall select a chair from among its members at the first  
18                   meeting.

19                   (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

20                   \* \* \* Insurance Coverage \* \* \*

21                   Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 4042 is amended to read:

1        § 4042. GROUP INSURANCE POLICIES; REQUIRED POLICY

## 2 PROVISIONS

3 \* \* \*

4 (b) Protections for covered individuals.

5 \* \* \*

6 (4) No cost sharing for preventive services.

9 \* \* \*

10 (ii) recommended immunizations for routine use in children,  
11 adolescents, and adults that have in effect a recommendation from the  
12 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease  
13 Control and Prevention with respect to the individual involved as defined in  
14 18 V.S.A. § 1130;

15 \* \* \*

16 Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 1811 is amended to read:

17       § 1811. HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL  
18                   EMPLOYERS

19 \* \* \*

3 \* \* \*

4 (ii) recommended immunizations for routine use in children,  
5 adolescents, and adults that have in effect a recommendation from the  
6 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease  
7 Control and Prevention with respect to the individual involved as defined in  
8 V.S.A. § 1130;

9 \* \* \*

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

## 11 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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1 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Representative \_\_\_\_\_

4 FOR THE COMMITTEE