

Below is a list of health-care related legislation currently under consideration by the Vermont General Assembly. Bills are listed in chronological order, with the most recent first.

To view the full text of the below bills click on the bill number or go to:

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/introduced/2018>

H.506

AN ACT RELATING TO PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS REGULATED BY THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

This bill proposes to make miscellaneous amendments to statutes governing professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.506>

H.507

AN ACT RELATING TO NEXT GENERATION MEDICAID ACO PILOT PROJECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This bill proposes to require the Department of Vermont Health Access to provide periodic reports to the Health Reform Oversight Committee, the legislative committees of jurisdiction, and the Office of the Health Care Advocate regarding implementation of a one-year pilot project agreement between the Department and an accountable care organization. It would also direct the Green Mountain Care Board to keep the same parties apprised of its progress in implementing the All-Payer Model and preparing to regulate accountable care organizations.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.507>

H.508

AN ACT RELATING TO BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

This bill proposes to create the Adverse Childhood Experiences Working Group.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.508>

S.133

AN ACT RELATING TO EXAMINING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND CARE COORDINATION

This bill proposes to examine various aspects of the mental health system in order to improve access to care and care coordination throughout the system.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.133>

H.500

AN ACT RELATING TO SUSPICION-BASED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TESTING AND TREATMENT FOR RECIPIENTS OF TANF

This bill proposes to require suspicion-based drug testing for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and to offer substance use disorder treatment for recipients whose test results are positive.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.500>

H.496

AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

This bill proposes to require the professional regulation of medical assistants, pending the Office of Professional Regulation's preliminary assessment of this profession pursuant 1 to 26 V.S.A. § 3105(d)

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.496>

S.107

AN ACT RELATING TO LIMITING DRUG-RELATED CRIMINAL LIABILITY AND CIVIL FORFEITURE ACTIONS AGAINST PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH AN APPROVED SAFER DRUG CONSUMPTION PROGRAM

This bill proposes to limit drug-related criminal liability and civil forfeiture actions against persons associated with an approved safer drug consumption program.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.107>

H.468

AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT AT STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

This bill proposes to provide medication-assisted treatment at all State correctional facilities.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.468>

H.477

AN ACT RELATING TO IMPOSING AN EXCISE TAX ON FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING SUGAR

This bill proposes to impose an excise tax on food products containing sugar. The rate of the tax is \$0.0005 per gram of sugar.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.477>

H.489

AN ACT RELATING TO EXPANDING PATIENT ACCESS TO THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGISTRY

This bill proposes to waive the three-month patient-health care professional relationship requirement when the patient is referred to a specialist who completes a full examination and

signs the medical verification form; expand the list of qualifying medical conditions; increase the number of dispensaries from four to six once the number of registered patients who have designated a dispensary reaches 4,000; allow dispensaries to serve patients and caregivers at more than one location; allow dispensaries to advertise; allow a patient to possess up to three ounces of marijuana; clarify that a dispensary may cultivate marijuana outdoors, provided the marijuana is in an enclosed, locked facility shielded from public view; allow a patient or caregiver to cultivate marijuana even if the patient has designated a dispensary; allow a dispensary to convert to a for-profit; require continuing medical education to include training on the Medical Marijuana Registry; require the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to test independently marijuana-infused edible or potable products sold by a dispensary to ensure appropriate labeling of the tetrahydrocannabinol content.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.489>

H.490

AN ACT RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION AND SALE OF MARIJUANA

This bill proposes to establish an adult use commercial marijuana regulatory system. The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets would license cultivators, wholesalers, product manufacturers, retailers, and testing laboratories. The bill also establishes a structure for taxing commercial sales. It creates a wholesale tax equal to percent of the wholesale sales price, a retail tax equal to 10 percent of the retail sales price, and a local tax of 2.5 percent of the retail sales price. The revenue from these taxes goes to pay for the regulation of marijuana sales, to the General Fund, and to the towns in which the sales are made.

