

1 H.294

2 Introduced by Representatives French of Randolph, Andrews of Rutland City,  
3 Donahue of Northfield, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill,  
4 Haas of Rochester, Mrowicki of Putney, Orr of Charlotte and  
5 Pugh of South Burlington

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Human services; Reach Ahead; 12-month lifetime limit; continuing  
9 benefits

10 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify that individuals may  
11 receive food assistance from the Reach Ahead program more than once in their  
12 lifetime and to provide continuing benefits on appeal in the program.

13 An act relating to Reach Ahead

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

15 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1203 is amended to read:

16 § 1203. ELIGIBILITY

17 (a) A family shall be eligible for Reach Ahead if the family resides in

18 Vermont and:

1           (1) has left Reach Up or the postsecondary education program within the  
2 prior six months for unsubsidized employment that meets the work  
3 requirements for the Reach Up program for the family's size and composition;

4           (2) is receiving food stamps and has unsubsidized employment that  
5 meets the work requirements for Reach Up for the family's size and  
6 composition; or

7           (3) is an individual under 21, has a child, is ineligible for food stamps  
8 solely because the individual resides with the individual's parent, and has  
9 unsubsidized employment that meets the work requirements for Reach Up for  
10 the family's size and composition.

11           (b) A family shall be eligible to receive 12 months of benefits in Reach  
12 Ahead as provided for in this chapter once in a three-year period. The  
13 three-year period shall be calculated from the date the family's assistance in  
14 Reach Up was terminated.

15           Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 1213 is amended to read:

16           § 1213. NOTICE AND APPEAL

17           A participant may appeal decisions in accordance with section 3091 of  
18 Title 3 and shall receive continuing benefits pending appeal. The  
19 commissioner shall provide notice to each participant of the standards and  
20 procedures applicable to such appeals. All federal and agency of human

- 1 services rules regarding conciliation, notice, hearing, and appeal shall be
- 2 followed in connection with such appeals.