

1 H.346

2 Introduced by Representative Conquest of Newbury

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health care providers; University of Vermont; primary care

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to express  
7 legislative intent that State funding for the University of Vermont College of  
8 Medicine be linked to the College of Medicine's success in increasing to 60  
9 percent the number of its medical students choosing to pursue a primary care  
10 residency, and to direct the College of Medicine to develop a comprehensive  
11 plan for meeting that goal.

12 An act relating to increasing the number of University of Vermont medical  
13 students pursuing primary care residencies

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

16 The General Assembly finds that:

17 (1) Primary care is the foundation on which cost-effective, high-quality  
18 health care is built.

19 (2) All but one of Vermont's counties have unmet need for primary care  
20 services.

1           (3) Vermont's primary care physician workforce is aging: the median  
2           age is 50, 29 percent of primary care physicians are over 60 years of age, and  
3           at least eight percent intend to retire within the year.

4           (4) Vermont lost 15.2 primary care full-time equivalent employees  
5           between 2010 and 2014.

6           (5) Fifty-seven primary care physician positions in Vermont are  
7           currently vacant.

8           (6) Attending medical school in Vermont or completing a residency here  
9           are predictors of staying in Vermont to practice. Forty percent of primary care  
10          physicians in Vermont trained here, and 50 percent of graduates of the  
11          University of Vermont College of Medicine's family medicine residency stay  
12          in Vermont.

13          (7) Over the past five years, the University of Vermont College of  
14          Medicine has produced approximately 15–24 percent of graduates who are  
15          likely to stay in primary care.

16          (8) Some medical schools in the United States graduate as many as 80  
17          percent of their students into primary care residencies.

18          (9) Strategies exist for improving the number of medical students  
19          entering primary care.

1       Sec. 2. INCREASING THE PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN SUPPLY;

2                   LEGISLATIVE INTENT

3           Primary care is the foundation on which a high-quality, cost-effective health  
4           care system is built, and yet Vermont continues to experience a primary care  
5           physician shortage. The State of Vermont invests several million dollars  
6           annually in the University of Vermont College of Medicine. In order to ensure  
7           that the College of Medicine is actively engaged in encouraging its medical  
8           students to pursue residencies in primary care fields, it is the intent of the  
9           General Assembly to link State funding for the University of Vermont College  
10          of Medicine to the College's success in increasing to 60 percent the number of  
11          its medical students choosing to pursue a primary care residency.

12       Sec. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO INCREASE PRIMARY CARE  
13                   RESIDENCIES

14          On or before January 15, 2018, the Dean of the University of Vermont  
15          College of Medicine shall submit to the House Committees on Appropriations  
16          and on Health Care and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on  
17          Health and Welfare a comprehensive plan for the College of Medicine to  
18          increase to 60 percent the number of its medical students choosing to pursue a  
19          primary care residency, including the fields of family medicine, internal  
20          medicine, and pediatrics. The plan shall include strategies for student  
21          selection, institutional support for primary care, methods for promoting an

1 academic culture that values primary care, and benefits such as loan repayment  
2 for students pursuing a career in primary care.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.