The act also allows marijuana cultivation cooperatives whereby up to 10 members may assign their right to grow marijuana to a co-op that will manage the cultivation. The marijuana cultivated at the co-op is for the members only

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.490>

H.403

AN ACT RELATING TO PRESERVING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS' INDEPENDENT MEDICAL JUDGMENT

This bill proposes to establish a statutory framework to ensure that health care professionals in Vermont retain the unfettered ability to exercise their independent medical judgment, regardless of their affiliation, if any, with a hospital, health insurer, accountable care organization, health clinic, or other public or private entity. It would also allow Vermont patients to opt out of having an electronic health record and other electronic transmission of their health care information.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.403>

H.404

AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTIVES

This bill proposes to require Medicaid to reimburse health care providers for the full cost of a long-acting reversible contraceptive inserted during a Medicaid beneficiary's postpartum hospital stay.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.404>

H.422

AN ACT RELATING TO CONFISCATION OF DANGEROUS OR DEADLY WEAPONS FROM A PERSON ARRESTED OR CITED FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT

This bill proposes to require a law enforcement officer to confiscate a dangerous or deadly weapon from a person who is arrested or cited for domestic assault if the weapon is (1) in the immediate possession or control of the person being arrested or cited; (2) in plain view of the officer; or (3) discovered during a consensual search.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.422>

H.433

AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY WARNINGS ON SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES

This bill proposes to require that sugar-sweetened beverages sold or distributed in Vermont bear a health and safety warning.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.433>

H.434

AN ACT RELATING TO HOME-DELIVERED MEALS AS A REIMBURSABLE COVERED SERVICE

This bill proposes to require the Secretary of Human Services to apply for an amendment to Vermont's Global Commitment waiver to allow home-delivered meals to be treated as a reimbursable covered service.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.434>

H.438

AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH PROMOTION

This bill proposes to require health insurance coverage for services promoting healthy behaviors and to direct Vermont schools to include aspects of health promotion throughout their curriculum and facilities.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.438>

H.441

AN ACT RELATING TO LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS

This bill proposes to create a pilot program for testing potable water sources within schools for elevated concentrations of lead. It also creates a working group to assess whether soil surrounding schools and interior and exterior painted surfaces in schools should be tested for elevated concentrations of lead.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.441>

H.381

AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINTS ON A JUVENILE IN CUSTODY

This bill proposes to limit the use of physical restraints on a child in custody to situations when the child is uncontrollable and presents a danger to him or herself or others.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.381>

H.386

AN ACT RELATING TO HOME HEALTH AGENCY PROVIDER TAXES

This bill proposes to revise the home health agency provider tax base, establish a cap on total home health agency provider tax revenues, and create an annual inflationary increase for home health agency Medicaid rates.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.386>

H.393

AN ACT RELATING TO OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF NEED PRIOR TO OPERATING A PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINIC

This bill proposes to require a pain management clinic to obtain a certificate of need prior to commencing operation.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.393>

H.335

AN ACT RELATING TO REDUCING THE RISK OF HEAD INJURY DURING ATHLETIC EVENTS

This bill proposes to require elementary and secondary schools to take action to reduce the risk of head injury during athletic events.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.335>

H.346

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEDICAL STUDENTS PURSUING PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCIES

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

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.346>

S.88

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING THE SMOKING AGE FROM 18 TO 21 YEARS OF AGE

This bill proposes to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21 years of age.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.88>

S.90

AN ACT RELATING TO COORDINATING VERMONT'S RESPONSE TO ADVERSE CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY EXPERIENCES

This bill proposes to require the Deputy Secretary of Human Services to coordinate the Agency's prevention and treatment of childhood trauma. It also proposes to establish a universal home visiting program. The bill proposes to encourage the use of adverse childhood and family experience screening tools, incentivize provider use, incorporate education in medical and nursing school curricula, and assess regional capacity for program growth.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.90>

H.305

AN ACT RELATING TO LIVE ORGAN DONATION

This bill proposes to provide up to \$5,000.00 in State income tax credits to cover unreimbursed costs associated with live organ donation. It would also create a working group to recommend whether to require employers to provide leave to employees for organ and bone marrow donation.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.305>

H.306

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF NURSING HOMES ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE PATIENTS ON VENTILATORS

This bill proposes to direct the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to ensure that at least one nursing home in each county in this State has the ability to accommodate patients who are on ventilators.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.306>

