

H.576

An act relating to applications for the Lifeline program

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

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 218(c)(3) is amended to read:

(3) A person shall also be eligible for the Lifeline benefit who submits to the Commissioner ~~of Taxes~~ for Children and Families an application containing any information and disclosure of information authorization necessary to process the Lifeline credit. Such application shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before June 15 of each year and shall be signed by the applicant under the pains and penalties of perjury. A person shall be eligible who is 65 years of age ~~and~~ or older whose modified adjusted gross income as defined in 32 V.S.A. § ~~5829(b)(1)~~ 6061(5) for the preceding taxable year was less than 175 percent of the official poverty line established by the federal Department of Health and Human Services for a family of two published as of October 1 of the preceding taxable year. A person shall be eligible whose modified adjusted gross income as defined in 32 V.S.A. § ~~5829(b)(1)~~ 6061(5) for the preceding taxable year was less than 150 percent of the official poverty line established by the federal Department of Health and Human Services for a family of two published as of October 1 of the preceding taxable year. In the case of sickness, absence, disability, excusable neglect, or when, in the judgment of the Secretary of Human Services good cause exists, the Secretary

may extend the deadline for filing claims under this section. The provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 5901 shall apply to such application. ~~The Commissioner of Taxes shall transmit the application to the~~ Secretary of Human Services ~~and shall perform such income verification as is requested by the Secretary.~~ Upon enrollment in the program, and for each period of renewal, such participant shall receive the credit for 12 ensuing months.

(A) The benefit under this subdivision shall be equal to the full subscriber line charge, plus an amount equal to the larger of:

~~(A)~~(i) 50 percent of the monthly basic service charge, including 50 percent of all mileage charges and, if the ~~board~~ Board determines after notice and opportunity for hearing that their inclusion will make Lifeline benefits more comparable in different areas, 50 percent of the usage cost arising from a fixed amount of monthly local usage; and

~~(B)~~(ii) \$7.00 per month;

(B) ~~provided that in no event shall the~~ The amount of the monthly credit pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) shall not exceed the monthly basic service charge, including any standard usage and mileage charges.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.