

1 S.135

2 Representative Poirier of Barre City moves that the House propose to the  
3 Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

4 First: After Sec. E.2, Workforce Education and Training Fund, by inserting

5 Secs. F.1 and F.2 to read:

6 Sec. F.1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 20 is added to read:

7 CHAPTER 20. TRANSITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

8 § 2091. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 (1) “Beneficiary” means an individual or family that is determined to be  
11 eligible for transitional financial assistance under this chapter and in  
12 accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner.

13 (2) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner for Children and Families  
14 or designee.

15 (3) “Department” means the Department for Children and Families.

16 (4) “Transitional financial assistance benefit” or “benefit” means a  
17 financial support provided to a beneficiary on a monthly basis in accordance  
18 with the provisions of this chapter and with rules adopted by the  
19 Commissioner.

1        § 2092. TRANSITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2            (a) An individual or family receiving public assistance pursuant to a State  
3        program established in part 2 of this title shall be eligible to receive transitional  
4        financial assistance for a period of time while earning income that would  
5        otherwise disqualify the individual or family from receiving further public  
6        assistance.

7            (b)(1) A beneficiary of transitional financial assistance shall receive  
8        benefits that gradually decrease both over the eligibility period and as the  
9        beneficiary earns higher income. A beneficiary's initial transitional financial  
10       assistance benefit shall not be more than 80 percent of the total public  
11       assistance benefit that the beneficiary was receiving at the time the beneficiary  
12       exceeded the earned income threshold of the applicable State public assistance  
13       program. The benefit shall decrease by at least 20 percent for every nine  
14       consecutive months that a beneficiary receives assistance under this chapter.  
15       Depending on the degree to which a beneficiary's income exceeds the federal  
16       poverty level, the transitional financial assistance benefit may decrease more  
17       rapidly or at greater increments in accordance with rules adopted by the  
18       Commissioner pursuant to section 2094 of this title.

19            (2) A beneficiary's eligibility for transitional financial assistance shall  
20        expire once the beneficiary's income exceeds 300 percent of the federal  
21        poverty level.

1        (c) A beneficiary shall remain eligible to receive transitional financial  
2        assistance pursuant to this chapter for no more than a total of 36 months during  
3        the beneficiary’s lifetime. The 36 months in which a beneficiary receives  
4        transitional financial assistance need not be consecutive.

5        Sec. F.2. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSITIONAL FINANCIAL  
6        ASSISTANCE; STUDY; REPORT

7        (a) The Commissioner for Children and Families, in consultation with the  
8        Commissioner of Taxes, the Joint Fiscal Office, and the Office of Legislative  
9        Council shall:

10        (1) study the cost of implementing 33 V.S.A. chapter 20; and  
11        (2) examine and identify the regulatory and legislative changes  
12        necessary to implement the administration, benefits, and appeals process  
13        associated with transitional financial assistance available pursuant to 33 V.S.A.  
14        chapter 20 including:

15        (A) departmental protocols for accepting clients, administering  
16        transitional financial assistance benefits, and managing caseloads;

17        (B) specific eligibility criteria for transitional financial assistance  
18        beneficiaries;

19        (C) methodologies and timetables for determining a beneficiary’s  
20        transitional financial assistance benefit under 33 V.S.A. chapter 20 that  
21        account for earned income, the number of individuals supported by the benefit,

1 the degree to which the beneficiary's income exceeds the federal poverty level,  
2 the benefit received prior to becoming eligible for transitional financial  
3 assistance benefits, the number of consecutive months a beneficiary has  
4 received transitional financial assistance benefits, and any gaps in receipt of  
5 benefits;

6 (D) the manner of providing notice to potential beneficiaries  
7 regarding eligibility for transitional financial assistance;

8 (E) the manner of providing notice to beneficiaries each time the  
9 benefit received under 33 V.S.A. chapter 20 is subject to change; and

10 (F) the process for a beneficiary or potential beneficiary to appeal a  
11 decision by the Department regarding eligibility or changes in benefits.

12 (b) On or before January 15, 2018, the Commissioner shall submit a written  
13 report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on  
14 General, Housing and Military Affairs, and on Human Services and the Senate  
15 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on  
16 Health and Welfare regarding his or her findings and any recommendations for  
17 legislative action.

18 Second: In Sec. K.1, effective dates, by deleting subsection (b) in its  
19 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new subsections to be subsections (b)  
20 and (c) to read:

1            (b) Sec. F.1 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

2            (c) The remaining sections of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.