H.307

AN ACT RELATING TO GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

This bill proposes to require the court to consider the best interest of the child in any guardianship proceeding, and to require that a parent attempting to terminate a guardianship have the burden of proof to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the parent is suit able.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.307>

H.309

AN ACT RELATING TO SUBSTITUTION OF EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTOR DEVICES

This bill proposes to require pharmacists to substitute a lower-cost epinephrine auto-injector than the one prescribed for a patient if the patient consents to the substitution.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.309>

H.314

AN ACT RELATING TO SYMPTOM RELIEF FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

This bill proposes to add Alzheimer's disease to the list of qualifying medical conditions for the Medical Marijuana Registry.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.314>

H.320

AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIANS' DUTIES UNDER THE PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PALLIATIVE CARE AND PAIN MANAGEMENT

This bill proposes to specify that the patient's bill of rights for palliative care and pain management does not impose on physicians an affirmative duty to offer information that has not been requested by a patient regarding patient choices at the end of life.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.320>

H.280

AN ACT RELATING TO PRESCRIBING BY DOCTORAL-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS

This bill proposes to allow the Board of Psychological Examiners to confer prescribing authority upon doctoral-level psychologists who have completed specific educational and training requirements.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.280>

H.281

AN ACT RELATING TO PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

This bill proposes to create a trauma-informed service director in the Agency of Human Services. It also proposes to establish a universal home visiting program, as well as a pilot program in a federally qualified health center. The bill proposes to encourage the use of adverse childhood experience screening tools, incentivize provider use, incorporate education in medical and nursing school curricula, and assess regional capacity for program growth.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.281>

H.282

AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACUPUNCTURE

This bill proposes to require health insurance plans to cover acupuncture.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.282>

H.283

AN ACT RELATING TO PROTECTING AGAINST FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

This bill proposes to create legal protections to limit the effects of a vulnerable adult's exposure to financial exploitation.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.283>

H.284

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING MEDICAID RATES FOR HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS

This bill proposes to require annual inflationary increases to Medicaid reimbursement rates for home-and community-based service providers.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.284>

H.293

AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES LOAN FORGIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This bill proposes to create a Mental Health and Addiction Services Loan Forgiveness and Development Program.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.293>

H.298

AN ACT RELATING TO REQUIRING AN ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONSULTATION PRIOR TO ISSUING CERTAIN PRESCRIPTIONS

This bill proposes to require a physician to consult with the Adult Protective Services program prior to writing a prescription for certain patients with a terminal condition for medication to be self-administered to hasten death. It would also provide the physician with information about investigative reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult and access to information from the Adult Protective Services Registry.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.298>

S.87

AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF STUDENTS

This bill proposes to extend the statute of limitations for certain sex crimes; clarify that a superintendent or headmaster is not permitted to enter into a confidential employment separation agreement that inhibits the disclosure to prospective employers of factual information about a prospective employee's background that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the prospective employee has engaged in conduct jeopardizing the safety of a minor; and establishes the Committee for Enhancing School Safety.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.87>

H.271

AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This bill proposes to require the State to maximize participant eligibility and simplify the administrative burden on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applicants and participants. It also creates the SNAP Advisory Council.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.271>

H.272

AN ACT RELATING TO SEGREGATION OF INMATES REQUIRING TREATMENT

This bill proposes to amend the definition of segregation to allow inmates requiring treatment to be kept in treatment settings.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.272>

H.275

AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO EMERGENCY BUPRENORPHINE

This bill proposes to require that the Department of Health ensure emergency buprenorphine be available within 24 hours when requested by a Vermont resident meeting the medication-assisted treatment (MAT) criteria who is unable to access MAT within that time frame.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.275>

H.245

AN ACT RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT UNITS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

This bill proposes to limit the time inmates designated with a serious functional impairment can spend in segregation and to allocate funds for an additional residential treatment unit within the Department of Corrections.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.245>

H.247

AN ACT RELATING TO REPORTING ON ADVERSE REACTIONS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATIONS

This bill proposes to require the Department of Health to submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding adverse reactions reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.247>

