

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred House Bill No. 790  
3 entitled “An act relating to Reach Up eligibility” respectfully reports that it has  
4 considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that  
5 the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 4, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in  
7 lieu thereof a new (a) to read:

8 (a) In order to effect the increased earned income disregard established by  
9 this act and to make its impact fiscally neutral, the Commissioner for Children  
10 and Families shall amend the rules governing the Reach Up program pursuant  
11 to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to authorize the Department to:

12 (1) calculate an annual adjustment to Reach Up grants, excluding  
13 exempt grants, that accounts for the difference between an earned income  
14 disregard of the first \$200.00 earned per month from an unsubsidized job in  
15 addition to 25 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings and the first  
16 \$300.00 earned per month from an unsubsidized job in addition to 50 percent  
17 of the remaining unsubsidized earnings, which:

18 (A) shall be adjusted downward based on any projected program cost  
19 reduction associated with caseload estimates below the level appropriated for  
20 fiscal year 2015; and

1           (B) may be further adjusted downward based on appropriated  
2           resources and projected program costs; and

3           (2) apply the adjustment described in subdivision (1) of this subsection  
4           to all Reach Up grants, excluding exempt grants, after need and benefit  
5           determinations are calculated.

6           Second: By inserting a new Sec. 5, after Sec. 4, to read as follows:

7           Sec. 5. BUDGET PRESENTATION

8           The Department for Children and Families shall include as part of its fiscal  
9           year 2016 budget presentation to the General Assembly a preliminary estimate  
10           of the annual adjustment calculated pursuant to Sec. 4(a)(1) of this act and the  
11           projected program cost reduction associated with caseload estimates below the  
12           level appropriated for fiscal year 2015.

13           and by renumbering the remaining section to be Sec. 6

14           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
15           to Reach Up eligibility and benefit levels”

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21           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE