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H.537

Introduced by Representatives LaClair of Barre Town, Bancroft of Westford,  
Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Evans of  
Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Fiske of Enosburgh, Gage of  
Rutland City, Graham of Williamstown, Higley of Lowell,  
Hubert of Milton, Lewis of Berlin, Marcotte of Coventry,  
Martel of Waterford, Morrissey of Bennington, Parent of  
St. Albans Town, Purvis of Colchester, Tate of Mendon,  
Townsend of South Burlington, and Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; Reach Up; landlord–tenant

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
Department for Children and Families to disclose certain information regarding  
a recipient of financial assistance through Reach Up to the recipient’s landlord  
when the disclosure is requested by the recipient or requested by the landlord  
with the recipient’s consent.

An act relating to the disclosure of information to landlords

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

2 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1109 is added to read:

3 § 1109. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

4 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of section 111 of this title to the  
5 contrary, the Department shall disclose TANF benefit information related to a  
6 participating family's lodging or housing to the person that provides the  
7 lodging or housing upon that person's request if either:

8 (1) a participant has provided written authorization for the Department  
9 to disclose such information throughout the term of the participating family's  
10 tenancy; or

11 (2) the person that provides the participating family's lodging or  
12 housing has requested authorization for the Department to disclose such  
13 information throughout the term of the participating family's tenancy and the  
14 participant has provided his or her written consent.

15 (b) A person that provides a participating family's lodging or housing and  
16 has received authorization pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may, to the  
17 extent permitted by federal law and federal TANF program requirements,  
18 request the disclosure of any of the following information, either singularly or  
19 in combination:

20 (1) the amount of the participating family's housing allowance;

1           (2) the date and amount of any direct payments of financial assistance  
2           that have been or will be made to the person that provides the participating  
3           family's lodging or housing;

4           (3) changes to the amount of the direct payments of financial assistance  
5           made to the person that provides the participating family's lodging or housing  
6           and the reason for such change;

7           (4) advance notice of no less than 30 days regarding the  
8           commencement, suspension, or cessation of direct payments of financial  
9           assistance to the person that provides lodging or housing to the participating  
10          family; or

11          (5) advance notice of no less than 30 days that the participating family  
12          will be transitioning off Reach Up.

13          (c)(1) A person to whom information is disclosed pursuant to this section  
14          shall not publish, use, disclose, or divulge such information for:

15                 (A) purposes not directly connected with the provision of lodging or  
16                 housing to the participating family; or

17                 (B) any political, commercial, or other purposes not authorized  
18                 by law.

19                 (2) A person to whom information is disclosed pursuant to this section  
20                 shall be subject to all rules and standards of confidentiality that are applicable  
21                 to the Department in administering the Reach Up program.

