

1 S.271

2 Introduced by Senator Parent

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; Green Mountain Care Board; hospitals

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the  
7 Green Mountain Care Board from requiring a hospital to discontinue any  
8 hospital service as part of the Board's hospital budget review process absent a  
9 supportive public vote in the hospital service area of the affected hospital. The  
10 bill would also require any Green Mountain Care Board consideration of  
11 hospital service consolidation to calculate drive times and the distance between  
12 one hospital and its neighboring hospital service area using the full scope of  
13 addresses in the neighboring hospital service area and not based solely on the  
14 distance between the two hospitals.

15 An act relating to considerations in hospital sustainability planning

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

17 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9456 is amended to read:

18 § 9456. BUDGET REVIEW

19 \* \* \*

1        (i) The Board shall not require a hospital to discontinue offering any  
2        hospital service unless the Board, in collaboration with the hospital, has held a  
3        public vote in the hospital's service area and a majority of those voting have  
4        indicated their support for discontinuing the service or services proposed for  
5        termination.

6        Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9458 is added to read:

7        § 9458. HOSPITAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

8        If the Green Mountain Care Board considers consolidating hospital services  
9        by discontinuing certain services at one hospital in order to encourage  
10       utilization of those services at a hospital in a neighboring hospital service area,  
11       the Board shall ensure that calculation of the distance and drive times from one  
12       hospital to the hospital in the neighboring hospital service area take into  
13       account the full scope of addresses in the first hospital's service area and are  
14       not based solely on the distance between the two hospital campuses.

15       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16       This act shall take effect on passage.