

1 S.145

2 Introduced by Senators Sears and Campion

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; Medicaid; employment; Medicaid for Working People with
6 Disabilities

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the
8 Agency of Human Services to adopt rules to enhance work incentives and
9 increase the stability of health coverage for individuals receiving Medicaid for
10 Working People with Disabilities. It would also make it easier for individuals
11 to receive Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities and their eligible
12 spouses to receive additional services.

13 An act relating to expanding eligibility and work incentives for the
14 Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities program

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

16 Sec. 1. MEDICAID FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;

17 RULEMAKING

18 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall seek any necessary State Plan
19 amendments and shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to:

1 (1) increase to \$10,000.00 per individual the asset limit for eligibility for
2 the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program to match the
3 threshold for eligibility for long-term care Medicaid benefits;

4 (2) disregard the income of a spouse who is a Medicaid for Working
5 People with Disabilities beneficiary when calculating the eligibility of the
6 other spouse to receive traditional Medicaid benefits;

7 (3) disregard the income of an applicant's or beneficiary's spouse when
8 determining the applicant's or beneficiary's eligibility for the Medicaid for
9 Working People with Disabilities program;

10 (4) disregard Social Security income for purposes of calculating
11 eligibility for the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program for
12 beneficiaries who have reached the Social Security retirement age and whose
13 Social Security Disability Insurance benefits have automatically converted to
14 Social Security retirement benefits; and

15 (5) allow an individual's enrollment in the Medicaid for Working
16 People with Disabilities program to establish his or her eligibility for
17 developmental disability services under Vermont's Choices for Care waiver.

18 (b) The Agency of Human Services shall engage the assistance of benefits
19 counselors at public and nonprofit organizations to increase public awareness
20 of the Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program and of other
21 work incentives for individuals with disabilities.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage, at which time the Agency of Human
3 Services shall initiate the rulemaking and State Plan amendment processes.