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H.721

Introduced by Representatives Houghton of Essex Junction, Andrews of Westford, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bongartz of Manchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Chase of Chester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Cole of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Emmons of Springfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, LaLonde of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, McCann of Montpelier, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre

1 Town, McGill of Bridport, Morris of Springfield, Mrowicki of
2 Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Notte of Rutland City,
3 Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of
4 Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Patt of Worcester, Pouech
5 of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington,
6 Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Satcowitz of Randolph,
7 Sheldon of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of Winooski,
8 Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of
9 Brownington, Toleno of Brattleboro, Torre of Moretown,
10 Troiano of Stannard, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Whitman of
11 Bennington, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

12 Referred to Committee on

13 Date:

14 Subject: Health; health insurance; Medicaid; Dr. Dynasaur

15 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase
16 eligibility for the Dr. Dynasaur program and for Dr. Dynasaur-like coverage to
17 include income-eligible young adults up to 26 years of age. The bill would
18 increase the income eligibility thresholds for adults in the Medicaid program
19 over time until they reach the same level as Dr. Dynasaur. The bill would
20 require increased reimbursement rates to providers for delivering primary care,
21 mental health, substance use disorder treatment, long-term care, and dental

1 services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The bill would modify the appointments to
2 and duties of the Clinical Utilization Review Board and increase the income
3 eligibility thresholds for Medicare Savings Programs. The bill would require
4 Dr. Dynasaur to cover mental health services for children and young adults
5 without a specific diagnosis if they have faced certain adverse life experiences.
6 The bill would direct the Agency of Human Service to develop a proposal for a
7 public option for small businesses to use to purchase health coverage for their
8 employees and require the Agency to propose a schedule of sliding-scale cost-
9 sharing requirements for the Medicaid program. The bill would also require
10 the Agency to recommend modifications to specialty care reimbursement rates
11 and to report on potential changes to the structure of Vermont’s health
12 insurance markets.

13 An act relating to expanding access to Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur

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

15 Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

16 This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Medicaid Expansion Act
17 of 2024.”

18 Sec. 2. FINDINGS

19 The General Assembly finds that:

1 (1) Medicaid is a comprehensive public health insurance program,
2 funded jointly by state and federal governments. Vermont’s Medicaid program
3 currently covers adults with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty
4 level (FPL), children up to 19 years of age from families with incomes up to
5 312 percent FPL, and pregnant individuals with incomes up to 208 percent
6 FPL.

7 (2) States may customize their Medicaid programs with permission from
8 the federal government through waivers and demonstrations. Vermont is the
9 only state in the nation that operates its entire Medicaid program under a
10 comprehensive statewide demonstration, called the Global Commitment to
11 Health, that offers the same services to residents in all regions of the State.

12 (3) Vermont’s unique Medicaid program provides comprehensive
13 coverage for a full array of health care services, including primary and
14 specialty care; reproductive and gender-affirming care; hospital and surgical
15 care; prescription drugs; long-term care; mental health, dental, and vision care;
16 disability services; substance use disorder treatment; and some social services
17 and supportive housing services.

18 (4) There are no monthly premiums for most individuals covered under
19 Vermont’s Medicaid program, and co-payments are minimal or nonexistent for
20 most Medicaid coverage. For example, the highest co-payment for
21 prescription drugs for a Medicaid beneficiary is just \$3.00.

1 (5) Close to one-third of all Vermonters, including a majority of all
2 children in the State, have coverage provided through Vermont Medicaid,
3 making it the largest health insurance program in Vermont.

4 (6) In 2021, the six percent uninsured rate for Vermonters who had an
5 annual income between 251 and 350 percent FPL was double the three percent
6 overall uninsured rate. And for those 45 to 64 years of age, the estimated
7 number of uninsured Vermonters increased more than 50 percent over the
8 previous three years, from 4,900 uninsured in 2018 to 7,400 in 2021.

