Today, Vermont became the first state in the nation to establish a single-payer health care plan for the state.

Upon the passing of the bill by the Vermont House of Representatives (92-49) and Senate (21-9), Governor Peter Shumlin praised the legislature for becoming "the first state in the country to make the first substantive step to deliver a health care system where health care will be a right and not a privilege."

The legislation guarantees any Vermont resident the right to enroll in a state-sponsored insurance plan, called Green Mountain Care.

A waiver needs to be secured from the Affordable Care Act to allow for the implementation of this new law. Currently, the Affordable Care Act does not allow states to launch alternative health care plans until 2017, but in recent months, President Obama has expressed support to move that date up to 2014.

For more information, read this article [2] from CBS News. You can also read the entirety of the legislation, as signed by Gov. Shumlin, here [3].

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