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H.669

Introduced by Representatives Botzow of Pownal and Marcotte of Coventry  
Referred to Committee on  
Date:  
Subject: Labor; workers' compensation; opiate abuse  
Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
Department of Labor to conduct a study of the workers' compensation system  
and opiate abuse.

An act relating to a Department of Labor study and report concerning  
workers' compensation and opiate abuse

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

Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION AND OPIATES

(a) The Department of Labor shall study the best way to address the impact  
of opiate abuse upon the workers' compensation system, including the  
following issues:

(1) whether to establish a pharmacy benefit manager program for  
prescription drugs under the workers' compensation system;

1           (2) whether there are more effective ways to manage and control the  
2           prescription of opiates for injured workers who are covered by the workers'  
3           compensation system; and

4           (3) whether there are alternative treatment approaches that may produce  
5           better outcomes with respect to the ability of individuals to recover and return  
6           to work.

7           (b) The Department of Labor may consult with any person or stakeholder,  
8           including healthcare and insurance providers.

9           (c) On or before December 1, 2016, the Department shall submit a written  
10          report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and  
11          the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General  
12          Affairs with its findings and recommendations.

13          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.