9 (7) Cost is the primary barrier to health insurance coverage for
10 uninsured Vermonters. More than half (51 percent) of uninsured individuals
11 identify cost as the only reason they do not have insurance.

12 (8) During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the uninsured rate
13 for Vermonters with incomes just above Medicaid levels (between 139 and
14 200 percent FPL) fell from six percent in 2018 to two percent in 2021. This
15 drop was due in large part to the federal Medicaid continuous coverage
16 requirement, which allowed individuals to remain on Medicaid throughout the
17 pandemic even if their incomes rose above the Medicaid eligibility threshold.
18 A majority of Vermonters (56 percent) with incomes between 139 and
19 200 percent FPL were on Medicaid in 2021.

20 (9) The end of the public health emergency and the beginning of the
21 federally required Medicaid “unwinding” means that many of these

1 Vermonters are losing their comprehensive, low- or no-cost Medicaid health
2 coverage.

3 (10) Almost nine in 10 (88 percent) insured Vermonters visited a doctor
4 in 2021, compared with just 48 percent of uninsured Vermonters. Insured
5 Vermonters are also significantly more likely to seek mental health care than
6 uninsured Vermonters (34 percent vs. 21 percent).

7 (11) Marginalized populations are more likely than others to forgo
8 health care due to cost. Vermonters who are members of gender identity
9 minority groups are the most likely not to receive care from a doctor because
10 they cannot afford to (12 percent). In addition, eight percent of each of the
11 following populations also indicated that they are unlikely to receive care
12 because of the cost: Vermonters under 65 years of age who have a disability,
13 Vermonters who are Black or African American, and Vermonters who are
14 LGBTQ.

15 (12) Many Vermonters under 65 years of age who have insurance are
16 considered “underinsured,” which means that their current or potential future
17 medical expenses are more than what their incomes can bear. The percentage
18 of underinsured Vermonters is increasing, from 30 percent in 2014 to
19 37 percent in 2018 and to 40 percent in 2021.

1 (13) Vermonters 18 to 24 years of age are the most likely to be
2 underinsured among those under 65 years of age, with 37 percent or
3 38,700 young adults falling into this category.

4 (14) The highest rates of underinsurance are among individuals with the
5 lowest incomes, who are just over the eligibility threshold for Medicaid.
6 Among Vermonters under 65 years of age, 43 percent of those earning 139–
7 150 percent FPL and 49 percent of those earning 151–200 percent FPL are
8 underinsured.

9 (15) Underinsured Vermonters 18 to 64 years of age spend on average
10 approximately 2.5 times more on out-of-pocket costs than fully insured
11 individuals, with an average of \$4,655.00 for underinsured adults compared
12 with less than \$1,900.00 for fully insured individuals.

13 (16) Individuals with lower incomes or with a disability who turn
14 65 years of age and must transition from Medicaid to Medicare often face what
15 is known as the “Medicare cliff” or the “senior and disabled penalty” when
16 suddenly faced with paying high Medicare costs. Individuals with incomes
17 between \$14,580.00 and \$21,876.00 per year, and couples with incomes
18 between \$19,728.00 and \$29,580.00 per year, can go from paying no monthly
19 premiums for Medicaid or a Vermont Health Connect plan to owing hundreds
20 of dollars per month in Medicare premiums, deductibles, and cost-sharing
21 requirements.

1 (17) The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-
2 148, allows young adults to remain on their parents' private health insurance
3 plans until they reach 26 years of age. The same option does not exist under
4 Dr. Dynasaur, Vermont's public children's health insurance program
5 established in accordance with Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (SCHIP) of
6 the Social Security Act, however, so young adults who come from families
7 without private health insurance are often uninsured or underinsured.

8 (18) In order to promote the health of young adults and to increase
9 access to health care services, the American Academy of Pediatrics
10 recommends that coverage under Medicaid and SCHIP, which in Vermont
11 means Dr. Dynasaur, be made available to all individuals from 0 to 26 years of
12 age.

