

1 H.526

2 Introduced by Representatives Partridge of Windham and Obuchowski of

3 Rockingham

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Health; VHAP; income calculation

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to modify the process for income
8 calculation in determining eligibility and premium amounts for the Vermont
9 health access plan for seasonal workers.

10 An act relating to ensuring access for seasonal workers to the Vermont
11 health access plan

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

13 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1973(b) is amended to read:

14 (b)(1) The purpose of the Vermont health access plan is to provide health
15 care coverage for uninsured or underinsured low income Vermonters. The
16 agency of human services or its designee shall establish rules regarding
17 eligibility and administration of the plan.

18 (2)(A) The agency shall establish rules pursuant to chapter 25 of Title 3
19 for calculating income for purposes of income eligibility and determining the
20 appropriate premium established by the general assembly. Income eligibility

1 and the premium amount shall be calculated based on an individual's income
2 tax return for the most recent tax year. An individual may request the agency
3 to calculate income based on the individual's most recent pay stubs if the
4 individual's most recent tax return is not representative of the individual's
5 current year's income due.

6 (B) The agency shall ensure that individuals may report changes in
7 income in order for the premium to be responsive to seasonal work, expected
8 changes in income, and unexpected changes in income. Reported changes in
9 income shall be acted on within 15 days, and the agency shall retroactively
10 decrease premium amounts. Any amounts paid by an individual, a two-person
11 group, or a family in excess of a retroactively decreased premium shall apply
12 to current or future premium amounts due. The Vermont health access plan
13 shall not be terminated for an individual while a change in income request is
14 pending.

15 (C) An individual shall not be required to report income changes of
16 less than 10 percent or income changes expected to continue for fewer than 45
17 days.