

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 333 entitled “An act relating to enhancing eligibility
4 and work incentives for the Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities
5 program” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
6 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
7 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. MEDICAID FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;
9 RULEMAKING

10 (a) On or before July 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall amend
11 Vermont’s Medicaid State Plan and shall begin the process of amending its
12 rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 in order to increase to \$10,000.00 per
13 individual and \$15,000.00 per couple the asset limit for eligibility for the
14 Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities program. The amendments
15 shall take effect on or before January 1, 2016.

16 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall request
17 permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in
18 order to disregard the income of a spouse who is a Medicaid for Working
19 People with Disabilities beneficiary when calculating the eligibility of the
20 other spouse to receive traditional Medicaid benefits. If CMS approves the
21 income disregard, the Agency shall amend its rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.

1 chapter 25 to implement the change, which shall take effect on or before
2 January 1, 2016. If CMS requires a waiver in order to effect the change, the
3 Agency shall apply for the waiver with a goal of implementing the change on
4 or before than January 1, 2016.

5 (c) On or before July 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall request
6 permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in
7 order to 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. If CMS approves the income
10 disregard, the Agency shall amend its rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to
11 implement the change, which shall take effect on or before January 1, 2016. If
12 CMS requires a waiver in order to effect the change, the Agency shall apply
13 for the waiver with a goal of implementing the change on or before January 1,
14 2016.

15 (d) On or before July 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall amend
16 Vermont's Medicaid State Plan and shall begin the process of amending its
17 rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 in order to disregard Social Security
18 income for purposes of calculating eligibility for the Medicaid for Working
19 People with Disabilities program for beneficiaries who have reached the Social
20 Security retirement age and whose Social Security Disability Insurance

1 benefits have automatically converted to Social Security retirement benefits.

2 The amendments shall take effect on or before January 1, 2016.

3 (e) On or before July 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall allow
4 an individual's enrollment in the Medicaid for Working People with
5 Disabilities program to establish his or her financial eligibility for
6 developmental disability services under Vermont's Medicaid Section 1115
7 Global Commitment to Health waiver.

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

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE