

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 194 entitled “An act relating to designated and specialized service agency
4 payment methodology” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. STUDY; DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCY
8 SYSTEM

9 (a) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with the designated and
10 specialized service agencies and the stakeholder group established in
11 subsection (d) of this section, shall conduct a study of the designated and
12 specialized service agency system to review its role, responsibilities, and
13 capacity within Vermont’s health and human services continuum.

14 (b) At a minimum, the study shall include:

15 (1) a review of the services provided by the designated and specialized
16 service agencies, including identification of the essential and specialty services
17 delivered on behalf of the State;

18 (2) a review of the statutory, contractual, and administrative framework
19 guiding the work of the designated and specialized service agencies, including
20 specifically the expectations, responsibilities, and authorities of the designated
21 and specialized service agencies;

1 (3) an analysis of how emerging needs, pilot initiatives, and system
2 transformations have expanded or altered the responsibilities of the designated
3 and specialized service agencies over time;

4 (4) consideration of the designated and specialized service agency
5 system's sustainability, including workforce capacity, financial viability, and
6 administrative burden;

7 (5) recommendations that identify essential services, align expectations
8 with resources, and strengthen the long-term stability of the designated and
9 specialized service agency system; and

10 (6) an examination of a process by which the designated and specialized
11 service agencies implement new or expanded responsibilities only with a prior
12 agreement on funding, staffing, and operational feasibility.

13 (c) On or before January 15, 2027, the Agency shall submit a written report
14 to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on
15 Health and Welfare with the results of the study required pursuant this section.

16 (d)(1) The stakeholder group referenced in subsection (a) of this section
17 shall be composed of the following:

18 (A) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

19 (B) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

20 (C) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living
21 or designee;

- 1 (D) two representatives, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;
2 (E) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Disabilities Council;
3 (F) an individual receiving services from a designated and
4 specialized service agency, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
5 (G) a family member of an individual receiving services from a
6 designated and specialized service agency, appointed by the Committee on
7 Committees.

8 (2) Members of the stakeholder group who are not participating in their
9 professional capacity shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
10 reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more
11 than five meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated
12 to the Agency of Human Services.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.
15
16
17
18
19

1 (Committee vote: _____)

2 _____

3 Senator _____

4 FOR THE COMMITTEE