

1 S.179

2 Introduced by Senators Sears and Ayer

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; TANF; Reach Up; eligibility; felony drug conviction

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to disqualify a
7 Reach Up participant who is completing a sentence for certain drug-related
8 felony convictions from receiving Reach Up benefits if the participant is not in
9 compliance with parole or probation conditions.

10 An act relating to postconviction eligibility for Reach Up benefits

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

12 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1103(c) is amended to read:

13 (c) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall adopt rules for the
14 determination of eligibility for the Reach Up program and benefit levels for all
15 participating families that include the following provisions:

16 * * *

17 (8)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (8), an
18 individual domiciled in Vermont shall be disqualified upon the individual's
19 felony conviction for selling or dispensing a regulated drug for the period of

1 time from the date of conviction until the date upon which the individual
2 completes his or her sentence for the offense.

3 (B) An individual domiciled in Vermont shall be exempt from the
4 disqualification provided for in 21 U.S.C. § 862a if:

5 (i) the individual is convicted of selling or dispensing a regulated
6 drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(b)(2) (selling or dispensing marijuana in
7 an amount of one-half ounce or more and less than one pound or hashish in an
8 amount of 2.5 grams or more and less than 2.8 ounces); or

9 (ii) the individual is convicted of selling or dispensing a regulated
10 drug in violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(b)(3) (selling or dispensing marijuana in
11 an amount greater than one pound or hashish in an amount greater than 2.8
12 ounces) and is in compliance with any court-ordered treatment or other
13 conditions of probation or parole.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.