13 Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 1901 is amended to read:

14 § 1901. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM

15 (a)(1) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall take appropriate
16 action, including making of rules, required to administer a medical assistance
17 program under Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (SCHIP) of the Social
18 Security Act.

19 (2) The Secretary or designee shall seek approval from the General
20 Assembly prior to applying for and implementing a waiver of Title XIX or
21 Title XXI of the Social Security Act, an amendment to an existing waiver, or a

1 new state option that would restrict eligibility or benefits pursuant to the
2 Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Approval by the General Assembly under this
3 subdivision constitutes approval only for the changes that are scheduled for
4 implementation.

5 (3) Income eligibility for Medicaid for an adult who is 26 years of age
6 or older but under 65 years of age and is not pregnant shall be as follows:

7 (A) until January 1, 2026, 133 percent of the federal poverty level for
8 the applicable family size;

9 (B) from January 1, 2026 until January 1, 2028, 185 percent of the
10 federal poverty level for the applicable family size;

11 (C) from January 1, 2028 until January 1, 2030, 250 percent of the
12 federal poverty level for the applicable family size; and

13 (D) beginning on January 1, 2030, 312 percent of the federal poverty
14 level for the applicable family size.

15 (4) A manufacturer of pharmaceuticals purchased by individuals
16 receiving State pharmaceutical assistance in programs administered under this
17 chapter shall pay to the Department of Vermont Health Access, as the
18 Secretary's designee, a rebate on all pharmaceutical claims for which State-
19 only funds are expended in an amount that is in proportion to the State share of
20 the total cost of the claim, as calculated annually on an aggregate basis, and

1 based on the full Medicaid rebate amount as provided for in Section 1927(a)
2 through (c) of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-8.

3 (b) The Secretary shall make coverage under the Dr. Dynasaur program
4 established in accordance with Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (SCHIP) of
5 the Social Security Act available to the following individuals whose modified
6 adjusted gross income is at or below 312 percent of the federal poverty level
7 for the applicable family size:

8 (1) all Vermont residents up to 26 years of age; and

9 (2) pregnant individuals of any age.

10 (c) The Secretary may charge a monthly premium, in amounts set by the
11 General Assembly, per family for pregnant ~~women and~~ individuals, children,
12 and young adults eligible for medical assistance under Sections
13 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (VI), and (VII) of Title XIX of the Social Security
14 Act, whose family income exceeds 195 percent of the federal poverty level, as
15 permitted under section 1902(r)(2) of that act. Fees collected under this
16 subsection shall be credited to the State Health Care Resources Fund
17 established in section 1901d of this title and shall be available to the Agency to
18 offset the costs of providing Medicaid services. Any co-payments,
19 coinsurance, or other cost sharing to be charged shall ~~also be authorized and~~
20 ~~set~~ established by the Agency of Human Services as authorized by the General
21 Assembly.

1 (d)(1) To enable the State to manage public resources effectively while
2 preserving and enhancing access to health care services in the State, the
3 Department of Vermont Health Access is authorized to serve as a publicly
4 operated managed care organization (MCO).

5 * * *

6 (3) The Agency of Human Services and Department of Vermont Health
7 Access shall report to the Health ~~Care~~ Reform Oversight Committee about
8 implementation of Global Commitment in a manner and at a frequency to be
9 determined by the Committee. Reporting shall, at a minimum, enable the
10 tracking of expenditures by eligibility category, the type of care received, and
11 to the extent possible allow historical comparison with expenditures under the
12 previous Medicaid appropriation model ~~(by department and program)~~ and, if
13 appropriate, with the amounts transferred by another department to the
14 Department of Vermont Health Access. Reporting shall include spending in
15 comparison to any applicable budget neutrality standards.

16 (e) [Repealed.]

