

Sec. 93. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY HOUSING

(a) The Commissioner for Children and Families shall ensure that temporary emergency housing, to the extent such housing is available, is provided through June 30, 2024 to households eligible for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program, including households eligible under the Adverse Weather Conditions Policy, and beneficiaries of the emergency housing transition benefit that ~~is set to conclude~~ on April 1, 2024, pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6. ~~Except for the 84- or 28-night housing maximums, all other eligibility criteria of the Department for Children and Families, General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260) shall apply to households applying for temporary emergency housing. After June 30, 2024, the number of nights a household was housed in a hotel or motel pursuant to this subsection shall count toward the total number of nights the household is eligible to receive temporary housing assistance under either section 2652.2 or 2652.3 of the Department for Children and Families, General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260).~~

(b) Temporary emergency housing required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may be provided through the use of approved shelters, new unit generation, open units, or other appropriate shelter space. ~~The Agency of Human Services shall, when available, provide temporary emergency housing through housing or shelter placements other than hotels or motels.~~

(c) On or before the last day of each month from April 2024 through June 2024, the Agency of Human Services, or other relevant agency or department, shall continue submitting a substantially similar report to that due pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 6(b).

(d) Beginning on March 1, 2024, the Agency of Human Services shall not reimburse any licensed hotel or motel establishment more than \$75 a day ~~per room~~ to shelter a household experiencing homelessness. ~~The Agency of Human Services may shelter a household in more~~

than one hotel or motel room depending on the household's size and composition. ~~and~~ The Agency of Human Services shall strictly enforce the following rules:

(1) Section 2650.1 of the Department for Children and Families, General Assistance (CVR 13-170-260);

(2) Department of Health, Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule (CVR 13-140-023); and

(3) Department of Public Safety, Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (CVR 28-070-001).

(e)(1) Prior to June 1, 2024, the Agency of Human Services ~~and may work with~~ either a shelter provider or a community housing agency ~~may to~~ enter into a full facility lease or sales agreement with a hotel or motel provider. Any facility conversion under this section shall comply with the Office of Economic Opportunity's shelter standards.

(2) If the Agency determines that a contractual arrangement with a licensed hotel or motel operator to secure temporary emergency housing capacity is beneficial to improve the quality, cleanliness, and access to services for those households temporarily housed in the facility, the Agency shall be authorized to enter into such an agreement; provided, however, that in no event shall such an agreement or the negotiations for such an agreement cause a household to become unhoued.

(3) In no event shall an agreement under this subsection exceed a rate of \$75 per day per ~~household~~ room.

EXPLANATION: Clarifies that the extension of the Act 81 cohort through 6/30 does *not* otherwise amend eligibility rules for non-Act 81 HHs and therefore will *not* extend AWC criteria through 6/30; Makes clear that *all* available housing options will be used for EH HHs, not just motels/hotels; Ensures that the \$75/night rate ceiling is not applied to ea. HH, but instead to ea. room. There are some large families (i.e., 9 members) that require two rooms.