H.254

AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIAN-PATIENT RELATIONSHIPS AND VERMONT RESIDENCY FOR PATIENT CHOICE AT END OF LIFE

This bill proposes to require a physician to have had a professional relationship with a patient with a terminal condition for at least six months before prescribing medication for the patient to self-administer for the purpose of hastening death. It would also clarify the definition of a Vermont resident for purposes of the patient choice at end of life laws.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.254>

H.255

AN ACT RELATING TO REQUIRING A WITNESS AND INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATION IN EXERCISING PATIENT CHOICE AT END OF LIFE

This bill proposes to require an independent third party to be present when a patient self-administers a lethal dose of medication to hasten his or her own death. It would also require that the patient be able to make and communicate health care decisions personally and not through another person familiar with the patient's manner of communicating.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.255>

H.256

AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS

This bill proposes to revise the purpose and procedures of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Board; to require all critical access hospitals to provide patients with care from a paid employee who is also a certified sexual assault nurse examiner or have access to a shared regional staffing pool that includes certified sexual assault nurse examiners; to require appropriate emergency department personnel at all hospitals to receive at a minimum annual training by the SANE Program regarding standards for care of sexual assault patients; and to create the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Study Committee for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive examination of issues related to sexual assault evidence kits.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.256>

H.263

AN ACT RELATING TO PATIENT TESTING FOR BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN-RELATED ILLNESSES AFTER POSSIBLE TRANSMISSION TO HEALTH CARE, SAFETY, OR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

This bill proposes to enable a health care worker, public safety personnel, or emergency personnel exposed to the blood or bodily fluids of a patient to petition the Superior Court to order the patient to obtain a test for bloodborne pathogen-related illnesses when voluntary consent is denied.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.263>

H.264

AN ACT RELATING TO THE NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S MEALS

This bill proposes to require restaurants licensed by the Department of Health to serve only children's meals that meet certain nutritional standards.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.264>

H.230

AN ACT RELATING TO CONSENT BY MINORS FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

This bill proposes to allow minors to consent to mental health treatment for any condition related to the minors sexual orientation or gender identity.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.230>

H.236

AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING THE VERMONT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FUND

This bill proposes to create a funding mechanism for the Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Fund established in 33V.S.A. §7801 by increasing surcharges for moving violations.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.236>

H. 237

AN ACT RELATING TO SALIVA TESTING

This bill proposes to allow law enforcement to use saliva testing on operators of motor vehicles reasonably suspected to be drug-impaired.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.237>

H.211

AN ACT RELATING TO THE WATER RESOURCES AND WATER SUPPLIES OF THE STATE

This bill proposes to require public water systems to provide notice of drinking water quality violations. The bill also requires monitoring of cyanobacteria outbreaks in the State to be conducted between June 1 and November 1 annually. The bill requires pollution abatement facilities to implement electronic or automatic reporting. In addition, the bill would require the Secretary of Natural Resources to submit to the General Assembly a strategy for reducing the land application of septage and sludge in the State.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.211>

H.213

AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING STATEWIDE ACCESS TO DRUG AND DUI TREATMENT COURTS

This bill proposes to establish statewide access to drug and DUI treatment courts programs operating in compliance with national best practice standards by 2022 by:

- (1) finding that national data revealed drug and DUI court programs deliver a high return on investment and currently there is only one DUI Treatment Docket operating in the State;
- (2) creating the Drug and DUI Treatment Courts Grants Board to assist counties in establishing treatment court programs compliant with best practice standards and to administer grant monies in support of these programs across the State;

- (3) directing the Chief Administrative Judge to recommend a rollout schedule for providing statewide access to treatment court programs within the next five years;
- (4) requiring joint reporting by the Drug and DUI Treatment Courts Grants Board and the County Drug Court Coordinator on the rollout of the treatment courts in 2019;
- (5) establishing the Drug and DUI Treatment Courts Special Fund;
- (6) imposing a surcharge on the cost of obtaining a criminal history or conviction record to assist in funding statewide access to drug and DUI treatment courts

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.213>

H.214

AN ACT RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF AN EXCISE TAX ON SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES

This bill proposes to impose an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and to direct revenue from the tax to the Adverse Childhood Experiences Initiative Fund.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.214>