17 (f) The Secretary shall not impose a prescription co-payment for
18 individuals under ~~age 24~~ 26 years of age enrolled in Medicaid or Dr. Dynasaur.

19 * * *

1 Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 1901e is amended to read:

2 § 1901e. GLOBAL COMMITMENT FUND

3 * * *

4 (c)(1) Annually, on or before October 1, the Agency shall provide a
5 detailed report to the Joint Fiscal Committee that describes the managed care
6 organization's investments under the terms and conditions of the Global
7 Commitment to Health Medicaid Section 1115 waiver, including the amount of
8 the investment and the agency or departments authorized to make the
9 investment.

10 (2) In addition to the annual report required by subdivision (1) of this
11 subsection, the Agency shall provide the information set forth in subdivisions
12 (A)–(F) of this subdivision annually as part of its budget presentation. The
13 Agency may choose to provide the required information for only a subset of
14 the Global Commitment investments in any one year, provided that the Agency
15 shall provide the information for not less than 20 percent of all of the
16 investments in any one year and shall rotate the investments on which it reports
17 such that it provides the information set forth in subdivisions (A)–(F) of this
18 subsection for each investment at least once every five years. The
19 information to be provided shall include:

20 (A) a detailed description of the investment;

21 (B) which Vermonters are served by the investment;

- 1 (C) the cost of the investment;
2 (D) the efficacy of the investment;
3 (E) the amount of return on the investment, if applicable; and
4 (F) where in State government the investment is managed, including
5 the division or office responsible for the management.

6 Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 1905b is added to read:

7 § 1905b. MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN
8 SERVICES

9 The Department of Vermont Health Access shall reimburse providers for
10 delivering primary care, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and
11 long-term care services in amounts that are greater than or equal to 125 percent
12 of the Medicare reimbursement rates then in effect for delivering the same
13 services.

14 Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 1992 is amended to read:

15 § 1992. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ADULT DENTAL SERVICES

16 * * *

17 (b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop a
18 reimbursement structure for dental services in the Vermont Medicaid program
19 that encourages dentists, dental therapists, and dental hygienists to provide
20 preventive care by providing reimbursement rates that are greater than or equal

1 to 125 percent of the rates then in effect through the commercial dental insurer
2 with the largest market share in Vermont for delivering the same services.

3 Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 2031 is amended to read:

4 § 2031. CREATION OF CLINICAL UTILIZATION REVIEW BOARD

5 (a) ~~No later than June 15, 2010, the Department of Vermont Health Access~~
6 ~~shall create a~~ The Clinical Utilization Review Board is established in the
7 Department of Vermont Health Access to examine existing medical services,
8 emerging technologies, and relevant evidence-based clinical practice
9 guidelines and make recommendations to the Department regarding coverage,
10 unit limitations, place of service, and appropriate medical necessity of services
11 in the State's Medicaid programs.

12 (b)(1) The Board shall comprise 10 members with diverse medical
13 experience, to be appointed as follows:

14 (A) four members, appointed by the Governor upon recommendation
15 of the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access;

16 (B) three members, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

17 (C) three members, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
18 Senate.

19 (2) The Board shall solicit additional input as needed from individuals
20 with expertise in areas of relevance to the Board's deliberations. The Medical

1 Director of the Department of Vermont Health Access shall serve as the State's
2 liaison to the Board.

3 (3) Board member terms shall be staggered, but in no event longer than
4 three years from the date of appointment.

