

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 293 entitled “An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry
4 disclosure requirements” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended
6 by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 * * * Community Violence Prevention Program Report * * *

9 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 13 is amended to read:

10 § 13. COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

11 * * *

12 ~~(d)(1) The Commissioner of Health, in consultation and collaboration with~~
13 ~~the Chief Prevention Officer, the Department of Public Safety, the Director of~~
14 ~~Violence Prevention, the Executive Director of Racial Equity, and the Council~~
15 ~~for Equitable Youth Justice, shall report on the Community Violence~~
16 ~~Prevention Program:~~

17 ~~(A) on or before September 1, 2023 and December 1, 2023 to the~~
18 ~~Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee; and~~

19 ~~(B) on or before January 15, 2024, and annually on that date~~
20 ~~thereafter, to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, the Senate~~

1 ~~Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Human Services,~~
2 ~~and the House Committee on Health Care.~~

3 ~~(2) The report required by this subsection shall include:~~

4 ~~(A) a complete description of the Community Violence Prevention~~
5 ~~Program grant application and award process;~~

6 ~~(B) guidelines for the award of grants developed under subdivision~~
7 ~~(b)(2) of this section;~~

8 ~~(C) the number of applications submitted and grants awarded, and the~~
9 ~~amount of each grant awarded;~~

10 ~~(D) detailed descriptions of the programs and purposes for which all~~
11 ~~grants were awarded;~~

12 ~~(E) the impacts and outcomes of funded projects; and~~

13 ~~(F) descriptions of any grants applied for or awarded. [Repealed.]~~

14 * * * Cancer Registry Disclosure Requirements * * *

15 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 155 is amended to read:

16 § 155. DISCLOSURE

17 * * *

18 (b) The Commissioner may furnish confidential information to the National
19 Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, other states' cancer
20 registries, federal cancer control agencies, or health researchers in order to
21 collaborate in a national cancer registry or to collaborate in cancer control and

1 prevention research studies. However, before releasing confidential
2 information, the Commissioner shall first obtain from such state registries,
3 agencies, or researchers ~~an agreement in writing to keep~~ written assurances
4 acceptable to the Commissioner that the identifying information shall be kept
5 confidential and privileged as required by law. In the case of researchers, the
6 Commissioner shall also first obtain written evidence of the approval of ~~their~~
7 ~~academic committee for the protection of human subjects established in~~
8 ~~accordance with 45 C.F.R. part 46~~ an institutional review board or privacy
9 board in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (B).

10 * * * Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry Disclosure Requirements **and**

11 **Reporting** * * *

12 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 174 is amended to read:

13 § 174. CONFIDENTIALITY

14 (a)(1) All identifying information regarding an individual patient or health
15 care provider is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public
16 Records Act and shall be kept confidential.

17 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
18 Commissioner may enter into data sharing and protection agreements with
19 researchers or state, regional, or national amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
20 registries for bidirectional data exchange, provided access under such
21 agreements is consistent with the privacy, security, and disclosure protections

1 in this chapter. In the case of researchers, the Commissioner shall also first
2 obtain written evidence of the approval of ~~their academic committee for the~~
3 ~~protection of human subjects established in accordance with 45 C.F.R. Part 46~~
4 an institutional review board or privacy board in accordance with 45 C.F.R.
5 § 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (B). The Commissioner shall disclose the minimum
6 information necessary to accomplish a specified research purpose.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 175 is amended to read:

9 § 175. ANNUAL REPORT

10 Annually, on or before ~~January 15~~ November 1, the Department shall
11 submit a written report to the Governor, the House Committee on Human
12 Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare containing the
13 statewide prevalence and incidence estimates of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis,
14 including any trends occurring over time across the State. Reports shall not
15 contain information that directly or indirectly identifies an individual patient or
16 health care provider.

17 * * * Health Equity Data Reporting * * *

18 Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

19 § 252. HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

20 * * *

1 (e) Report. ~~Annually, on~~ On or before January 15 of odd-numbered years,
2 the Advisory Commission shall submit a written report to the Senate
3 Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committees on Health
4 Care and on Human Services with its findings and any recommendations for
5 legislative action. The Advisory Commission is encouraged to base
6 recommendations on the data collected and analysis completed pursuant to
7 section 253 of this title.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

10 § 253. DATA RESPONSIVE TO HEALTH EQUITY INQUIRIES

11 * * *

12 (b)(1) The Department of Health shall systematically analyze such health
13 equity data using the smallest appropriate units of analysis feasible to detect
14 racial and ethnic disparities, as well as disparities along the lines of primary
15 language, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and
16 socioeconomic status, and report the results of such analysis on the
17 Department's website periodically, but not less than biannually. The
18 Department's analysis shall be used to measure over time the impact of actions
19 taken to reduce health disparities in Vermont. The data informing the
20 Department's analysis shall be made available to the public in accordance with
21 State and federal law.

1 (d) ~~The Commissioner of Health shall, on or before February 1 of each~~
2 ~~year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic~~
3 ~~Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government~~
4 ~~Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing~~
5 ~~and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of~~
6 ~~service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were~~
7 ~~deemed to have knowledge of the prevention of food-borne disease, be able to~~
8 ~~apply the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles, and have met the~~
9 ~~criteria for “demonstration of knowledge” requirements set forth by the~~
10 ~~Department of Health in rule for the purposes of obtaining a food~~
11 ~~establishment license as provided pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4303(b) and the total~~
12 ~~number of food establishment licenses issued to those service members and~~
13 ~~veterans. [Repealed.]~~

14 * * * Recovery Service Organizations * * *

15 Sec. 9. REPORT; RECOVERY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

16 On or before February 15, 2027, the Department of Health, in consultation
17 with other Agency of Human Services’ departments and recovery service
18 organizations, shall submit a written report to the House Committees on
19 Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and to the Senate
20 Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare containing

1 information on the total actual income and expenditures for recovery service
2 organizations in fiscal years 2024–2026. Specifically, the report shall address:

3 (1) public funding sources, including all appropriated State funds,
4 federal funds, and municipal funds;

5 (2) recipients of recovery service organization funding;

6 (3) an analysis of recovery service organization grant performance
7 measures and outcomes; and

8 (4) any recommendations for enhancing the financial stability of
9 recovery service organizations.

10 * * * Repeals * * *

11 **Sec. 10. REPEALS**

12 (a) 18 V.S.A. § 5208 (Department of Health; report on statistics) is
13 repealed.

14 (b) 18 V.S.A. § 1756 (lead screening; annual report) is repealed.

15 * * * Effective Date * * *

16 **Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

18 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
19 to miscellaneous amendments to the Department of Health’s reporting and
20 programming requirements”

21 (Committee vote: _____)

1

2

Senator _____

3

FOR THE COMMITTEE