

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Paul Habersang of Montpelier.

Message from the House No. 26

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. H. Gwynn Zakov, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed a House bill of the following title:

H. 365. An act relating to designating skiing and snowboarding as the official state sports.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Message from the House No. 27

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. H. Gwynn Zakov, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.H. 24. Joint resolution strongly supporting continuing and enhancing the mutually beneficial bilateral economic and trade relationship between the state of Vermont and Canada.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 24.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution strongly supporting continuing and enhancing the mutually beneficial bilateral economic and trade relationship between the state of Vermont and Canada.

Whereas, the United States and Canada share a 5,500-mile border, the world's longest that is not militarized, and each nation's foundation is based upon common democratic ideals and principles, and

Whereas, the relationship between Canada and the United States is unique in the world, and the two countries have a shared prosperity fostered by two-way investment and jobs, and

Whereas, this special relationship has spanned more than two centuries, and the two countries have developed one of the most successful records of international cooperation in the modern world, including a large and comprehensive trade relationship, and

Whereas, statistics from 2010 detail the importance of the close ties of both the United States and Vermont with Canada, and

Whereas, over eight million American jobs were dependent on trade with Canada, including 19,300 in Vermont, and

Whereas, Vermont's largest export market, by far, was Canada, representing exports of \$1.3 billion, and

Whereas, Canadian tourists flocked to Vermont, making 723,600 visits and contributing \$146 million to the local economy, and

Whereas, militarily, Canada and the United States are both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and our nations' armed forces have fought alongside each other in most major conflicts since World War II, including the Korean War, the Gulf War, the Kosovo War, and, most recently, the war in Afghanistan, and

Whereas, American defense arrangements with Canada are more extensive than with any other country, and Canada was a major ally of the United States during the Cold War, and

Whereas, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) was founded in May 1958 when the United States and Canada signed a formal agreement providing for bilateral aerospace warning and control of North American airspace, and the NORAD agreement's 2006 renewal added a maritime warning mission, and

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, the strong United States–Canada military relationship has helped to keep the United States safe from further

terrorist attacks, and Canada is now, more than ever, a key military ally of our nation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes and celebrates the strength of the Canada–Vermont relationship, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly strongly supports the commitment of the state of Vermont to working together with Canada to enhance our mutually beneficial bilateral economic and trade relationships and to ensure many more years of cooperation, friendship, and goodwill, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Consul General of Canada to New England, Patrick Binns, in Boston and the United States Consul General in Montreal, Andrew Parker.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 365.

An act relating to designating skiing and snowboarding as the official state sports.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Bill Passed

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

S. 116. An act relating to probate proceedings.

Bill Passed in Concurrence

H. 629.

House bill entitled:

An act relating to reapportioning the initial districts of the house of representatives.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Galbraith, Sears, Hartwell, Giard, Illuzzi and Baruth moved that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, by striking out district WINDHAM-5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

WINDHAM-5 Marlboro, Newfane, and Townshend 1

Second: In Sec. 1, in district WINDHAM-BENNINGTON, following “Stamford,” by inserting the word and

and by striking out the following: “, and that portion of the town of Townshend encompassed within a boundary beginning at the northernmost point where the boundary line of Townshend and the town of Wardsboro intersects with West Hill Road; then northerly along the eastern side and easterly along the southern side of the centerline of West Hill Road to the intersection of State Forest Road; then easterly along the southern side and southerly along the western side of the centerline of State Forest Road to the boundary of the town of Newfane; then westerly along the town line of Newfane to the boundary line of Wardsboro; then northerly along the town line of Wardsboro to the point of beginning”

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as moved by Senators Galbraith, Sears, Hartwell, Giard, Illuzzi and Baruth?, Senator Sears raised a *point of order* under Sec. 111 of Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure on the grounds that the Senate should not be taking into consideration the action of the other body.

Thereupon, the President *overruled* the point of order as a reference to the districts in the underlying bill did not violate Sec. 111 of Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the proposal of amendment be amended as moved by Senators Galbraith, Sears, Hartwell, Giard, Illuzzi and Baruth?, Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, Senator Flory raised a *point of order* under Secs. 101 and 114 of Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure on the grounds that the questioning was not confined to the question before the Senate.

Thereupon, the President *sustained* the point of order and cautioned that the questioning should be confined to the question before the Senate.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as proposed by Senators Galbraith, Sears, Hartwell, Giard, Illuzzi and Baruth?, Senator Galbraith requested and was granted leave to withdraw the proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, Senator Illuzzi moved that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 3a to read as follows:

Sec. 3a. FINDINGS AND GOALS REGARDING THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE INITIAL DISTRICTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(a) The general assembly finds that based on the interpretation of the United States Constitution as articulated by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964) and its progeny, it is obligated to reapportion legislative districts substantially on a population basis, but latitude and flexibility remain to preserve the integrity of political subdivisions and to preserve for the voters in the political subdivisions a voice in the state legislature on state matters. See *Mahan v. Howell*, 410 U.S. 315 (1973).

(b) The general assembly finds as a matter of rational state policy that all of a town's voters should be placed in the same legislative district. The dissenting opinion of *In re Hartland*, 160 Vt. 9 (1993) stressed the importance of town lines: "More significant are town lines, and this district crosses none of these. It is impossible in a rural state with a large number of towns to follow town lines without crossing county lines. Thus, the district here is consistent with the important boundary requirement of [Vermont Constitution chapter II] § 13." *Id.* at 55.

(c) It is the goal of the general assembly to avoid splitting a town into two different house representative districts, relying upon the "special circumstances," *Mahan* at 333 (J.Brennan, dissenting), authorized under the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Second: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 3b to read as follows:

Sec. 3b. AUTHORIZATION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Nothing in this act shall prevent reconsideration of any provision contained in this act, notwithstanding the applicable provisions of Mason's Rules as incorporated into house and senate rules.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as proposed by Senator Illuzzi?, Senator Illuzzi requested and was granted leave to withdraw the proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence

Rules Suspended; Proposals of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 630.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Campbell, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to reforming Vermont's mental health system.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Ayer, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly to strengthen Vermont's existing mental health care system by offering a continuum of community and peer services, as well as a range of acute inpatient beds throughout the state. This system of care shall be designed to provide flexible and recovery-oriented treatment opportunities and to ensure that the mental health needs of Vermonters are served.

(b) It is also the intent of the general assembly that the agency of human services fully integrate all mental health services with all substance abuse, public health, and health care reform initiatives, consistent with the goals of parity.

