

1 H.333

2 Introduced by Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Berry of Manchester,  
3 Donahue of Northfield, Miller of Shaftsbury, and Morris of  
4 Bennington

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Health; Medicaid; employment; Medicaid for Working People with  
8 Disabilities

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the  
10 Agency of Human Services to adopt rules to enhance work incentives and  
11 increase the stability of health coverage for individuals receiving Medicaid for  
12 Working People with Disabilities. It would also make it easier for individuals  
13 to receive Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities and their eligible  
14 spouses to receive additional services.

15 An act relating to enhancing eligibility and work incentives for the  
16 Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities program

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

1       Sec. 1. MEDICAID FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;  
2               RULEMAKING

3               (a) The Agency of Human Services shall seek any necessary State Plan  
4               amendments and shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to:

5                       (1) increase to \$10,000.00 per individual the asset limit for eligibility for  
6                       the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program to match the  
7                       threshold for eligibility for long-term care Medicaid benefits;

8                       (2) disregard the income of a spouse who is a Medicaid for Working  
9                       People with Disabilities beneficiary when calculating the eligibility of the  
10                      other spouse to receive traditional Medicaid benefits;

11                      (3) disregard the income of an applicant's or beneficiary's spouse when  
12                      determining the applicant's or beneficiary's eligibility for the Medicaid for  
13                      Working People with Disabilities program;

14                      (4) disregard Social Security income for purposes of calculating  
15                      eligibility for the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program for  
16                      beneficiaries who have reached the Social Security retirement age and whose  
17                      Social Security Disability Insurance benefits have automatically converted to  
18                      Social Security retirement benefits; and

19                      (5) allow an individual's enrollment in the Medicaid for Working  
20                      People with Disabilities program to establish his or her eligibility for  
21                      developmental disability services under Vermont's Choices for Care waiver.

1        (b) The Agency of Human Services shall engage the assistance of benefits  
2        counselors at public and nonprofit organizations to increase public awareness  
3        of the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program and of other  
4        work incentives for individuals with disabilities.

5        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6        This act shall take effect on passage, at which time the Agency of Human  
7        Services shall initiate the rulemaking and State Plan amendment processes.