5 (4) The Board shall meet at least quarterly, ~~provided that the Board shall~~
6 ~~meet no less frequently than once per month for the first six months following~~
7 ~~its formation.~~

8 (c) The Board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

9 (1) Identify and recommend to the Commissioner of Vermont Health
10 Access opportunities to improve quality, efficiencies, and adherence to
11 relevant evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in the Department's
12 medical programs by:

13 (A) examining high-cost and high-use services identified through the
14 programs' current medical claims data;

15 (B) reviewing existing utilization controls to identify areas in which
16 improved utilization review might be indicated, including use of elective,
17 nonemergency, out-of-state outpatient and hospital services;

18 (C) reviewing medical literature on current best practices and areas in
19 which services lack sufficient evidence to support their effectiveness;

20 (D) conferring with commissioners, directors, and councils within the
21 Agency of Human Services and the Department of Financial Regulation, as

1 appropriate, to identify specific opportunities for exploration and to solicit
2 recommendations;

3 (E) identifying appropriate but underutilized services and
4 recommending new services for addition to Medicaid coverage;

5 (F) determining whether it would be clinically and fiscally
6 appropriate for the Department of Vermont Health Access to contract with
7 facilities that specialize in certain treatments and have been recognized by the
8 medical community as having good clinical outcomes and low morbidity and
9 mortality rates, such as transplant centers and pediatric oncology centers;

10 (G) consulting with the Department's Drug Utilization Review Board
11 as appropriate to coordinate Medicaid prescription drug coverage in connection
12 with covered services in order to optimize patient outcomes; and

13 ~~(G)~~(H) considering the possible administrative burdens or benefits of
14 potential recommendations on providers, including examining the feasibility of
15 exempting from prior authorization requirements those health care
16 professionals whose prior authorization requests are routinely granted.

17 (2) Recommend to the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access the
18 most appropriate mechanisms to implement the recommended evidence-based
19 clinical practice guidelines. Such mechanisms may include prior authorization,
20 prepayment, postservice claim review, and frequency limits.

21 Recommendations shall be consistent with the Department's existing

1 utilization processes, including those related to transparency, timeliness, and
2 reporting. Prior to submitting final recommendations to the Commissioner of
3 Vermont Health Access, the Board shall ensure time for public comment is
4 available during the Board's meeting and identify other methods for soliciting
5 public input.

6 (d) The Commissioner may adopt a mechanism recommended pursuant to
7 subdivision (c)(2) of this section with or without amendment, provided that if
8 the Commissioner proposes to amend the mechanism recommended by the
9 Board, ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner shall request the Board to consider the
10 amendment before the mechanism is implemented or is filed as a proposed
11 administrative rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 838.

12 (e)(1) At least annually, the Commissioner shall report to the House
13 Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee
14 on Health and Welfare the services that the Board has reviewed, considered, or
15 recommended pursuant to subdivision (c)(1)(E) of this section.

16 (2) Within 30 days following the receipt of an inquiry from a legislative
17 committee or committees regarding new or expanded Medicaid coverage of
18 any service, the Commissioner shall provide the inquiry to the Board for its
19 consideration. The Commissioner shall include the Board's response to each
20 such inquiry in the Commissioner's next report submitted pursuant to
21 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1 Sec. 9. MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS; INCOME ELIGIBILITY

2 The Agency of Human Services shall make the following changes to the
3 Medicare Savings Programs:

4 (1) increase the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program
5 income threshold to 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL);

6 (2) eliminate the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
7 Program; and

8 (3) increase the Qualifying Individual (QI) Program income threshold to
9 185 percent FPL.

10 Sec. 10. MEDICAID COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR
11 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITHOUT A DIAGNOSIS

12 The Department of Vermont Health Access shall amend its rules and
13 provider manuals as necessary to ensure that children and young adults up to
14 26 years of age receive coverage for mental health services without a specific
15 mental health diagnosis if they have one or more of the following life
16 experiences:

17 (1) separation from a parent or guardian due to incarceration or
18 immigration;

19 (2) death of a parent or guardian;

20 (3) death of a family member or friend by suicide;

21 (4) foster home placement;

- 1 (5) food insecurity or housing instability, or both;
2 (6) exposure to domestic violence or other traumatic events;
3 (7) maltreatment;
4 (8) severe and persistent bullying; or
5 (9) experience of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender
6 identity, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences, or disability.