Sec. 1a. 18 V.S.A. chapter 174 is added to read:

CHAPTER 174. MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM OF CARE

§ 7251. PRINCIPLES FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

The general assembly adopts the following principles as a framework for reforming the mental health care system in Vermont:

(1) The state of Vermont shall meet the needs of individuals with mental health conditions, including the needs of individuals in the custody of the commissioner of corrections, and the state's mental health system shall reflect excellence, best practices, and the highest standards of care.

(2) Long-term planning shall look beyond the foreseeable future and present needs of the mental health community. Programs shall be designed to be responsive to changes over time in levels and types of needs, service delivery practices, and sources of funding.

(3) Vermont's mental health system shall provide a coordinated continuum of care by the departments of mental health and of corrections, designated hospitals, designated agencies, and community and peer partners to ensure that individuals with mental health conditions receive care in the most integrated and least restrictive settings available. Individuals' treatment choices shall be honored to the extent possible.

(4) The mental health system shall be integrated into the overall health care system, including the location of any new inpatient psychiatric facilities adjacent to or incorporated with a medical hospital.

(5) Vermont's mental health system shall be geographically and financially accessible. Resources shall be distributed based on demographics and geography to increase the likelihood of treatment as close to the patient's home as possible. All ranges of services shall be available to individuals who need them, regardless of individuals' ability to pay.

(6) The state's mental health system shall ensure that the legal rights of individuals with mental health conditions are protected.

(7) Oversight and accountability shall be built into all aspects of the mental health system.

(8) Vermont's mental health system shall be adequately funded and financially sustainable to the same degree as other health services.

§ 7252. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Adult outpatient services" means flexible services responsive to individuals' preferences, needs, and values that are necessary to stabilize, restore, or improve the level of social functioning and well-being of individuals with mental health conditions, including individual and group treatment, medication management, psychosocial rehabilitation, and case management services.

(2) "Designated agency" means a designated community mental health and developmental disability agency as described in subsection 8907(a) of this title.

(3) “Designated area” means the counties, cities, or towns identified by the department of mental health that are served by a designated agency.

(4) “Enhanced programming” means targeted, structured, and specific intensive mental health treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation services for individuals in individualized or group settings.

(5) “Intensive residential recovery facility” means a licensed program under contract with the department of mental health that provides a safe, therapeutic, recovery-oriented residential environment to care for individuals with one or more mental health conditions who need intensive clinical interventions to facilitate recovery in anticipation of returning to the community. This facility shall be for individuals not in need of acute inpatient care and for whom the facility is the least restrictive and most integrated setting.

(6) “Mobile support team” means professional and peer support providers who are able to respond to an individual where he or she is located during a crisis situation.

(7) “Noncategorical case management” means service planning and support activities provided for adults by a qualified mental health provider, regardless of program eligibility criteria or insurance limitations.

(8) “No refusal system” means a system of hospitals and intensive residential recovery facilities under contract with the department of mental health that provide high intensity services, in which the facilities shall admit any individual for care if the individual meets the eligibility criteria established by the commissioner in contract.

(9) “Participating hospital” means a hospital under contract with the department of mental health to participate in the no refusal system.

(10) “Peer” means an individual who has a personal experience of living with a mental health condition or psychiatric disability.

(11) “Peer services” means support services provided by trained peers or peer-managed organizations focused on helping individuals with mental health and other co-occurring conditions to support recovery.

(12) “Psychosocial rehabilitation” means a range of social, educational, occupational, behavioral, and cognitive interventions for increasing the role performance and enhancing the recovery of individuals with serious mental illness, including services that foster long-term recovery and self-sufficiency.

(13) “Recovery-oriented” describes a category of mental health services that is responsive to individuals’ preferences, needs, and values and that

empowers an individual to take responsibility for his or her sustained health, wellness, and recovery.

(14) “Warm line” means a nonemergency telephone response line operated by trained peers for the purpose of active listening and assistance with problem-solving for persons in need of such support.

§ 7253. CLINICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

The commissioner of mental health, in consultation with health care providers as defined in section 9432 of this title, including designated hospitals, designated agencies, individuals with mental health conditions, and other stakeholders, shall design and implement a clinical resource management system that ensures the highest quality of care and facilitates long-term, sustained recovery for individuals in the custody of the commissioner.

(1) For the purpose of coordinating the movement of individuals across the continuum of care to the most appropriate services, the clinical resource management system shall:

(A) ensure that all individuals in the care and custody of the commissioner receive the highest quality and least restrictive care necessary;

(B) develop a process for receiving direct patient input on treatment opportunities and the location of services;

(C) use state-employed clinical resource management coordinators to work collaboratively with community partners, including designated agencies, hospitals, individuals with mental health conditions, and peer groups, to ensure access to services for individuals in need. Clinical resource management coordinators or their designees shall be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist emergency service clinicians in the field to access necessary services;

(D) use an electronic, web-based bed board to track in real time the availability of bed resources across the continuum of care;

(E) use specific level-of-care descriptions, including admission, continuing stay, and discharge criteria, and a mechanism for ongoing assessment of service needs at all levels of care;

(F) specify protocols for medical clearance, bed location, transportation, information sharing, census management, and discharge or transition planning;

(G) coordinate transportation resources so that individuals may access the least restrictive mode of transport consistent with safety needs;

(H) ensure that to the extent patients' protected health information pertaining to any identifiable person that is otherwise confidential by state or federal law is used within the clinical resource management system, the health information exchange privacy standards and protocols as described in subsection 9351(e) of this title shall be followed;

(I) review the options for the use of ambulance transport, with security as needed, as the least restrictive mode of transport consistent with safety needs required pursuant to section 7511 of this title; and

(J) ensure that individuals under the custody of the commissioner being served in designated hospitals, intensive residential recovery facilities, and the secure residential recovery facility shall have access to a mental health patient representative. The patient representative shall advocate for patients and shall also foster communication between patients and health care providers. The department of mental health shall contract with an independent, peer-run organization to staff the full-time equivalent of a patient representative.

(2) For the purpose of maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the clinical resource management system, the department of mental health shall:

(A) require a designated team of clinical staff to review the treatment received and clinical progress made by individuals within the commissioner's custody;

(B) coordinate care across the mental and physical health care systems as well as ensure coordination within the agency of human services, particularly the department of corrections, the department of health's alcohol and drug abuse programs, and the department of disabilities, aging, and independent living;

(C) coordinate service delivery with Vermont's Blueprint for Health and health care reform initiatives, including the health information exchange as defined in section 9352 of this title and the health benefit exchange as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 1803;

(D) use quality indicators, manageable data requirements, and quality improvement processes to monitor, evaluate, and continually improve the outcomes for individuals and the performance of the clinical resource management system;

(E) actively engage stakeholders and providers in oversight processes; and

(F) provide mechanisms for dispute resolution.

