

1 S.53

2 Introduced by Committee on Health and Welfare

3 Date:

4 Subject: Health; budget; Medicaid; chiropractic

5 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to restore funding for chiropractic
6 services in Medicaid in fiscal year 2009.

7 An act relating to restoration of chiropractic services in Medicaid in fiscal
8 year 2009

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

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 The general assembly finds that:

12 (1) Chiropractic coverage in Medicaid is a more cost-effective method
13 of treating certain health conditions, including back and neck pain. As
14 indicated in the memorandum from the office of Vermont health access dated
15 January 20, 2009, “When the state mandate [to cover chiropractic services] is
16 removed (as of February 1), Medicaid participants will receive these services
17 through other covered health care providers.”

18 (2) Chiropractic services are less expensive than similar services
19 provided by other health care providers.

1 (3) The budget rescission to eliminate chiropractic services in Medicaid
2 will not achieve budget savings and could increase Medicaid costs.

3 Sec. 2. MEDICAID CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

4 (a) In fiscal year 2009, the amount of \$98,131.00 is appropriated from the
5 general fund, and \$143,274.00 is appropriated from federal funds to the agency
6 of human services for the Global Commitment for Health Medicaid
7 Section 1115 fund.

8 (b) In fiscal year 2009, the amount of \$241,405.00 is appropriated from the
9 global commitment fund to the office of Vermont health access. The intent of
10 these funds to restore chiropractic services in the Medicaid program that were
11 eliminated in the rescission actions of the joint fiscal committee on
12 December 19, 2008.