H.199

AN ACT RELATING TO REINSTATING LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS

This bill proposes to reinstate two legislative members to the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.199>

H.206

AN ACT RELATING TO ADDING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER TO THE LIST OF QUALIFIED MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR THERAPEUTIC USE OF CANNABIS AND WAIVING THE THREE-MONTH PROFESSIONAL-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR VETERANS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

This bill proposes to add post-traumatic stress disorder to the list of qualified medical conditions for therapeutic use of cannabis and to waive the three-month professional-patient relationship requirement for veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, provided the patient has a documented diagnosis from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.206>

H.207

AN ACT RELATING TO THERAPEUTIC USE OF MARIJUANA FOR RELIEVING SYMPTOMS OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

This bill proposes to allow people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder to use marijuana for therapeutic purposes to relieve symptoms of the disorder and to allow a psychologist to sign the medical verification form for a registry applicant.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.207>

S.70

AN ACT RELATING TO THE NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S MEALS

This bill proposes to require restaurants licensed by the Department of Health to serve only children's meals that meet certain nutritional standards.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.70>

S.71

AN ACT RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF IMMUNIZATIONS BY PHARMACISTS

This bill proposes to enable pharmacists to administer immunizations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to individuals seven years of age or older.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.71>

H.192

AN ACT RELATING TO IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING EMERGENCIES

This bill proposes to make licensed professionals immune from civil liability for injuries caused by the provision of essential services during states of emergency declared by the Governor.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.192>

H.178

AN ACT RELATING TO THE TAXATION OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

This bill proposes to subject electronic cigarettes to wholesale tax on "other tobacco products" under current law.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.178>

H.179

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING THE TOBACCO TAX ON CIGARETTES AND NEW SMOKELESS TOBACCO

This bill proposes to raise the rate of tax on a pack of cigarettes by \$1.25 per pack and to raise the tax on new smokeless tobacco products by a corresponding amount.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.179>

H.184

AN ACT RELATING TO EVALUATION OF SUICIDE PROFILES

This bill proposes to require the Department of Mental Health to evaluate the profile and factors related to each suicide in the State.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.184>

H.187

AN ACT RELATING TO PROHIBITING SMOKING OUTSIDE PLACES OF BUSINESS

This bill proposes to prohibit smoking within 25 feet of the entrance or exit of a place of business.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.187>

S.64

AN ACT RELATING TO SCIENCE-BASED DRUG EDUCATION

This bill proposes to require the Secretary of Education to develop the curriculum for a comprehensive science-based drug education course and to require this course to be included in the minimum course of study.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.64>

H.170

AN ACT RELATING TO POSSESSION AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA BY A PERSON 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

This bill proposes to remove all criminal and civil penalties for possession of two ounces or less of marijuana and cultivation of two mature marijuana plants and seven immature marijuana plants for a person who is 21 years of age or older; adjust the civil and criminal penalties for possession and cultivation of marijuana in amounts in excess of the legalized amounts; establish civil penalties for consuming marijuana in public and cultivating marijuana in a manner that is not on property lawfully in possession of the cultivator or without the consent of the person in lawful possession of the property or outside an enclosure that is screened from public view; establish criminal penalties and a civil action for damages for furnishing marijuana to a person under 21 years of age; and establish a crime of chemical extraction of marijuana.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.170>

H.172

AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BONE MARROW TESTING

This bill proposes to require health insurance plans to provide coverage for expenses related to bone marrow testing.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.172>

H.151

AN ACT RELATING TO REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR THE TRANSFER OF FIREARMS

This bill proposes to require that a background check be conducted on the proposed transferee before a firearm may be transferred unless the transfer is between immediate family members, by or to a law enforcement agency, or by or to a law enforcement officer or member of the U.S. Armed Forces acting within the course of his or her official duties.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.151>

S. 55

AN ACT RELATING TO TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER REGULATED DRUG SALES

This bill proposes to expand Vermont's territorial jurisdiction over prohibited regulated drug sales.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.55>

S.57

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASE CONSUMER AWARENESS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

