

1 H.127

2 Introduced by Representatives Waite-Simpson of Essex, Ram of Burlington,

3 and Townsend of South Burlington

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Domestic relations; annulment and divorce; support

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a child

8 support order to be continued past the age of majority when a child has a

9 mental or physical disability or is enrolled in vocational or higher education.

10 An act relating to continuing child support orders past the age of majority
11 when a child has a mental or physical disability or is enrolled in vocational
12 or higher education

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

14 Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 658 is amended to read:

15 § 658. SUPPORT

16 (a) In an action under this chapter or under chapter 21 of this title, the court

17 shall order either parent or both parents owing a duty of support to a child to

18 pay an amount for the support of the child in accordance with the support

19 guidelines as set forth in this subchapter, unless otherwise determined under

20 section 659 of this title.

1 (b) A request for support may be made by either parent, a guardian, or the
2 ~~department for children and families~~ Department for Children and Families or
3 ~~the department of Vermont health access~~ Department of Vermont Health
4 Access, if a party in interest. A court may also raise the issue of support on its
5 own motion.

6 (c) The court may order support to be continued ~~until the child attains the~~
7 ~~age of majority or terminates secondary education, whichever is later.~~
8 according to the following provisions:

9 (1) The court may order support to be continued until the child attains
10 the age of majority or terminates secondary education, whichever is later.

11 (2) The court may order support to be continued until the child attains
12 the age of 21 as long as the child is enrolled in an institution of vocational or
13 higher education. To qualify for continued support under this subdivision, the
14 child shall do all of the following:

15 (A) enroll before the first day of October after obtaining a secondary
16 school diploma or secondary school equivalency certificate, unless this
17 requirement is waived by the court because of unique circumstances;

18 (B) enroll for and complete either 12 hours of credit or more each
19 semester or nine hours of credit or more each semester while working at least
20 15 hours per week, unless this requirement is waived by the court because the
21 child has a disability or health problem;

