

1 H.389

2 Introduced by Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Burditt of West  
3 Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of  
4 Middletown Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of  
5 Mount Holly, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City,  
6 Helm of Fair Haven, Shaw of Pittsford, Tate of Mendon, and  
7 Terenzini of Rutland Town

8 Referred to Committee on

9 Date:

10 Subject: Human services; general assistance; eligibility

11 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
12 Department for Children and Families to develop an outreach and education  
13 program to inform landlords about housing assistance that the Department  
14 provides to Vermonters with low income.

15 An act relating to rental assistance

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

17 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

18 The General Assembly deems it prudent to direct the Department for  
19 Children and Families to develop an education and outreach program related to  
20 the Department's general and emergency rental assistance programs in order to

1 improve landlords' understanding of the programs and to ensure that the  
2 Department's rental assistance programs function more efficiently and  
3 accountably for Vermont taxpayers.

4 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 2115 is added to read:

5 § 2115. RENTAL ASSISTANCE OUTREACH

6 (a) On or before December 1, 2015, the Department for Children and  
7 Families shall develop and implement an ongoing education and outreach  
8 program to inform Vermont landlords about the rental assistance provided  
9 through the General Assistance Program and the Rental Arrearage Program  
10 pursuant to this chapter.

11 (b) The education and outreach program shall, at a minimum, provide  
12 Vermont landlords with information regarding:

13 (1) the rental assistance provided under the General Assistance Program  
14 and the Rental Arrearage Program;

15 (2) the procedures and rules for the rental assistance under each  
16 program;

17 (3) the relationship between the rental assistance provided under the  
18 General Assistance Program and the Rental Arrearage Program and assistance  
19 provided through other programs operated by the Department; and

20 (4) the eligibility requirements that tenants must meet to receive rental  
21 assistance under each program.

1       Sec. 3. REPORT

2           The Commissioner for Children and Families shall report to the House  
3           Committees on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and on Human Services  
4           and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing, and General  
5           Affairs and on Health and Welfare on or before January 1, 2017, regarding the  
6           effectiveness of the outreach program and any legislative action that may be  
7           necessary to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the rental assistance  
8           provided under the General Assistance Program and the Rental Arrearage  
9           Program pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 21.

10       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

11           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.