This bill proposes to require pharmacy benefit managers to provide explanations of benefits for prescription drug claims. It would also direct the Department of Financial Regulation to amend its rules to require Exchange plans to post online the range of actual coinsurance amounts for each prescription drug on their plan formularies based on the lowest and highest prices currently available at pharmacies located in Vermont.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.57>

H.145

AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE COMMISSION

This bill proposes to establish the Mental Health Crisis Response Commission for the purpose of reviewing fatalities and serious bodily injuries that occur during interactions between law enforcement and persons demonstrating symptoms of mental illness.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.145>

H.146

AN ACT RELATING TO TESTS TO DETERMINE THE BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR

This bill proposes to make Vermont's implied consent statute consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Birchfield v. North Dakota* by providing that:

(1) a warrant is required before a blood test can be given to a person suspected of DUI; and (2) a person cannot be criminally prosecuted for refusing to submit to the blood test.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.146>

H.149

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING MEALS TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AT CONFERENCES

This bill proposes to allow manufacturers of prescribed products to provide buffet meals, snacks, soft drinks, and coffee to Vermont health care providers if they are made generally available to all participants at large-scale conferences and seminars and other large-scale events.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.149>

S.53

AN ACT RELATING TO A UNIVERSAL, PUBLICLY FINANCED PRIMARY CARE SYSTEM

This bill proposes to establish a system of universal, publicly financed primary care for all Vermonters beginning in 2019.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.53>

H.129

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON NUTRITION TO RECIPIENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This bill proposes to require the Department of Health to develop educational materials on nutrition and the Department for Children and Families to deliver the educational materials to recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.129>

H.131

AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSING AND REGULATING ART THERAPISTS

This bill proposes to require the Office of Professional Regulation to license and regulate art therapists.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.131>

H.134

AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE AGENCY OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

This bill proposes to establish the Agency of Controlled Substances to administer and enforce the laws relating to alcohol, tobacco, therapeutic cannabis, the State Lottery, games of chance, horse racing, motor racing, and boxing.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.134>

H.136

AN ACT RELATING TO ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT EMPLOYEES

This bill proposes to require employers to provide an accommodation to a pregnant employee unless the accommodation would impose undue hardship on the employer.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.136>

H.138

AN ACT RELATING TO CO-PAYMENTS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

This bill proposes to limit the co-payment amount for physical therapy services under a health insurance plan to the amount of the co-payment for primary care services.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.138>

S.50

AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES DELIVERED IN OR OUTSIDE A HEALTH CARE FACILITY

This bill proposes to require Medicaid and health insurance coverage for telemedicine services delivered in or outside a health care facility by several types of health care providers.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.50>

H.126

AN ACT RELATING TO CIRCULATING NURSES IN HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOMS

This bill proposes to require that a circulating nurse be present in hospital operating rooms during an invasive or surgical procedure.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.126>

H.127

AN ACT RELATING TO PROHIBITING SMOKING IN MULTI-UNIT HOUSING

This bill proposes to prohibit smoking in condominiums and other multi-unit housing in Vermont.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.127>

S.45

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING MEALS TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AT CONFERENCES

This bill proposes to allow manufacturers of prescribed products to provide buffet meals, snacks, soft drinks, and coffee to Vermont health care providers if they are made generally available to all participants at large-scale conferences and seminars and other large-scale events.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.45>

H.103

AN ACT RELATING TO PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT OF THE ADULT SEATBELT LAW

This bill proposes to authorize primary enforcement of the seatbelt law for adults.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.103>

H.106

AN ACT RELATING TO PRESUMED CONSENT FOR ORGAN DONATION

This bill proposes to presume that all adult Vermont residents consent to organ donation upon death unless an individual specifically refuses to make an anatomical gift.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.106>

H.108

AN ACT RELATING TO LIMITING DRUG-RELATED CRIMINAL LIABILITY AND CIVIL FORFEITURE ACTIONS AGAINST PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH AN APPROVED SAFER DRUG CONSUMPTION PROGRAM

This bill proposes to limit drug-related criminal liability and civil forfeiture actions against persons associated with an approved safer drug consumption program.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.108>

H.111

AN ACT RELATING TO VITAL RECORDS

This bill proposes to revise Vermont statutes related to vital records.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.111>

