

1 S.23

2 Representative Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs moves that the
3 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

4 First: In Sec. 1, 21 V.S.A. § 384, by striking out subdivision (a)(1) in its
5 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (a)(1) to read as
6 follows:

7 (a)(1) An employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than
8 ~~\$9.15. Beginning on January 1, 2016, an employer shall not employ any~~
9 ~~employee at a rate of less than \$9.60. Beginning on January 1, 2017, an~~
10 ~~employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.00.~~
11 ~~Beginning on January 1, 2018, an employer shall not employ any employee at~~
12 ~~a rate of less than \$10.50, and beginning \$10.78. Beginning on January 1,~~
13 ~~2019 2020, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less~~
14 ~~than \$11.50. Beginning on January 1, 2021, an employer shall not employ any~~
15 ~~employee at a rate of less than \$12.25. Beginning on January 1, 2022, an~~
16 ~~employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$13.10.~~
17 Beginning on January 1, 2023, an employer shall not employ any employee at
18 a rate of less than \$14.05. Beginning on January 1, 2024, an employer shall
19 not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$15.00, and on each subsequent
20 January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the
21 percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average,

1 not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S.
2 Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the
3 previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum
4 wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the
5 nearest \$0.01.

6 Second: By striking out Sec. 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
7 Secs. 5 and 5a to read as follows:

8 Sec. 5. INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN MEDICAID-
9 PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS; APPROPRIATION

10 (a) In order to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to home health
11 agencies, nursing homes, residential care homes, assisted living residences, and
12 adult day agencies by \$3,305,646.00 in fiscal year 2020 to facilitate the
13 payment of wages to their employees who are providing health care services
14 pursuant to the State Medicaid Program that are equal to at least the minimum
15 wage set forth in 21 V.S.A. § 384 and to mitigate wage compression for
16 employees of those service providers who are in occupations with a starting
17 wage rate within \$1.00 of the minimum wage:

18 (1) \$874,894.00 is appropriated in fiscal year 2020 from the General
19 Fund to the Department of Vermont Health Access;

20 (2) \$1,021,691.00 is appropriated in fiscal year 2020 from federal funds
21 to the Department of Vermont Health Access; and

1 (3) the Secretary of Human Services shall redirect to the Medicaid
2 programs identified in this subsection an estimated \$650,000.00 of State funds
3 and any related federal matching funds from savings experienced by programs
4 within the Agency of Human Services as a result of the increase in the
5 minimum wage on January 1, 2020.

6 (b) On or before November 15, 2019, the Department of Vermont Health
7 Access shall submit a written report to the Joint Fiscal Committee regarding
8 the adequacy of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this
9 section, and any additional appropriation that may be necessary during fiscal
10 year 2020.

11 Sec. 5a. INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN MEDICAID-
12 PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS; PROJECTIONS; REPORT

13 On or before December 1, 2019, the Secretary of Human Services, in
14 consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office and relevant service providers, shall
15 submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on
16 General, Housing, and Military Affairs, on Health Care, and on Human
17 Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Economic
18 Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Health and Welfare
19 regarding the projected costs for fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 of
20 increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates to all Medicaid participating
21 providers, including designated agencies, specialized service agencies, home

1 health agencies, nursing homes, residential care homes, assisted living
2 residences, and adult day agencies, by an amount necessary to facilitate the
3 payment of wages to their employees who are providing services pursuant to
4 the State Medicaid Program that are equal to at least the minimum wage set
5 forth in 21 V.S.A. § 384 and to mitigate wage compression for employees
6 providing services pursuant to the State Medicaid Program who are in
7 occupations with a starting wage rate within \$1.00 of the minimum wage.