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H.717

Introduced by Representatives Gage of Rutland City, Batchelor of Derby,
Beyor of Highgate, Branagan of Georgia, Canfield of Fair
Haven, Christie of Hartford, Cupoli of Rutland City, Donaghy
of Poultney, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Kilmartin
of Newport City, Koch of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon,
Marcotte of Coventry, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Derby,
Smith of New Haven, Strong of Albany, Terenzini of Rutland
Town, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, and Winters of Williamstown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; health insurance; abortion

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to specify that
health insurance plans are not required to provide coverage for abortion
services. It would prohibit health insurance plans that provide coverage for
abortion services from including those services as part of their coverage for
pregnancy, reproductive services, or family planning.

An act relating to abortions and insurance coverage

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

2 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4089 is added to read:

3 § 4089. ABORTION AS SEPARATE AND NONMANDATORY BENEFIT

4 (a) A health insurance plan shall not be required to include coverage for
5 abortion services.

6 (b) A health insurance plan that covers abortion services shall not include
7 those services as part of its coverage for pregnancy, reproductive services, or
8 family planning, but as a separate and distinct benefit.

9 (c) As used in this section, “health insurance plan” means any health
10 insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer, as defined in
11 18 V.S.A. § 9402.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on October 1, 2014 and shall apply to all health
14 insurance plans on and after January 1, 2015 on such date as a health insurer
15 offers, issues, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later than
16 January 1, 2016.