H.115

AN ACT RELATING TO DEFINING AN OUNCE OF MARIJUANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF THERAPEUTIC USE

This bill proposes to define one ounce of marijuana as 28.3 grams for the purpose of therapeutic use.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.115>

H.118

AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES DELIVERED IN OR OUTSIDE A HEALTH CARE FACILITY

This bill proposes to require Medicaid and health insurance coverage for telemedicine services delivered in or outside a health care facility by several types of health care providers.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.118>

H.124

AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

This bill proposes to prohibit management of mental health insurance benefits separately from other health care benefits. It also prohibits prior authorization requirements for mental

health care that differ from medical or surgical prior authorization requirements.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.124>

H.100

AN ACT RELATING TO SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION DURING SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

This bill proposes to require the Secretary of Education and public and approved independent schools to take steps to prevent sudden cardiac arrest by students participating in school athletic activities.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.100>

H.77

AN ACT RELATING TO EXPANDING THE VERMONT PRACTITIONER RECOVERY NETWORK

This bill proposes to expand the Vermont Practitioner Recovery Network to include treatment for psychiatric disabilities in addition to substance use.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.77>

H.86

AN ACT RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF VISION INSURANCE PLANS

This bill proposes to regulate vision insurance plans as health insurance.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.86>

H.90

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING HEALTH COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS

This bill proposes to require health insurance plans to provide coverage for hearing aids and related services. It would also establish the Hearing Aid Assistance Program to provide Vermont residents with low income who are on Medicare with financial assistance for costs associated with hearing aids.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.90>

H.65

AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ENTERAL FORMULA FOR HOME USE

This bill proposes to require health insurance coverage for nonprescription enteral formula for home use.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.65>

H.70

AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DOULA SERVICES

This bill proposes to require Medicaid coverage for doula service during labor and birth and for the prenatal and postpartum periods.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.70>

S.35

AN ACT RELATING TO NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

This bill proposes to establish a new misdemeanor crime of nonconsensual sexual conduct.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.35>

S.37

AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH A TERMINAL ILLNESS

This bill proposes to provide access to experimental medical treatment for patients with a terminal illness. It would allow manufacturers to provide access to, and health insurers to provide coverage for, investigational drugs, biological products, and devices to eligible patients. The bill would also provide immunity for physicians who prescribe or recommend experimental treatments.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.37>

H.52

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING THE SMOKING AGE FROM 18 TO 21 YEARS OF AGE

This bill proposes to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21 years of age.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.52>

H.54

AN ACT RELATING TO THE TOTAL ABSTINENCE PROGRAM

This bill proposes to remove the use of prescription medication as a disqualification for restoration of driving privileges under the Total Abstinence program.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.54>

S.31

AN ACT RELATING TO CIRCULATING NURSES IN HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOMS

This bill proposes to require that a circulating nurse be present in hospital operating rooms during an invasive or surgical procedure.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.31>

S.33

AN ACT RELATING TO THE ROZO MCLAUGHLIN FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

This bill proposes to make multiple amendments to the requirements of the Roza McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program (Program), including specifying the purpose and State goal of the Program.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.33>

H.34

AN ACT RELATING TO BANNING BABY BUMPER PADS

This bill proposes to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transfer of baby bumper pads in this State.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.34>

S.16

AN ACT RELATING TO EXPANDING PATIENT ACCESS TO THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGISTRY

This bill proposes to waive the three-month patient-health care professional relationship requirement when the patient is referred to a specialist who completes a full examination and signs the medical verification form; expand list of qualifying medical conditions; increase the number of dispensaries from four to eight; allow dispensaries to advertise; allow a patient to possess up to three ounces of marijuana; clarify that a dispensary may cultivate marijuana outdoors provided the marijuana is in an enclosed, locked facility shielded from public view; allow a patient or caregiver to cultivate marijuana even if the patient has designated a dispensary; allow a dispensary to convert to a for-profit; require continuing medical education to include training on the Medical Marijuana Registry; require the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to independently test marijuana labeling of the tetrahydrocannabinol content infused edible or potable products sold by a dispensary to ensure appropriate .

