

2/17/2023 2:13 PM – JFO

1 H.145

2 Senators Baruth, Kitchel, Lyons, Perchlik, Sears, Starr, and Westman move
3 to amend the bill as follows:

4 First: By striking out Sec. 88, amending 33 V.S.A. § 3543, in its entirety and
5 inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 88 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 88. 33 V.S.A. § 3543 is amended to read:

7 § 3543. STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

8 (a)(1) There is established a need-based student loan repayment assistance
9 program for the purpose of providing student loan repayment assistance to any
10 individual employed by a regulated, privately operated center-based child care
11 program or family child care home.

12 (2) An eligible individual shall:

13 (A)(i) work in a privately operated center-based child care program
14 or in a family child care home that is regulated by the Division for at least an
15 average of 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year; or

16 (ii) if the individual is an employee of a Vermont Head Start
17 program that operates fewer than 48 weeks per year, work a minimum of nine
18 months of the year, inclusive of any employer-approved time off; or

19 (B) receive an annual salary of not more than ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$60,000.00
20 through the individual's work in regulated childcare; and

21 (C)(i) have earned an associate's, ~~or~~ bachelor's, or master's degree
22 with a major or concentration in early childhood, child and human

2/17/2023 2:13 PM – JFO

1 development, elementary education, special education with a birth to age eight
2 focus, or child and family services ~~within the preceding five years; or~~

3 (ii) have earned an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree that
4 contributes to an Early Childhood Career Ladder Certificate Level IIIB or
5 higher through Northern Lights at the Community College of Vermont.

6 (3) To participate in the program set forth in this section, an eligible
7 individual shall submit to the Department for Children and Families
8 documentation expressing the individual's intent to work in a regulated,
9 privately operated center-based child care program or family child care home
10 for at least the 12 months following the annual loan repayment award
11 notification. A participant may receive up to \$4,000.00 annually in student loan
12 repayment assistance, which shall be distributed by the Department in four
13 allotments. The Department shall distribute at least one-quarter of the
14 individual's total annual benefit after the individual has completed three months
15 of employment in accordance with the program. The remainder of an
16 individual's total annual benefit shall be distributed by the Department every
17 three months after the initial payment.

18 Second: By inserting a new section to be Sec. 88a to read as follows:

19 Sec. 88a. RETROACTIVE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

20 (a) In recognition that many long-serving child care providers had student
21 loan debt that is now retired, the Department for Children and Families shall
22 provide to an eligible applicant a one-time retroactive payment of up to
23 \$4,000.00. An eligible applicant shall:

2/17/2023 2:13 PM – JFO

- 1 (1) have not previously received student loan repayment assistance
- 2 pursuant to 33 V.S.A. section 3543;
- 3 (2) have met all eligibility requirements listed in 33 V.S.A. section 3543
- 4 within the 12 months preceding the date of application; and
- 5 (3) not currently have any student loan debt.