§ 7254. INTEGRATION OF THE TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

(a) The director of health care reform and the commissioners of mental health, of health, and of Vermont health access and the Green Mountain Care board or designees shall ensure that the redesign of the mental health delivery system established in this act is an integral component of the health care reform efforts established in 3 V.S.A. § 2222a. Specifically, the director, commissioners, and board shall confer on planning efforts necessary to ensure that the following initiatives are coordinated and advanced:

- (1) any health information technology projects;
- (2) the integration of health insurance benefits in the Vermont health benefit exchange to the extent feasible under federal law;
- (3) the integration of coverage under Green Mountain Care;
- (4) the Blueprint for Health;
- (5) the reformation of payment systems for health services to the extent allowable under federal law or under federal waivers; and
- (6) other initiatives as necessary.

(b) The department of banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration shall ensure that private payers are educated about their obligation to reimburse providers for less restrictive and less expensive alternatives to hospitalization.

§ 7255. SYSTEM OF CARE

The commissioner of mental health shall coordinate a geographically diverse system and continuum of mental health care throughout the state that may include at least the following:

- (1) peer services, which may include:
 - (A) a warm line;
 - (B) peer-provided transportation services; and
 - (C) peer-supported crisis services.
- (2) comprehensive and coordinated community services to serve children, families, and adults at all stages of mental illness;
- (3) peer-supported programs that allow minimal use of medication and facilitate hospital diversion through a nontraditional, interpersonal, and psychosocial approach to recovery;

(4) housing subsidies or other programs for the purpose of fostering stable and appropriate living conditions to support recovery;

(5) intensive residential recovery facilities;

(6) appropriate adequate psychiatric inpatient capacity for voluntary patients;

(7) appropriate adequate psychiatric inpatient capacity for involuntary inpatient treatment services, including patients receiving treatment through court order from the civil and criminal courts; and

(8) a secure residential recovery facility.

§ 7256. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the department of mental health shall report annually on or before January 15 to the senate committee on health and welfare and the house committee on human services regarding the extent to which individuals with mental health conditions receive care in the most integrated and least restrictive setting available. The report shall address:

(1) Utilization of services across the continuum of mental health services;

(2) Adequacy of the capacity at each level of care across the continuum of mental health services;

(3) Patient experience of care and satisfaction; and

(4) Clinical, social, and legal outcomes.

Sec. 2. DELETED

Sec. 3. DELETED

Sec. 4. DELETED

Sec. 5. DELETED

Sec. 6. PEER SERVICES

The commissioner of mental health is authorized to contract for new peer services and to expand existing programs managed by peers that provide support to individuals living with or recovering from mental illness. Peer services shall be aimed at helping individuals with mental illness achieve recovery through improved physical and mental health, increased social and community connections and supports, and the avoidance of mental health crises and psychiatric hospitalizations. The commissioner of mental health shall:

(1) Establish a warm line or warm lines accessible statewide which shall be staffed at all times to ensure that individuals with a mental health condition have access to peer support;

(2) Establish new peer services focused on reducing the need for inpatient services;

(3) Improve the quality, infrastructure, and workforce development of peer services; and

(4) Develop peer-run transportation services.

Sec. 7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

To improve existing community services and to create new opportunities for community treatment, the commissioner of mental health is authorized to:

(1) Improve emergency responses, mobile support teams, noncategorical case management, adult outpatient services, and alternative residential opportunities at designated agencies.

(A) Each designated agency shall provide the scope and category of services most responsive to the needs of designated areas, as determined by the commissioner of mental health.

(B) Designated agencies shall work collaboratively with law enforcement officials, local hospitals, and peers to integrate services and expand treatment opportunities for individuals living with or recovering from mental illness.

(2) Contract for at least four additional short-term crisis beds in designated agencies for the purpose of preventing or diverting individuals from hospitalization when clinically appropriate and for the purpose of increasing regional access to crisis beds.

(3) Contract for a voluntary five-bed residence for individuals seeking to avoid or reduce reliance on medication or having an initial episode of psychosis. The residence shall be peer supported and noncoercive, and treatment shall be focused on a nontraditional, interpersonal, and psychosocial approach, with minimal use of psychotropic medications to facilitate recovery in individuals seeking an alternative to traditional hospitalization.

(4) Provide housing subsidies to individuals living with or recovering from mental illness for the purpose of fostering stable and appropriate living conditions. If necessary to achieve successful housing outcomes, housing subsidies may be provided without an agreement to accept certain services as a condition of assistance. The department of mental health shall ensure that

housing subsidies are monitored and managed in coordination with other relevant community services and supports.

Sec. 8. INTENSIVE RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES

(a) To support the development of intensive residential recovery facilities, the commissioner of mental health is authorized to contract for:

- (1) Fifteen beds located in northwestern Vermont;
- (2) Eight beds located in southeastern Vermont; and
- (3) Eight beds located in either central or southwestern Vermont or both.

(b) Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 9435(b), all facilities contracted for under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to the certificate of approval process, which shall take into consideration the recommendations of a panel of stakeholders appointed by the commissioner to review each proposal and conduct a public hearing.

Sec. 9. INPATIENT HOSPITAL BEDS

(a) To replace the services provided at the Vermont State Hospital, the department of mental health shall oversee the delivery of emergency examination and involuntary inpatient treatment services at four acute inpatient hospitals throughout the state:

(1) The department of mental health shall enter into contracts that meet the requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection with a hospital in southeastern Vermont and a hospital in southwestern Vermont for the establishment of a 14-bed unit and a six-bed unit, respectively, contingent upon receipt by the hospitals of certificates of need pursuant to 18 V.S.A. chapter 221, subchapter 5. Certificate of need applications for the 14-bed unit and the six-bed unit, whether prepared jointly by a hospital and the department or solely by a hospital, shall be reviewed by the commissioner of mental health prior to a certificate of need approval to ensure the architectural and program proposals meet industry standards for quality of care and emotional and physical safety standards and otherwise protect patients' rights.

