

Proposed language H.951 from S.194

Sec. E.329 DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES;
ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027~~8~~, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, in collaboration with the Departments of Health and of Mental Health and the Office of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services, shall submit a plan to the House Committees on Health Care, on Human Services, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Appropriations for developing and conducting a data-informed, patient-focused, community-inclusive engagement process for Vermont's designated and specialized service agencies that will include:

- (1) hearing from and sharing data, information, trends, and insights with communities about the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies;
- (2) providing opportunities for meaningful participation in all stages of the engagement process by current, former, and prospective clients of designated and specialized service agencies; health care professionals and health care providers, including employees of designated and specialized service agencies; and Vermonters who are diverse with respect to race, income, age, and disability status;
- (3) providing the data, information, and analysis necessary to support the engagement process, including information and trends relating to the current and future states of the designated and specialized service agencies and the workforce challenges they encounter; and
- (4) establishing ways to assess the impact of any changes to the

designated and specialized service agencies on providers, including on workforce recruitment and retention; and

(5) developing recommendations for the Statewide Health Care Delivery Strategic Plan that identifies essential services, aligns expectations with resources, and strengthens the long-term stability of the designated and specialized service agency system.

(b) As part of its fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment presentation, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, in consultation with the Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, and the Office of Health Care Reform, may include a request for an appropriation to hire one or more consultants to support the engagement process recommended pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.