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H.790

Representative Trieber of Rockingham moves that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1103 is amended to read:

§ 1103. ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT LEVELS

(a) Financial assistance shall be given for the benefit of a dependent child to the relative or caretaker with whom the child is living unless otherwise provided. The amount of financial assistance to which an eligible person is entitled shall be determined with due regard to the income, resources, and maintenance available to that person and, as far as funds are available, shall provide that person a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The Commissioner may fix by regulation maximum amounts of financial assistance, and act to ~~insure~~ ensure that the expenditures for the programs shall not exceed appropriations for them consistent with section 101 of this title. In no case may the Department expend State funds in excess of the appropriations for the programs under this chapter.

* * *

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

1 (1) No less than the first ~~\$200.00~~ \$300.00 per month of earnings from an
2 unsubsidized job and ~~25~~ 50 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings
3 shall be disregarded in determining the amount of the family's financial
4 assistance grant. The family shall receive the difference between countable
5 income and the Reach Up payment standard in a partial financial assistance
6 grant.

7 (2) No less than the first \$90.00 per month of earnings from a subsidized
8 job shall be disregarded in determining the amount of the family's financial
9 assistance grant. The family shall receive the difference between countable
10 income and the Reach Up payment standard in a partial financial assistance
11 grant. Earnings from subsidized jobs shall qualify for federal and State earned
12 income credit if the family is otherwise eligible for such credit.

13 (3) Each family development plan shall provide for an incentive
14 payment to be paid to the participating family for completing a required
15 activity or task.

16 (4) Education stipends, employment stipends, job training stipends, and
17 incentive payments, as determined by the Commissioner, shall be excluded in
18 calculating the financial assistance grant.

19 (5) ~~The~~ Up to \$5,000.00 of the value of assets accumulated from the
20 earnings of adults and children in participating families and ~~from~~ the value of
21 any federal or Vermont earned income tax credit shall be excluded for

1 purposes of determining continuing eligibility for the Reach Up program. ~~The~~
2 ~~asset limitation shall be increased from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 for~~
3 ~~participating families for the purposes of determining continuing eligibility for~~
4 ~~the Reach Up program.~~

5 (6) Transitional medical assistance of up to 36 months shall be provided
6 to families with a working adult who becomes ineligible for financial
7 assistance due to increased earnings, unless family income exceeds 185 percent
8 of the federal poverty level, and provided that federal financial participation is
9 available for such transitional medical assistance.

10 (7) The equity value of one operable motor vehicle in a family with a
11 single parent or caretaker and of two operable motor vehicles in a two-parent
12 family shall be excluded for purposes of determining eligibility for the Reach
13 Up program. The Commissioner shall take all steps necessary to retain current
14 resource protections under the Food Stamps program so that the rules under the
15 Food Stamps program and the Reach Up program are compatible.

16 (8) An individual domiciled in Vermont shall be exempt from the
17 disqualification provided for in 21 U.S.C. § 862a.

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