(2) Initial contract terms for the 14-bed unit and the six-bed unit shall require participation in the no refusal system for four years and until the facility has recouped its initial investment. Contracts referenced in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to participating hospitals, notwithstanding their status as designated hospitals, and shall contain the following requirements:

(A) Funding shall be based on the ability to treat patients with high acuity levels;

(B) Units shall be managed as part of a statewide no refusal system;

(C) Reimbursement by the state shall cover actual costs for enhanced programming and staffing;

(D) Units shall be managed to ensure access to peer supports;

(E) Participating hospitals shall maintain a stakeholder advisory group with nonexclusionary membership to ensure high quality and appropriate levels of care;

(F) The department shall be solely responsible for responding to requests for records concerning the implementation of this contract between the department and the hospital. The hospital and its employees shall cooperate and provide reasonable assistance to the department in producing records that are within the custody of the hospital that are responsive to records requests and that are not confidential by law.

(G) The state shall retain the option to renew the contract upon expiration of the initial four-year term.

(b)(1) The department of buildings and general services, with broad involvement from the department of mental health and stakeholders, shall design a 16-bed hospital owned and operated by the state in central Vermont and proximate to an existing hospital. Using fast track methods, the department of buildings and general services shall supervise the construction of the hospital. The operations of the hospital shall be under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of mental health.

(2) To foster coordination between the judiciary and mental health systems, the hospital owned and operated by the state shall contain:

(A) adequate capacity to accept individuals receiving a court order of hospitalization pursuant to 18 V.S.A. chapter 181; and

(B) a private room used and outfitted for the purpose of judicial proceedings.

(3) The commissioner of buildings and general services may purchase, lease for a period up to 99 years, or enter into a lease-purchase agreement for property in central Vermont for the purpose described in this subsection.

(4) The commissioner of buildings and general services shall inform the chairs and vice chairs of the senate committee on institutions and house committee on corrections and institutions prior to entering into an agreement

pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, upon substantial completion of a design pursuant to this section, prior to the commencement of construction, and when any other substantial step is taken in furtherance of this section.

(c)(1) The commissioner is authorized to contract for seven to 12 involuntary acute inpatient beds at Fletcher Allen Health Care until the hospital owned and operated by the state described in subsection (b) of this section is operational, to cover the increased cost of care; and

(2) If a viable setting is identified by the commissioner and licensed by the department of health, the commissioner is authorized to provide acute inpatient services at a temporary location and shall discontinue services at that location when the hospital owned and operated by the state described in subsection (b) of this section is operational. The department shall pursue Medicare and Medicaid certification for any such hospital or facility.

(d) To the extent amounts of potential funding from various sources are not clear upon passage of this act, the legislative intent for funding the capital costs of this section to the extent practicable is first through insurance funds that may be available for these purposes; second through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds that may be available for these purposes and any required state match; third, in the case of the 14-bed unit and the six-bed unit, through a rate payment with clearly defined terms of services; and last with state capital or general funds. It is also the intent of the general assembly that, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. §§ 134 and 135, any capital funds expended for projects described in this act that are reimbursed at a later date by insurance or FEMA shall be reallocated to fund capital projects in a future act relating to capital construction and state bonding.

Sec. 10. SECURE RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM

(a) The commissioner of mental health is authorized to establish and oversee a secure five-bed residential facility owned and operated by the state for individuals no longer requiring acute inpatient care, but who remain in need of treatment within a secure setting for an extended period of time. The program shall be the least restrictive and most integrated setting for each of the individual residents.

(b) The opening of the facility described in subsection (a) of this section is contingent upon the passage of necessary statutory amendments authorizing judicial orders for commitment to such a facility, which shall parallel or be included in 18 V.S.A. § 7620 (related to applications for continuation of involuntary treatment), and shall include the same level of statutory protections for the legal rights of the residents as provided for individuals at inpatient facilities.

* * * Vermont Employees Retirement System * * *

Sec. 11. 3 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

§ 455. DEFINITIONS

(a) Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the following words and phrases as used in this subchapter shall have the following meanings:

* * *

(28) “Successor in interest” means the mental health hospital owned and operated by the state that provides acute inpatient care and replaces the Vermont State Hospital.

Sec. 12. 3 V.S.A. § 459(d)(2)A is amended to read:

(2)(A) Upon early retirement, a group F member, except facility employees of the department of corrections and department of corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community and Woodside facility employees, shall receive an early retirement allowance which shall be equal to the normal retirement allowance reduced by one-half of one percent for each month the member is under age 62 at the time of early retirement. Group F members who have 20 years of service as facility employees of the department of corrections, as department of corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community or as Woodside facility employees or as Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital employees, or as employees of its successor in interest, who provide direct patient care shall receive an early retirement allowance which shall be equal to the normal retirement allowance at age 55 without reduction; provided the 20 years of service occurred in one or more of the following capacities as an employee of the department of corrections, Woodside facility₂, or the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest: facility employee, community service center employee₂, or court and reparative service unit employee.

* * * Executive: Human Services * * *

Sec. 13. 3 V.S.A. § 3089 is amended to read:

§ 3089. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

The department of mental health is created within the agency of human services as the successor to and the continuation of the division of mental health services of the department of health. The department of mental health

shall be responsible for the operation of the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest as defined in subdivision 455(28) of this title.

* * * Crimes and Criminal Procedure: Escape * * *

Sec. 14. 13 V.S.A. § 1501 is amended to read:

§ 1501. ESCAPE AND ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE

* * *

(b) A person who, while in lawful custody:

* * *

(4) escapes or attempts to escape from the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest or a participating hospital, when confined by court order pursuant to chapter 157 of Title 13 or chapter 199 of Title 18 ~~this title~~, or when transferred there pursuant to ~~section 28~~ 28 V.S.A. § 703 of Title 28 and while still serving a sentence, shall be imprisoned for not more than five years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

* * *

(d) As used in this section:

(1) “No refusal system” means a system of hospitals and intensive residential recovery facilities under contract with the department of mental health that provides high intensity services, in which the facilities shall admit any individual for care if the individual meets the eligibility criteria established by the commissioner in contract.

(2) “Participating hospital” means a hospital under contract with the department of mental health to participate in the no refusal system.

(3) “Successor in interest” shall mean the mental health hospital owned and operated by the state that provides acute inpatient care and replaces the Vermont State Hospital.

* * * Crimes and Criminal Procedure: Insanity as a Defense * * *

Sec. 15. 13 V.S.A. § 4815 is amended to read:

§ 4815. PLACE OF EXAMINATION; TEMPORARY COMMITMENT

* * *

(b) The order for examination may provide for an examination at any jail or correctional center, or at the state hospital, or at its successor in interest, or at

such other place as the court shall determine, after hearing a recommendation by the commissioner of mental health.

