

H.703: section-by-section summary of health care sections as recommended in House Commerce substitute amendment with Appropriations amendment (draft 3.3)

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Sec. 19. Health care workforce; legislative intent

- Expresses legislative intent to retain and recruit health care workers in Vermont by reinforcing the current health care workforce and sustaining workers into the future

Sec. 20. Emergency grants to support nurse educators

- Appropriates \$3 million in ARPA funds to the Department of Health (VDH) in FY23 to be distributed over three years to increase compensation for nursing school faculty and staff

Sec. 21. Nurse preceptor incentive grants; hospitals; working group; report

- Appropriates \$2.4 million from General Fund to Agency of Human Services (AHS) in FY23 for incentive grants to hospital-employed nurses to be preceptors for nursing school students
- Requires Director of Health Care Reform in AHS to convene a stakeholder group to develop an action plan for increasing clinical placement opportunities for nursing students and establishing sustainable funding models for nurse preceptors; report due January 15, 2023

Sec. 22. Health care employer nursing pipeline and apprenticeship program

- Appropriates \$3 million in ARPA funds to Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) in FY23 to provide grants to health care employers to establish or expand partnerships with Vermont nursing schools to create nursing pipeline or apprenticeship programs to train members of their existing staff to become higher-level nursing professionals
- Program would cover tuition and fees and provide trainees with assistance in meeting living costs while attending the program; enrollment should begin in fall 2022
- Requires VSAC to provide Health Reform Oversight Committee with an update on program implementation by September 15, 2022

Secs. 23-25. Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program

- Sec. 23 codifies and expands an existing nurse scholarship program established in Act 155 of 2020 as a forgivable loan program administered by VDH in collaboration with VSAC; adds eligibility for students pursuing graduate nursing education
 - Recipients must agree to work as a nurse in Vermont for at least one year for each year of scholarship loan forgiveness
- Sec. 24 repeals an existing educational assistance incentive program for nursing students
- Sec. 25 appropriates \$100,000 in Global Commitment investment funds to VDH in FY23

Secs. 26-27. Vermont Nursing and Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program

- Sec. 26 creates the Vermont Nursing and Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program to be administered by VDH in collaboration with VSAC, to provide loan repayment for nurses and physician assistants who live and work in Vermont and who graduated within past five years
 - Recipients get one year of loan repayment for each year of service as a nurse or physician assistant
- Sec. 27 appropriates \$2 million in ARPA funds to VDH in FY23 for Program

Secs. 28-29. Nurse Educator Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Program

- Sec. 28 creates the Nurse Educator Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Program to be administered by VDH in collaboration with VSAC, to provide forgivable loans to students who commit to working as nurse educators at Vermont nursing schools and to provide loan repayment for individuals who work as nurse educators at Vermont nursing schools
 - “Nurse educator” means a nurse with a master’s or doctoral degree that qualifies the individual to teach at a Vermont nursing school
 - For a forgivable loan, must be enrolled in a program that leads to a graduate degree in nursing and commit to working as a nurse educator in Vermont for one year for each one year of forgivable loan benefit received
 - For loan repayment, must have received a graduate degree in nursing during past five years, live in Vermont, and commit to working as a nurse educator in Vermont for one year for each year of loan repayment
- Sec. 29 appropriates \$500,000 in ARPA funds to VDH in FY23 for Program

Sec. 30. Green Mountain Care Board; hospital budget review

- As part of its annual hospital budget review duties, directs Green Mountain Care Board to review each hospital’s investments in workforce development initiatives and to consider the salaries for the hospital’s executive and clinical leadership and its salary spread

Sec. 31. Green Mountain Care Board FY23 hospital budget review

- Allows Green Mountain Care Board, during FY23 hospital budget review, to exclude some or all of a hospital’s investments in nursing workforce development initiatives from any otherwise applicable financial limitations on the hospital’s budget or budget growth

Sec. 32. Agency of Human Services; Health Care Workforce Data Center

- Appropriates \$1 million in ARPA funds to Office of Health Care Reform in AHS to establish and operate the statewide Health Care Workforce Data Center
- Creates Health Care Workforce Data Center Manager position to manage the Center

Sec. 33. Office of Professional Regulation; barriers to mental health licensure; report

- Requires Office of Professional Regulation to report by January 15, 2023 on barriers to licensure for mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals

Sec. 34. Agency of Human Services; position; appropriation

- Creates a three-year limited-service Health Care Workforce Coordinator position in Office of Health Care Reform in AHS to support the health care workforce initiatives in this act and in the Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan
- Appropriates \$170,000 from the General Fund to AHS, Office of Health Care Reform in FY23 for position, of which \$120,000 is for personal services and \$50,000 for operating expenses

Sec. 35. Department of Labor; Green Mountain Care Board; supply and demand modeling

- Requires Department of Labor, in collaboration with Green Mountain Care Board, to explore and recommend by January 15, 2023 a process, methodology, and funding necessary to create

the capacity to perform health care supply and demand modeling based on information from the Health Care Workforce Data Center

Sec. 36. Department of Financial Regulation; Green Mountain Care Board; prior authorizations; administrative cost reduction; report

- Directs Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) to explore the feasibility of requiring health insurers to access clinical data from the Vermont Health Information Exchange to support prior authorization requests
- Requires DFR to direct health insurers to provide prior authorization information to DFR in a standardized format so DFR can look at opportunities for aligning and streamlining prior authorization request processes
- Requires DFR and Green Mountain Care Board to recommend by January 15, 2023 statutory changes needed to align and streamline prior authorization across health insurers