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.16>

S.19

AN ACT RELATING TO PRESERVING THE OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN BRONZE-LEVEL EXCHANGE PLANS

This bill proposes to delay for one year a requirement that the Department of Vermont Health Access apply for a federal waiver that would seek to ensure the continued availability of bronze-level Exchange plans that meet Vermont's out-of-pocket prescription drug limit. The bill would also direct an advisory group developing options for bronze-level Exchange plans to report on potential changes to a statute or rule that would ensure the continued availability of these plans.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.19>

S.22

AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASED PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION, SALE, AND DISPENSATION OF FENTANYL

This bill proposes to increase the penalties for possessing, selling, dispensing, or trafficking fentanyl.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.22>

H.23

AN ACT RELATING TO BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

This bill proposes to establish various initiatives focused on building resilience among individuals who have experienced adverse childhood experiences.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.23>

H.24

AN ACT RELATING TO DRUGGED DRIVING

This bill proposes to prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle by a person who has a 0.05 blood alcohol level and any detectable amount of the psychoactive constituent of cannabis in his or her body.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.24>

H.26

AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIAN EXPERT WITNESSES IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS

This bill proposes to set standards for the qualification of physician expert witnesses in medical malpractice actions.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.26>

H.28

AN ACT RELATING TO CREATING A PUBLIC OPTION FOR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

This bill proposes to create a public option for health care coverage that would be available to all Vermont residents and employers and would be publicly funded. It would remove health insurance benefits from the bargainable subjects for public employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and instead specify that employees who wish to have health insurance coverage would be covered under the public option.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.28>

H.29

AN ACT RELATING TO PERMITTING MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS TO OFFER EXPENSE DISCOUNTS

This bill proposes to permit Medicare supplemental plans to offer discounts that are designed to encourage timely, full payment of premiums.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.29>

H.30

AN ACT RELATING TO DISSOLUTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD

This bill proposes to dissolve and defund the Green Mountain Care Board and transfer many of its duties, including health insurance rate review and oversight over certificates of need and hospital budgets, to the Department of Financial Regulation.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.30>

H.14

AN ACT RELATING TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

This bill proposes to clarify that nonprofit donations of automated external defibrillators are not subject to liability under the immunity provisions of Vermont's AED statute.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.14>

H.20

AN ACT RELATING TO PROHIBITING CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA IN A MOTOR VEHICLE

This bill proposes to establish civil penalties for consuming marijuana or having an open container of marijuana while in an operating motor vehicle.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.20>

S.3

AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' DUTY TO WARN

This bill proposes to impose a duty on mental health professionals to take reasonable precautions when a patient poses an imminent risk of serious danger to a reasonably identifiable victim.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.3>

S.4

AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE MEETINGS OF AN ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNING BODY

This bill proposes to identify the circumstances under which the governing body of an accountable care organization may meet in private.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.4>

S.6

AN ACT RELATING TO REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR THE TRANSFER OF FIREARMS

This bill proposes to require that a background check be conducted on the proposed transferee before a firearm may be transferred unless the transfer is between immediate family members,

by or to a law enforcement agency, or by or to a law enforcement officer or member of the U.S. Armed Forces acting within the course of his or her official duties.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.6>

S.14

AN ACT RELATING TO EXPANDING THE VERMONT PRACTITIONER RECOVERY NETWORK

This bill proposes to expand the Vermont Practitioner Recovery Network to include treatment for psychiatric disabilities in addition to substance use.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.14>

H.8

AN ACT RELATING TO DISTRACTED DRIVING

This bill proposes to

(1) require the assessment of points against a person's driving record for violating the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving if the offense occurs in a school zone;

(2) require the assessment of points against a person's driving record for a second or subsequent violation of the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving;

(3) require that an oral or written license examination administered by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles test the applicant's awareness of the dangers of distracted driving;

(4) require the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to recall a minor's learner's permit or junior operator's license for 30 days following a second or subsequent conviction of violating the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving;

(5) amend the law creating the State's DUI Enforcement Special Fund in order to rename the Fund and expand the purpose of the Fund to include expenditures to support enforcement of the State's distracted driving laws, and make related conforming changes.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.8>