* * *

(g)(1) Inpatient examination at the ~~state hospital~~ Vermont State Hospital, or its successor in interest, or a designated hospital. The court shall not order an inpatient examination unless the designated mental health professional determines that the defendant is a person in need of treatment as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 7101(17).

* * *

(3) An order for inpatient examination shall provide for placement of the defendant in the custody and care of the commissioner of mental health.

(A) If a Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital psychiatrist, or a psychiatrist of its successor in interest, or a designated hospital psychiatrist determines that the defendant is not in need of inpatient hospitalization prior to admission, the commissioner shall release the defendant pursuant to the terms governing the defendant's release from the commissioner's custody as ordered by the court. The commissioner of mental health shall ensure that all individuals who are determined not to be in need of inpatient hospitalization receive appropriate referrals for outpatient mental health services.

(B) If a Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital psychiatrist, or a psychiatrist of its successor in interest, or designated hospital psychiatrist determines that the defendant is in need of inpatient hospitalization:

(i) The commissioner shall obtain an appropriate inpatient placement for the defendant at the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, or a designated hospital and, based on the defendant's clinical needs, may transfer the defendant between hospitals at any time while the order is in effect. A transfer to a designated hospital outside the no refusal system is subject to acceptance of the patient for admission by that hospital.

(ii) The defendant shall be returned to court for further appearance on the following business day if the defendant is no longer in need of inpatient hospitalization, unless the terms established by the court pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section permit the defendant to be released from custody.

* * *

(i) As used in this section:

(1) “No refusal system” means a system of hospitals and intensive residential recovery facilities under contract with the department of mental health that provides high intensity services, in which the facilities shall admit any individual for care if the individual meets the eligibility criteria established by the commissioner in contract.

(2) “Successor in interest” shall mean the mental health hospital owned and operated by the state that provides acute inpatient care and replaces the Vermont State Hospital.

Sec. 15a. 13 V.S.A. § 4822(c) is amended to read:

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, at least 10 days prior to the proposed discharge of any person committed under this section the commissioner of ~~developmental and~~ mental health services shall give notice thereof to the committing court and state’s attorney of the county where the prosecution originated. In all cases requiring a hearing prior to discharge of a person found incompetent to stand trial under section 4817 of this title, the hearing shall be conducted by the committing court issuing the order under that section. In all other cases, when the committing court orders a hearing under subsection (a) of this section or when, in the discretion of the commissioner of ~~developmental and~~ mental health services, a hearing should be held prior to the discharge, the hearing shall be held in the ~~criminal family~~ division of the superior court, ~~Waterbury circuit~~ to determine if the committed person is no longer a person in need of treatment or a patient in need of further treatment as set forth in subsection (a) of this section. Notice of the hearing shall be given to the commissioner, the state’s attorney of the county where the prosecution originated, the committed person and the person’s attorney. Prior to the hearing, the state’s attorney may enter an appearance in the proceedings and may request examination of the patient by an independent psychiatrist, who may testify at the hearing.

* * * Elections * * *

Sec. 16. 17 V.S.A. § 2103 is amended to read:

§ 2103. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title, unless the context or a specific definition requires a different reading:

* * *

(38) “State institution” means the Vermont State Hospital, or its successor in interest, correctional facilities, and other similar public

institutions, established or funded, or both, by public funds within the state of Vermont, not including educational institutions.

* * *

(43) “No refusal system” means a system of hospitals and intensive residential recovery facilities under contract with the department of mental health that provides high intensity services, in which the facilities shall admit any individual for care if the individual meets the eligibility criteria established by the commissioner in contract.

(44) “Participating hospital” means a hospital under contract with the department of mental health to participate in the no refusal system.

(45) “Successor in interest” means the mental health hospital owned and operated by the state that provides acute inpatient care and replaces the Vermont State Hospital.

* * * General Provisions (pertaining to Mental Health) * * *

Sec. 17. 18 V.S.A. § 7101 is amended to read:

§ 7101. DEFINITIONS

As used in this part of this title, the following words, unless the context otherwise requires, shall have the following meanings:

* * *

(26) “No refusal system” means a system of hospitals and intensive residential recovery facilities under contract with the department of mental health that provides high intensity services, in which the facilities shall admit any individual for care if the individual meets the eligibility criteria established by the commissioner in contract.

(27) “Participating hospital” means a hospital under contract with the department of mental health to participate in the no refusal system.

(28) “Successor in interest” means the mental health hospital owned and operated by the state that provides acute inpatient care and replaces the Vermont State Hospital.

Sec. 18. 18 V.S.A. § 7108 is amended to read:

§ 7108. CANTEENS

The ~~superintendents~~ chief executive officer of the Vermont State Hospital ~~and the Training School, or its successor in interest,~~ may conduct a canteen or commissary, which shall be accessible to patients, ~~students,~~ employees, and visitors of the ~~state hospital and training school~~ Vermont State Hospital, or its

successor in interest, at designated hours and shall be operated by employees of the hospital ~~and the school~~. A revolving fund for this purpose is authorized. The salary of an employee of the hospital ~~or training school~~ shall be charged against the canteen fund. Proceeds from sales may be used for operation of the canteen and the benefit of the patients, ~~students~~ and employees of the hospital ~~or training school~~ under the direction of the ~~superintendents~~ chief executive officer and subject to the approval of the commissioner. All balances of such funds remaining at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in such fund for use during the succeeding fiscal year. An annual report of the status of the funds shall be submitted to the commissioner.

Sec. 19. 18 V.S.A. § 7110 is amended to read:

§ 7110. CERTIFICATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS

A certification of mental illness by a licensed physician required by section 7504 of this title shall be made by a board eligible psychiatrist, a board certified psychiatrist or a resident in psychiatry, under penalty of perjury. In areas of the state where board eligible psychiatrists, board certified psychiatrists or residents in psychiatry are not available to complete admission certifications to the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, the commissioner may designate other licensed physicians as appropriate to complete certification for purposes of section 7504 of this title.

* * * The Department of Mental Health * * *

Sec. 20. 18 V.S.A. § 7205 is amended to read:

§ 7205. SUPERVISION OF INSTITUTIONS

(a) The department of mental health shall operate the Vermont State Hospital, or its successor in interest, and shall be responsible for patients receiving involuntary treatment ~~at a hospital designated by the department of mental health~~.

(b) The commissioner of the department of mental health, in consultation with the secretary, shall appoint a chief executive officer of the Vermont State Hospital, or its successor in interest, to oversee the operations of the hospital. The chief executive officer position shall be an exempt position.

