

**No. 132. An act relating to organ and tissue donation and Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities.**

(S.89)

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

Sec. 1. ANALYSIS OF COSTS AND SAVINGS

(a) The agency of human services shall analyze the costs or savings associated with each of the following options:

(1) Entering into an agreement with the Social Security Administration in which the state pays the Medicare Part B premium for individuals enrolled in the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program.

(2) Increasing or eliminating the income limits or asset limits or both for eligibility for the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program.

(3) Disregarding spousal income or spousal assets or both when determining eligibility for the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program.

(4) Disregarding the income of a spouse enrolled in the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program when determining the other spouse's eligibility to receive Medicaid benefits.

(5) Permitting an individual receiving Medicaid pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1902(b) immediately preceding a hospitalization or period of temporary unemployment to maintain his or her Medicaid eligibility during that period, as

long as the period of hospitalization or unemployment does not exceed 90 days.

(6) Allowing an individual's enrollment in the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program to establish his or her eligibility for developmental disability services under Vermont's Global Commitment to Health waiver.

(7) Using benefits counselors at public and nonprofit organizations to increase public awareness of the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program and other work incentives for individuals with disabilities.

(b) No later than January 15, 2013, the secretary of human services shall report to the house committees on human services and on appropriations and the senate committees on health and welfare and on appropriations the results of the analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as well as recommendations about whether and how to pursue any or all of the options described in subdivisions (a)(1) through (7) of this section.

## Sec. 2. SPOUSAL INCOME DISREGARD; RULEMAKING

(a) If supported by the analysis performed pursuant to Sec. 1(a)(4) of this act, the secretary of human services shall disregard the income of an individual receiving Medicaid pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1902(b) in determining the eligibility of such person's spouse to receive medical assistance pursuant to Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act. The secretary shall

implement the income disregard in a timely manner in order to ensure that it will be in place as soon as practicable when the new Medicaid eligibility and enrollment system is operational.

(b) The secretary of human services shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as necessary to implement the income disregard.

#### Sec. 3. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

If supported by the analysis performed pursuant to Sec. 1(a)(6) of this act, the secretary of human services shall deem an individual's enrollment in the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program as establishing his or her financial eligibility for developmental disability services under the state's Global Commitment to Health waiver; provided that the individual shall still be required to meet clinical eligibility and funding priority criteria in order to receive developmental disability services pursuant to the waiver. The secretary shall implement the change to the financial eligibility criteria in a timely manner in order to ensure that it will be in place as soon as practicable when the new Medicaid eligibility and enrollment system is operational.

#### Sec. 4. ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

(a) Subject to available resources, the commissioner of health shall undertake such actions as are necessary and appropriate, in his or her discretion, to coordinate the efforts of public and private entities involved with

the donation and transplantation of human organs and tissues in Vermont and to increase organ and tissue donation rates.

(b) No later than January 15, 2013, the commissioner shall report to the house committee on human services and the senate committee on health and welfare regarding the actions taken pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any additional efforts that the commissioner recommends but believes would require legislation.

Sec. 5. ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION WORKING GROUP

(a) There is created an organ and tissue donation working group to make recommendations to the general assembly and the governor relating to organ and tissue donations.

(b) The members of the organ and tissue donation working group shall include:

(1) the commissioner of health or designee, who shall chair the working group;

(2) the commissioner of motor vehicles or designee;

(3) a representative of the Vermont Medical Society;

(4) representatives from the federally designated organ procurement organizations serving Vermont; and

(5) other interested stakeholders.

(c) The working group shall develop recommendations regarding:

(1) coordination of the efforts of all public and private entities within the state that are involved with the donation and transplantation of human organs and tissues;

(2) the creation of a comprehensive statewide program for organ and tissue donations and transplants;

(3) the establishment of goals and strategies for increasing donation rates in Vermont of deceased and, where appropriate, live organs and tissues;

(4) other issues related to organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

(d) The working group shall receive administrative support from the department of health.

(e) The working group shall report its findings and recommendations to the house committees on human services, on health care, and on transportation and the senate committees on health and welfare and on transportation, and to the governor, by January 15, 2013, after which time the working group shall cease to exist. The report shall include a recommendation about whether the department of health should establish an ongoing advisory council on organ and tissue donation.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Approved: May 11, 2012