7 Sec. 11. PUBLIC OPTION; AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; REPORT

8 On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall
9 provide to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on
10 Health and Welfare a proposal for providing small businesses with the option
11 to purchase coverage for their employees through Vermont Medicaid in
12 addition to the existing option of purchasing health insurance coverage for
13 their employees in plans offered through or outside the Vermont Health
14 Benefit Exchange.

15 Sec. 12. MEDICAID SLIDING-SCALE COST-SHARING

16 REQUIREMENTS; REPORT

17 On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall
18 provide to the House Committees on Health Care, on Human Services, and on
19 Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on
20 Appropriations a proposed schedule for sliding-scale cost-sharing requirements
21 for Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur beneficiaries, including the estimated fiscal

1 impact of those cost-sharing requirements. The proposed schedule shall not
2 include any co-payment requirements in excess of those in effect on January 1,
3 2024 for Medicaid beneficiaries at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty
4 level and shall not include any prescription drug co-payments for Dr. Dynasaur
5 beneficiaries under 26 years of age.

6 Sec. 13. SPECIALTY CARE REIMBURSEMENT RATES; REPORT

7 On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall
8 provide to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and
9 the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare recommendations for
10 modifications to reimbursement rates for providers of specialty care services to
11 increase access to those services for Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur beneficiaries.

12 Sec. 14. MERGED INSURANCE MARKETS; REPORT

13 (a) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with interested
14 stakeholders, shall evaluate Vermont's health insurance markets to determine
15 the potential advantages and disadvantages to individuals, small businesses,
16 and large businesses, including the impacts on health insurance premiums and
17 access to health care services, of:

18 (1) maintaining a health insurance market structure in which the
19 individual and small group markets are merged and the large group market is
20 separate;

1 (2) moving to a fully merged market structure in which individuals,
2 small groups, and large groups are merged into a single market; and

3 (3) moving to a fully separated market structure in which individuals,
4 small groups, and large groups each purchase health insurance in a separate
5 market.

6 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Human Services shall
7 submit its findings and any recommendations for modifications to the current
8 market structure to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate
9 Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

10 (c) The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
11 Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2025 to carry out the study required
12 by this section.

13 Sec. 15. MEDICAID STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS

14 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall request approval from the Centers
15 for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend Vermont's Medicaid state plan
16 to make adjustments to the Medicare Savings Programs as set forth in Sec. 9 of
17 this act.

18 (b) If amendments to Vermont's Medicaid state plan are necessary to
19 implement any of the other provision of this act, the Agency of Human
20 Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

1 Services as expeditiously as possible to enable implementation of all
2 provisions of this act at the times specified in the act.

3 Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 (a) The following provisions shall take effect on January 1, 2025:

5 (1) in Sec. 3 (33 V.S.A. § 1901), subsection (b) (increasing eligibility
6 for Dr. Dynasaur to income-eligible individuals up to 26 years of age) and the
7 amendments to subsection (c); and

8 (2) Sec. 8 (33 V.S.A. § 2092).

9 (b) The following provisions shall take effect on January 1, 2026:

10 (1) Sec. 5 (33 V.S.A. § 1905b; Medicaid rates for primary care and
11 mental health services); and

12 (2) Sec. 6 (33 V.S.A. § 1992; Medicaid rates for dental services).

13 (c) Sec. 9 (Medicare Savings Program; income eligibility) shall take effect
14 upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the
15 amendment to Vermont's Medicaid state plan as directed in Sec. 15(a).

16 (d) In Sec. 7 (33 V.S.A. § 2031; Clinical Utilization Review Board),
17 subdivision (b)(1) shall take effect on passage, with the appointments to be
18 made by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the
19 Senate to occur upon the expiration of the terms of the members of the Board
20 serving as of the effective date of this act in an alternating manner until all

- 1 members have been appointed to the Board in compliance with the provisions
- 2 of subdivision (b)(1).
- 3 (e) The remaining provisions shall take effect on passage.