



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE  
**Joint Fiscal Office**

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## Fiscal Note

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### **S.190 – An act relating to the Green Mountain Care Board, reference-based pricing, and studying the creation of a Public Employee Health Benefit Authority**

As Passed by the Senate<sup>1</sup>

#### **Bill Summary**

The bill proposes numerous health system-related reforms, including requirements for hospitals and health insurers to meet in order to facilitate the Green Mountain Care Board's (GMCB's) implementation of reference-based pricing, establishing regulatory oversight of hospitals' use of outsourcing contracts for clinical care, and changes regarding health care provider bargaining groups. The bill would also direct GMCB to develop an interactive health system performance tool if the State receives the funding necessary to support the project. Finally, the bill would create the Public Employee Health Benefit Authority Study Committee.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

Secs. 8 and 9 would require GMCB to develop and maintain a public, interactive tool that displays information on health system performance, including information regarding quality, access, and affordability if GMCB receives sufficient funding from the federal government or another source for this purpose.

Sec. 10 would create the Public Employee Health Benefit Authority Study Committee to evaluate opportunities to establish a state authority to develop and administer comprehensive and affordable health benefits for all public-sector employees in Vermont. The 11-member committee would have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of the State Treasurer. Members would not receive per diems or expense reimbursement. The bill as recommended by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare had appropriated \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Office of the State Treasurer to pay for the services of one or more consultants or firms to assist with facilitating meetings, public hearings, and preparing a report. The bill as recommended by the Senate Committee on Appropriations removed the appropriation and added language to Sec. 10(d) making the aforementioned consultant work contingent by adding "to the extent funds are made available for this purpose."

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<sup>1</sup> The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.

The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.