

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No.  
3 36 entitled “An act relating to the Medicaid payment model for residential  
4 substance use disorder treatment services” respectfully reports that it has  
5 considered the same and recommends the bill be amended by inserting a new  
6 Sec. 6 and a new section to be Sec. 7 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 6. REPORTS; PUBLIC INEBRIATE SERVICES AND  
8 PROGRAMMING

9 (a)(1) The Departments of Health and of Mental Health’s existing plan to  
10 expand public inebriate services and programming shall prioritize Chittenden  
11 County.

12 (2) On or before February 15, 2026, the Departments of Health and of  
13 Mental Health shall jointly provide a presentation to the House Committees on  
14 Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health  
15 and Welfare describing efforts to expand public inebriate services and  
16 programming pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

17 (b) On or before February 15, 2026, the Department of Corrections shall  
18 provide a presentation to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human  
19 Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare describing efforts  
20 to reinstate the practice of connecting individuals receiving public inebriate

1 services in a correctional facility with appropriate community-based substance  
2 use recovery providers.

3 Sec. 7. REPORTS; HUMAN SERVICES BOARD PROCEEDINGS

4 (a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services, in  
5 consultation with the Human Services Board, Office of the Attorney General,  
6 each of the Agency’s departments with cases before the Human Services  
7 Board, community partners, and individuals with lived experience as  
8 appellants before the Board, shall submit a written report to the House  
9 Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate  
10 Committee on Health and Welfare providing the following information and  
11 recommendations regarding proceedings before the Board:

12 (1) a proposal that attorneys representing the Agency or departments  
13 participate in training that balances the attorney’s ethical obligation to  
14 zealously represent the attorney’s client with the respectful, trauma-informed  
15 treatment of appellants;

16 (2) an analysis of varying appeals processes specific to the Agency and  
17 each department with cases before the Board, including proposals and any  
18 legislative action necessary to improve consistency;

19 (3) a proposal to identify and collect currently unavailable data in a  
20 manner that ensures uniform data collection across the Agency and  
21 departments with cases before the Board, including data regarding cases

1 resolved prior to reaching the stage of hearing officer or full Board  
2 involvement;

3 (4) recommendations for resolving potential appeals prior to reaching  
4 the Board; and

5 (5) any other recommendation requiring legislative action.

6 (b) On or before December 15, 2025, the Human Services Board, in  
7 collaboration with the Agency of Human Services, each of the Agency’s  
8 departments with cases before the Board, the Office of the Attorney General,  
9 community partners, and individuals with lived experience as appellants before  
10 the Board, shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Health  
11 Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and  
12 Welfare providing the following information and recommendations regarding  
13 proceedings before the Board:

14 (1) a proposal to improve understanding of Board processes and  
15 accessibility to appellants, including the use of media and graphics to explain  
16 what the Board is and how it operates;

17 (2) a proposal for the exchange of periodic feedback as part of a  
18 continual quality improvement process between the Board, Agency,  
19 departments appearing before the Board, Office of the Attorney General,  
20 Vermont Legal Aid, and other relevant stakeholders;

1           (3) an analysis of how to enable an appellant to present a personal  
2           narrative without jeopardizing the appellant’s case or disrupting the legal  
3           obligations of the Board and the attorneys representing the Agency or  
4           departments appearing before the Board; and

5           (4) recommendations to improve the reporting and analysis of data to  
6           the General Assembly, including information related to appeal requests  
7           resolved prior to reaching the stage of hearing officer or full Board  
8           involvement.

9           and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct

10          and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
11          relating to the delivery and payment of certain services provided through the  
12          Agency of Human Services, Public Inebriate Services, and Human Services  
13          Board proceedings”

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20          (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE