

1 H.438

2 Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro,

3 Connor of Fairfield, Dunn of Essex, McCullough of Williston,

4 O'Sullivan of Burlington, and Weed of Enosburgh

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Health; education; health insurance; health promotion

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health  
9 insurance coverage for services promoting healthy behaviors and to direct  
10 Vermont schools to include aspects of health promotion throughout their  
11 curriculum and facilities.

12 An act relating to health promotion

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

14 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4088k is added to read:

15 § 4088k. SERVICES PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

16 (a) As used in this section:

17 (1) "Health insurance plan" means any individual or group health

18 insurance policy, any hospital or medical service corporation or health

19 maintenance organization subscriber contract, or any other health benefit plan

20 offered, issued, or renewed for any person in this State by a health insurer.

1 The term shall include the health benefit plan offered by the State of Vermont  
2 to its employees and any health benefit plan offered by any agency or  
3 instrumentality of the State to its employees. The term shall not include  
4 benefit plans providing coverage for specific disease or other limited benefit  
5 coverage.

6 (2) "Health insurer" means any health insurance company, nonprofit  
7 hospital and medical service corporation, managed care organization, and, to  
8 the extent permitted under federal law, any administrator of an insured, self-  
9 insured, or publicly funded health care benefit plan offered by a public or  
10 private entity.

11 (b) A health insurance plan shall promote health and prevent disease  
12 among its members by providing coverage for three or more of the following  
13 services and activities:

14 (1) discounted gym memberships;

15 (2) yoga classes taught by a yoga instructor who has completed a Yoga  
16 Alliance-approved 200-hour yoga teacher training program;

17 (3) acupuncture services performed by a physician licensed pursuant to  
18 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an acupuncturist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A.  
19 chapter 75, or a naturopathic physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A.  
20 chapter 81;







1       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

2           (a) Sec. 1 (health insurance) shall take effect on October 1, 2017 and shall  
3       apply to health insurance plans on or after October 1, 2017 on such date as a  
4       health insurer issues, offers, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no  
5       event later than October 1, 2018.

6           (b) Secs. 2 and 3 (school wellness plans) and this section shall take effect  
7       on passage.