

1 H.576

2 Introduced by Representatives Pugh of South Burlington and Botzow of

3 Pownal

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Human Services; Department for Children and Families; Department

7 of Public Service; Department of Taxes; Lifeline

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow

9 applications for the Lifeline program to be submitted directly to the

10 Department for Children and Families instead of to the Department of Taxes

11 for eligibility determination.

12 An act relating to applications for the Lifeline program

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

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

15 (3) A person shall also be eligible for the Lifeline benefit who submits

16 to the Commissioner of ~~Taxes~~ for Children and Families an application

17 containing any information and disclosure of information authorization

18 necessary to process the Lifeline credit. Such application shall be filed with

19 the Commissioner on or before June 15 of each year and shall be signed by the

20 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)(1)~~ 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)(1)~~ 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. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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