https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.742
https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/ACTS/ACT091/ACT091%20Act%20Summary.pdf

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Act No. 91 (H.742). Health; human services; health care providers; motor vehicles; unemployment insurance; COVID-19

An act relating to Vermont's response to COVID-19

This act provides administrative and health care provider flexibility in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It allows the Agency of Human Services and the Green Mountain Care Board to waive or modify certain regulatory processes and requirements as appropriate to prioritize direct patient care, allow flexible staffing, and preserve provider sustainability. It directs the Department of Financial Regulation to consider adopting emergency rules to expand health insurance coverage for and reduce out-of-pocket costs related to COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment, and prevention; modify or suspend deductible requirements for prescription drugs; and expand access to and reimbursement for health care services delivered remotely. The act permits patients to refill their maintenance medications early, allows pharmacists to extend prescriptions for maintenance medications, and allows pharmacists to substitute a substantially equivalent prescription drug if a prescribed medication is unavailable. It allows recently retired Vermont health care professionals and health care professionals licensed in other states to deliver health care services to Vermonters using telehealth, as part of the staff of a licensed facility, or under a temporary license, and provides the Office of Professional Regulation and Board of Medical Practice flexibility to waive certain requirements during a state of emergency. The act also expands health insurance coverage for telehealth, including requiring coverage for teledentistry and for health care services delivered using store-and-forward means and, until January 1, 2026, requiring health insurance plans to reimburse providers the same amount for the same services whether provided in person or through telemedicine. And the act allows the Commissioner for Children and Families to use additional funds from its fiscal year 2020 appropriation for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program to help child care programs at risk of closing due to financial hardship.

This act also provides the Department of Motor Vehicles with flexibility in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It allows the Department to issue renewed credentials with a photograph obtained not more than 16 years earlier that is compliant with the federal REAL ID Act; extends how long credentials, registrations, and registration plates or placards for an individual with a disability are valid for after expiration; extends how long International Registration Plan trip permits, temporary authorizations, temporary registration certificates, and

temporary number plates are valid for; and authorizes the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to extend how long certain other permits are valid for. This act also allows the driver of a Type I or a Type II school bus to utilize an eight-light system when making deliveries of food to school aged children.

Finally, this act makes multiple changes to the unemployment insurance laws. It permits the Commissioner of Labor to require electronic business registration with unemployment insurance system. It makes temporary changes to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 related layoffs, furloughs, and quits on employers' experience ratings and unemployment insurance tax rates. It also temporarily permits individuals who quit their jobs for certain COVID-19 related reasons to receive unemployment insurance benefits and requires employers to notify employees who are separating from employment of the availability of unemployment insurance benefits.

Multiple effective dates, beginning retroactively on March 17, 2020