Sec. 21. DELETED

Sec. 22. DELETED

* * * The Commissioner of Mental Health * * *

Sec. 23. 18 V.S.A. § 7401 is amended to read:

§ 7401. POWERS AND DUTIES

Except insofar as this part of this title specifically confers certain powers, duties, and functions upon others, the commissioner shall be charged with its administration. The commissioner may:

* * *

(5) supervise the care and treatment of ~~patients at the Retreat in the same manner and with the same authority that he supervises patients at the Vermont State Hospital~~ individuals within his or her custody;

* * *

(16) contract with accredited educational or health care institutions for psychiatric services at the Vermont State Hospital, or its successor in interest;

* * *

* * * Admission Procedures * * *

Sec. 24. 18 V.S.A. § 7511(a) is amended to read:

(a) The commissioner shall ensure that all reasonable and appropriate measures consistent with public safety are made to transport or escort a person subject to this chapter to and from any inpatient setting, including escorts within a designated hospital or the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, or otherwise being transported under the jurisdiction of the commissioner in any manner which:

(1) prevents physical and psychological trauma;

(2) respects the privacy of the individual; and

(3) represents the least restrictive means necessary for the safety of the patient.

Sec. 25. 18 V.S.A. § 7703 is amended to read:

§ 7703. TREATMENT

(a) Outpatient or partial hospitalization shall be preferred to inpatient treatment. Emergency involuntary treatment shall be undertaken only when clearly necessary. Involuntary treatment shall be utilized only if voluntary treatment is not possible.

(b) The department shall establish minimum standards for adequate treatment as provided in this section, including requirements that law enforcement is not used as a primary source of inpatient security.

* * * Transfer of Patients * * *

Sec. 26. 18 V.S.A. § 7901 is amended to read:

§ 7901. INTRASTATE TRANSFERS

The commissioner may authorize the transfer of patients between the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, and designated hospitals if the commissioner determines that it would be consistent with the medical needs of the patient to do so. Whenever a patient is transferred, written notice shall be given to the patient's ~~attorney~~, legal guardian or agent, if any, ~~spouse, parent, or parents, or, if none be known, to any other interested party in that order,~~ and any other person with the consent of the patient. In all such transfers, due consideration shall be given to the relationship of the patient to his or her family, legal guardian, or friends, so as to maintain relationships and encourage visits beneficial to the patient. Due consideration shall also be given to the separation of functions and to the divergent purposes of the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, and designated hospitals. No patient may be transferred to a correctional institution without the order of a court of competent jurisdiction. No patient may be transferred to a designated hospital outside the no refusal system unless the head of the hospital or his or her designee first accepts the patient.

* * * Support and Expense * * *

Sec. 27. 18 V.S.A. § 8101(b) is amended to read:

(b) The commissioner shall promulgate, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 of Title 3, regulations which set forth in detail the levels of income, resources, expenses, and family size at which persons are deemed able to pay given amounts for the care and treatment of a patient, and the circumstances, if any, under which the rates of payment so established may be waived or modified. A copy of the payment schedule so promulgated shall be made available in the admissions office ~~and in the office of each supervisor at the state hospital~~ Vermont State Hospital, or its successor in interest.

Sec. 28. 18 V.S.A. § 8105 is amended to read:

§ 8105. COMPUTATION OF CHARGE FOR CARE AND TREATMENT

The charge for the care and treatment of a patient at the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, shall be established at least

annually by the commissioner. The charge shall reflect the current cost of the care and treatment, including depreciation and overhead, for the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest. Depreciation shall include but not be limited to costs for the use of the plant and permanent improvements, and overhead shall include but not be limited to costs incurred by other departments and agencies for the operation of the hospital. Accounting principles and practices generally accepted for hospitals shall be followed by the commissioner in establishing the charges.

Sec. 29. 18 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:

§ 8010. VOLUNTARY PATIENTS; DISCHARGE; DETENTION

~~(a) If a voluntary patient gives notice in writing to the head of the hospital of a desire to leave the hospital, he or she shall promptly be released unless he or she agreed in writing at the time of his admission that his or her release could be delayed.~~

~~(b) In that event and if the head of the hospital determines that the patient is a patient in need of further treatment, the head of the hospital may detain the patient for a period not to exceed four days from receipt of the notice to leave. Before expiration of the four day period the head of the hospital shall either release the patient or apply to the family division of the superior court in the unit in which the hospital is located for the involuntary admission of the patient. The patient shall remain in the hospital pending the court's determination of the case.~~

~~(c) If the patient is under 18 years of age, the notice to leave may be given by the patient or his or her attorney or the person who applied for admission, provided the minor consents thereto. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Municipal and County Government * * *

Sec. 29a. 24 V.S.A. § 296 is amended to read:

§ 296. TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS AND MENTAL PATIENTS

All commitments to a state correctional facility ~~or state mental institution~~ or to any other place named by the commissioner of corrections, ~~commissioner of mental health~~ or committing court, shall be made by any sheriff, deputy sheriff, state police officer, police officer, or constable in the state, or the commissioner of corrections or his or her authorized agent.

* * * Professions and Occupations: Nursing * * *

Sec. 30. 26 V.S.A. § 1583 is amended to read:

§ 1583. EXCEPTIONS

This chapter does not prohibit:

* * *

~~(6) The work and duties of psychiatric technicians and other care attendants employed in the Vermont state hospital at Waterbury. The agency of human services shall consult with the board regarding standards for the education of the technicians and care attendants.~~

~~(7)~~ The work and duties of attendants in attendant care services programs.

~~(8)~~⁽⁷⁾ The practice of any other occupation or profession licensed under the laws of this state.

~~(9)~~⁽⁸⁾ The providing of care for the sick in accordance with the tenets of any church or religious denomination by its adherents if the individual does not hold himself or herself out to be a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or licensed nursing assistant and does not engage in the practice of nursing as defined in this chapter.

* * * Public Institutions and Corrections: Juveniles * * *

Sec. 31. 28 V.S.A. § 1105 is amended to read:

§ 1105. TRANSFER OF JUVENILES TO STATE HOSPITAL

~~The transfer of any child committed to the custody of the commissioner from a facility of or supported by the department to the state hospital shall be conducted pursuant to the same procedures established for the transfer of adult inmates by sections 703-706 of this title. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Regulation of Long-Term Care Facilities * * *

Sec. 32. 33 V.S.A. § 7102 is amended to read:

§ 7102. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this chapter:

* * *

(11) “Therapeutic community residence” means a place, however named, excluding a ~~hospital~~ hospitals as defined by statute ~~or the Vermont state hospital~~ which provides, for profit or otherwise, short-term individualized

treatment to three or more residents with major life adjustment problems, such as alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness, or delinquency.

