

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.
3 576 entitled “An act relating to applications for the Lifeline program”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

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

8 (1) The Public Service Board shall take action, including the setting of
9 telephone rates, enabling the State of Vermont to participate in the Federal
10 Communications Commission telephone Lifeline program. The Board shall
11 set one or more residential basic exchange Lifeline telephone service credits,
12 for those persons eligible to participate in the Federal Communications
13 Commission Lifeline program. As used in this subsection and for the Lifeline
14 benefit, “telephone” includes landline and mobile telecommunication services.

15 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 218(c)(3) is amended to read:

16 (3) A person shall also be eligible for the Lifeline benefit who submits
17 to the Commissioner of ~~Taxes~~ for Children and Families an application
18 containing any information and disclosure of information authorization
19 necessary to process the Lifeline credit. Such application shall be filed with
20 the Commissioner on or before June 15 of each year and shall be signed by the
21 applicant under the pains and penalties of perjury. A person shall be eligible

1 who is 65 years of age ~~and~~ or older whose modified adjusted gross income as
2 defined in 32 V.S.A. § ~~5829(b)(4)~~ 6061(5) for the preceding taxable year was
3 less than 175 percent of the official poverty line established by the federal
4 Department of Health and Human Services for a family of two published as of
5 October 1 of the preceding taxable year. A person shall be eligible whose
6 modified adjusted gross income as defined in 32 V.S.A. § ~~5829(b)(4)~~ 6061(5)
7 for the preceding taxable year was less than 150 percent of the official poverty
8 line established by the federal Department of Health and Human Services for a
9 family of two published as of October 1 of the preceding taxable year. In the
10 case of sickness, absence, disability, excusable neglect, or when, in the
11 judgment of the Secretary of Human Services good cause exists, the Secretary
12 may extend the deadline for filing claims under this section. The provisions of
13 32 V.S.A. § 5901 shall apply to such application. ~~The Commissioner of Taxes~~
14 ~~shall transmit the application to the~~ Secretary of Human Services ~~and shall~~
15 perform ~~such~~ income verification ~~as is requested by the Secretary~~. Upon
16 enrollment in the program, and for each period of renewal, such participant
17 shall receive the credit for 12 ensuing months.

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

20 (A)(i) 50 percent of the monthly basic service charge, including
21 50 percent of all mileage charges and, if the ~~board~~ Board determines after

1 notice and opportunity for hearing that their inclusion will make Lifeline
2 benefits more comparable in different areas, 50 percent of the usage cost
3 arising from a fixed amount of monthly local usage; and

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

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

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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14 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE