
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 133 (H.464) Human services; benefit program

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to the Reach Up Program

This act makes a variety of changes to the Reach Up program. First, it amends the definition of “dependent child” to mean an individual 18 years of age or older who is a full-time student and expected to complete an educational program before reaching 22 years of age (versus 19 years of age) or who is not expected to complete a program before reaching 22 years of age (versus 19 years of age) due to a documented disability.

This act increases the amount of income disregarded for Reach Up participants from \$250.00 to \$350.00 and increases the monthly amount of child support payments that a participating family may receive from \$50.00 to \$100.00.

This act requires case managers to utilize a universal engagement model and amends existing law to employ a collaborative and empowering tone with regard to family development and engagement. It replaces work requirements with requirements on employment preparation, readiness, and participation.

This act removes the requirement that a deferral or modification of the work requirement due to the existence of illness or disability be confirmed through an independent medical review.

It amends the postsecondary education program to enable both parents in a two-parent family to simultaneously participate in the program.

Lastly, this act appropriates \$500,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families in fiscal year 2023 to make improvements to the Department’s information technology systems that are necessary to perform the Department’s duties under the act.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2022