* * *

Sec. 33. REPORTS

(a) On or before January 15, 2013, the department of mental health shall report to the senate committee on health and welfare and the house committees on human services and on judiciary on issues and protections relating to decentralizing high intensity inpatient mental health care. The commissioner of mental health shall:

(1) Recommend whether any statutory changes are needed to preserve the rights afforded to patients in the Vermont State Hospital. In so doing, the commissioner shall consider 18 V.S.A. §§ 7705 and 7707, the Vermont Hospital Patient Bill of Rights as provided in 18 V.S.A. § 1852, the settlement order in Doe, et al. v. Miller, et al., docket number S-142-82-Wnc dated May 1984, and other state and federal regulatory and accreditation requirements related to patient rights.

(2) Work with designated hospitals and stakeholders to develop a process to ensure public involvement with policy development relevant to individuals in the care and custody of the commissioner.

(3) Develop consistent definitions and measurement specifications for measures relating to seclusion and restraint and other key indicators, in collaboration with the designated hospitals. The commissioner shall prioritize the use of measures developed by national organizations such as the Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(4) Report on the efficacy of the department of mental health's housing subsidies program on the status of stable housing.

(b) On or before January 15, 2013, the department of mental health shall report to the senate committee on health and welfare and the house committee on human services regarding the department's efforts to date to plan for implementation, quality improvement, and innovation of Vermont's mental health system and how the department recommends that it proceed in its efforts to improve the system. The recommendation shall be based on:

(1) the department's use of current financial data to conduct a fiscal analysis of the capital and annual operating costs associated with the plan as enacted; and

(2) the department's ongoing collection of data on the state's mental health system, including:

(A) the average monthly bed census and average length of stay at inpatient psychiatric hospitals, intensive residential recovery facilities, and crisis beds;

(B) the number of declined referrals to inpatient psychiatric hospitals due to lack of capacity;

(C) the average wait time for admission to an intensive residential recovery facility;

(D) the number of individuals with mental health conditions utilizing noncategorical case management services, mobile support services, peer services, and housing subsidies, and if applicable, the average wait for each service;

(E) the number of emergency room screenings for psychiatric care, disposition of the screenings, and duration of emergency room visits;

(F) the number and disposition of court-ordered inpatient evaluations; and

(G) individuals' satisfaction with provided services.

(c) Prior to submitting the reports required by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the department of mental health shall solicit comments from the department's patient representative described in 18 V.S.A. § 7253, Vermont Legal Aid, and Disability Rights Vermont, and shall append any comments received to the respective report.

Sec. 34. TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

To continue the training program established in Sec. 13 of No. 80 of the Acts of the 2003 Adj. Sess. (2004) (amending Sec. 57 of No. 66 of the Acts of 2003), for assisting selected law enforcement officers during the performance of their duties in their interactions with persons exhibiting mental health conditions, \$20,000.00 of the general funds appropriated to the department of mental health shall be transferred to the office of the attorney general.

(1) The office of the attorney general, in consultation with the Vermont coalition for disability rights and other organizations, shall implement this training program.

(2) By January 15 of each year and until funds are fully expended, the attorney general shall submit to the secretary of administration and the house and senate committees on appropriations a report summarizing how the funds have been used and how the trainings have progressed.

(3) Unexpended funds shall be carried forward and used for the purpose of this section in future years.

Sec. 34a. Sec. 33 of No. 43 of the Acts of 2009 (amending Sec. 124d(e) of No. 65 of the Acts of 2007) is amended to read:

(e) For purposes of this section, the council shall cease to exist when the development of the alternatives to the Vermont state hospital is completed, but no later than July 1, ~~2012~~ 2014.

* * * Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations * * *

Sec. 35. Sec. B.301 of No. 63 of the Acts of 2011 (FY12 Big Bill), as amended by Sec. 14 of H.558 of 2012 (FY12 Budget Adjustment) is amended to read:

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Grants	<u>1,080,785,264</u>	<u>1,107,604,567</u>
Total	<u>1,080,785,264</u>	<u>1,107,604,567</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	139,267,121	135,947,833
Special funds	18,630,961	19,052,361
Tobacco fund	36,978,473	36,978,473
State health care resources fund	221,579,040	234,205,524
Catamount fund	23,948,700	25,226,979
Federal funds	639,692,834	655,505,262
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>688,135</u>	<u>688,135</u>
Total	<u>1,080,785,264</u>	<u>1,107,604,567</u>

Sec. 36. Sec. B.314 of No. 63 of the Acts of 2011 (FY12 Big Bill), as amended by Sec.24 of H.558 of 2012 (FY12 Budget Adjustment) is amended to read:

Sec. B.314 Mental health - mental health

Personal services	<u>5,486,339</u>	5,482,633
Operating expenses	<u>1,117,984</u>	1,040,984
Grants	<u>124,369,250</u>	<u>139,483,645</u>
Total	<u>130,973,573</u>	<u>146,007,262</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	811,295	961,295
Special funds	6,836	6,836
Federal funds	6,555,971	6,552,154
Global Commitment fund	123,579,471	138,466,977

Interdepartmental transfers	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total	<u>130,973,573</u>	146,007,262

Sec. 37. Sec. B.315 of No. 63 of the Acts of 2011 (FY 12 Big Bill), as amended by Sec.25 of H.558 of 2012 (FY12 Budget Adjustment) is amended to read:

Sec. B.315 Mental health – Vermont state hospital

Personal services	<u>20,479,188</u>	20,228,969
Operating expenses	<u>2,056,312</u>	1,394,734
Grants	<u>82,335</u>	<u>82,335</u>
Total	<u>22,617,835</u>	21,706,038
Source of funds		
General fund	<u>17,016,067</u>	5,963,977
Special funds	<u>835,486</u>	0
Federal funds	<u>213,564</u>	93,117
Global Commitment fund	<u>4,252,718</u>	15,648,944
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>300,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>22,617,835</u>	21,706,038

Sec. 37a. REDUCTION IN FORCE OF VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

(a) Permanent status classified employees who were officially subjected to a reduction in force from their positions with the Vermont State Hospital on or after February 6, 2012, whose reemployment rights have not otherwise terminated and who have not been reemployed with the state during the two-year reduction in force reemployment rights period, shall be granted a continuation of their reduction in force reemployment rights, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable collective bargaining agreement, but solely to vacant classified bargaining unit positions at any new state-owned and -operated psychiatric hospital which management intends to fill. All other contractual reduction in force reemployment terms and conditions shall apply.

