

1 S.63

2 Introduced by Senators Sirotkin, Ayer, Lyons, and Westman

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; human services; Health Care Oversight Committee; Mental
6 Health Oversight Committee

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to reinstate the
8 Health Care Oversight Committee permanently and the Mental Health
9 Oversight Committee for one year.

10 An act relating to reinstating the Health Care Oversight and Mental Health
11 Oversight Committees

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

13 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. chapter 24 is added to read:

14 CHAPTER 24. HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

15 § 851. CREATION OF COMMITTEE

16 (a) There is created a legislative Health Care Oversight Committee. The
17 Committee shall be appointed biennially and consist of ten members: five
18 members of the House appointed by the Speaker, not all from the same
19 political party, and five members of the Senate appointed by the Senate
20 Committee on Committees, not all from the same political party. The House

1 appointees shall include one member from the House Committee on Human
2 Services, one member from the House Committee on Health Care, one member
3 from the House Committee on Appropriations, and two at-large members. The
4 Senate appointees shall include one member from the Senate Committee on
5 Health and Welfare, one member from the Senate Committee on Finance, one
6 member from the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and two at-large
7 members.

8 (b) The Committee may adopt rules of procedure to carry out its duties.

9 § 852. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

10 (a) The Health Care Oversight Committee shall monitor, oversee, and
11 provide a continuing review of health care and human services programs in
12 Vermont when the General Assembly is not in session; provided, however, that
13 review of matters related to mental health and health care reform shall remain
14 in the jurisdiction of the Mental Health Oversight and Health Reform
15 Oversight Committees, respectively, for as long as each Committee is
16 authorized by law.

17 (b) In conducting its oversight and in order to fulfill its duties, the
18 Committee may consult with consumers, providers, advocates, administrative
19 agencies and departments, and other interested parties.

1 (c) The Committee shall work with, assist, and advise other committees of
2 the General Assembly, members of the Executive Branch, and the public on
3 matters relating to health care and human services programs.

4 (d) Annually, on or before January 15, the Committee shall report its
5 findings and any recommendations to the Governor and the committees of
6 jurisdiction.

7 § 853. MEETINGS AND STAFF SUPPORT

8 (a) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
9 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
10 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

11 (b) The Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office shall
12 provide professional and administrative support to the Committee. The
13 Department of Financial Regulation, the Agency of Human Services, and other
14 agencies of the State shall provide information, assistance, and support upon
15 request of the Committee.

16 Sec. 2. MENTAL HEALTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

17 (a) The Mental Health Oversight Committee is created to ensure that
18 consumers have access to a comprehensive and adequate continuum of mental
19 health services. The Committee shall be composed of one member from each
20 of the House Committees on Human Services, on Corrections and Institutions,
21 and on Appropriations and a member-at-large to be appointed by the Speaker

1 of the House, not all from the same party, and one member from each of the
2 Senate Committees on Health and Welfare, on Institutions, and on
3 Appropriations and one member-at-large to be appointed by the Committee on
4 Committees, not all from the same party. Initial appointments shall be made
5 upon passage of this act.

6 (b) Members of the Committee shall serve as the liaison to their respective
7 legislative standing committees with primary jurisdiction over the various
8 components of Vermont's mental health system. The Committee shall work
9 with, assist, and advise the other committees of the General Assembly,
10 members of the Executive Branch, and the public on matters related to
11 Vermont's mental health system.

12 (c) The Committee is authorized to meet up to six times per year while the
13 General Assembly is not in session to perform its functions under this section.

14 (d) The Commissioner of Mental Health shall report to the Committee as
15 required by the Committee.

16 (e) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
17 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
18 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

19 (f) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal
20 assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

21 (g) The Mental Health Oversight Committee shall provide a progress report

1 to each of the committees represented thereon on or before January 1, 2016.

2 (h) The Committee shall cease to exist after January 1, 2016.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.