(b) Permanent status classified employees employed by the Vermont State Hospital as of February 6, 2012 who are employed by the state shall, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable collective bargaining agreement, be eligible to receive one mandatory offer of reemployment to any new state-owned and -operated psychiatric hospital, solely to the job classification that they last occupied at the Vermont State Hospital, provided management intends to fill positions within that job classification. An employee who accepts such mandatory offer of reemployment shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the applicable collective bargaining agreement. If an employee who accepts a mandatory offer of

reemployment fails the associated working test period, he or she shall be separated from employment and granted full reduction in force reemployment rights in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

(c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section are repealed one year after the opening of any new state-owned and -operated psychiatric hospital.

Sec. 37b. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly that the department of mental health contract with the Brattleboro Retreat for a 14-bed unit and with Rutland Regional Medical Center for a six-bed facility pursuant to Sec. 9(a) of this act.

(b) It is the understanding of the general assembly that the proposal in Sec. 9(c)(2) of this act, the Brattleboro Retreat, Rutland Regional Medical Center, and an interim secure residential facility are to temporarily meet the immediate needs of the state.

Sec. 38. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except for Sec. 34 which shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Hartwell, for the Committee on Institutions, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 9, subdivision (b)(1), by striking out the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following: Using flexible and expedient methods, the department of buildings and general services shall be responsible for the construction processes related to the hospital.

Second: In Sec. 9, subdivision (b)(3), by inserting the word of after the word “period” and by inserting the following: plus any contracted for renewal options after the word “years”

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Thereupon, Senator Hartwell, moved to substitute the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Institutions as follows:

First: In Sec. 9, subdivision (b)(1), in the second sentence, by striking the words “Using fast track methods, the” and inserting in lieu thereof The

Second: In Sec. 9, subdivision (b)(3), by inserting the word of after the word “period” and by inserting the following: plus any contracted for renewal options after the word “years”

Which was agreed to.

Senator Kitchel, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare and the Committee on Institutions with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 1a, 18 V.S.A. § 7255(3), after the word “allow” by adding the word for

Second: In Sec. 1a, 18 V.S.A. § 7256, by striking out the word and at the end of subdivision (3), and by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (4) and (5) to read as follows:

(4) Patient recovery in terms of clinical, social, and legal outcomes; and

(5) Performance of the state’s mental health system of care as compared to nationally recognized standards of excellence.

Third: In Sec. 7, subdivision (1)(B), by inserting the following: corrections, after the following: “officials.”

Fourth: In Sec. 9, subdivision (a)(2), in the first sentence, by striking out the word “four” and inserting in lieu thereof the number 10

Fifth: In Sec. 9, by striking out subdivision (c)(2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(c)(2) If a viable setting is identified by the commissioner and licensed by the department of health, the commissioner is authorized to provide acute inpatient services at a temporary location, which shall cease to operate on the first date that the hospital owned and operated by the state described in subsection (b) of this section is operational. The department shall pursue Medicare and Medicaid certification for any such hospital or facility.

Sixth: In Sec. 10, subsection (a), by striking out the following: “five-bed” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: five- to 10-bed

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 24 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 24 to read as follows:

Sec. 24. 18 V.S.A. § 7511 is amended to read:

§ 7511. TRANSPORTATION

(a) The commissioner shall ensure that all reasonable and appropriate measures consistent with public safety are made to transport or escort a person subject to this chapter to and from any inpatient setting, including escorts within a designated hospital or the Vermont ~~state hospital~~ State Hospital, or its successor in interest, or otherwise being transported under the jurisdiction of the commissioner in any manner which:

- (1) prevents physical and psychological trauma;
- (2) respects the privacy of the individual; and
- (3) represents the least restrictive means necessary for the safety of the patient.

(b) The commissioner shall have the authority to designate the professionals or law enforcement officers who may authorize the method of transport of patients under the commissioner's care and custody.

(c) When a professional or law enforcement officer designated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section decides an individual is in need of secure transport with mechanical restraints, the reasons for such determination shall be documented in writing.

* * *

Eighth: By adding a Sec. 33a to read as follows:

Sec. 33a. COST-BASED REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES

(a) Prior to providing cost-based reimbursement above established rates, the department of mental health shall ensure that a rigorous fiscal review has been conducted by qualified professionals verifying any submitted claim includes only valid and allowable costs. The department may contract with the division of rate setting or a third party to conduct this review.

(b) The department of mental health shall report to the joint fiscal committee regarding the fiscal review described in subsection (a) of this section on or before September 1, 2012.

Ninth: In Sec. 34, in the introductory paragraph, in the first sentence, after the words "department of mental health" by inserting the following: for fiscal year 2012

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Senator Kitchel, on behalf of the Committee on Appropriations, moved to substitute the *eighth* proposal of amendment of the Committee on Appropriations and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Eighth: By adding a Sec. 33a to read as follows:

Sec. 33a. COST-BASED REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES

(a) The department of mental health shall ensure that a comprehensive fiscal review to determine reimbursable hospital costs is conducted by qualified professionals for cost reimbursement above established rates for inpatient psychiatric care. The department may contract with the division of rate setting or a third party to conduct this review.

(b) The department of mental health shall report to the joint fiscal committee regarding the fiscal review described in subsection (a) of this section on or before September 1, 2012.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Health and Welfare was amended as recommended by the Committee on Institutions.

Thereupon, the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Health and Welfare, as amended was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Ayer moved to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Health and Welfare as amended, as follows:

In Sec. 25, subsection (b), by striking everything after the word “requirements” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: that, when possible, psychiatric unit staff be used as the primary source to implement emergency involuntary procedures such as seclusion and restraint.

Which was agreed to.

Senator Campbell Assumes the Chair

The Lieutenant Governor who assumed his duties as Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor, Senator Campbell assumed the Chair.

Thereupon, the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare, as amended, was agreed to.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered on a roll call, Yeas 22, Nays 4.

Senator Fox having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ayer, Carris, Cummings, *Fox, Galbraith, Giard, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Kittell, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Snelling, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Ashe, Benning, Doyle, Flory.

Those Senators absent or not voting were: Baruth, Brock, Campbell (presiding), Sears.

*Senator Fox explained her vote as follows:

“I vote *yes* today without having the opportunity to vote on an amendment which will be offered tomorrow, when I will be absent. I want the record to reflect my support of at least a 25 bed state acute care facility.”

Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged

On motion of Senator Mazza, the rules were suspended, and the following bills were severally ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

S. 116, H. 629.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Mazza, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.