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H.464

Introduced by Representative Pugh of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; Reach Up; Postsecondary Education Program

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) remove the medical review process in the Reach Up program; and (2) enable both parents in a qualifying two-parent family to participate in the Postsecondary Education Program.

An act relating to the medical review process in the Reach Up program and Postsecondary Education Program eligibility

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

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1114 is amended to read:

§ 1114. DEFERMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, AND REFERRAL

* * *

(b) The work requirements shall be either modified or deferred for:

* * *

(5) A participant who is needed in the home on a full- or part-time basis in order to care for an ill or disabled parent, spouse, or child. In granting deferments, the Department shall fully consider the participant's preference as

1 to the number of hours the participant is able to leave home to participate in
2 work activities. ~~A deferral or modification of the work requirement exceeding~~
3 ~~60 days due to the existence of illness or disability pursuant to this subdivision~~
4 ~~shall be confirmed by the independent medical review of one or more~~
5 ~~physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, or other~~
6 ~~health care providers designated by the Secretary of Human Services prior to~~
7 ~~receipt of continued financial assistance under the Reach Up program.~~

8 * * *

9 (d) Absent an apparent condition or claimed physical, emotional, or mental
10 condition, participants are presumed to be able-to-work. A participant shall
11 have the burden of demonstrating the existence of the condition asserted as the
12 basis for a deferral or modification of the work requirement. ~~A deferral or~~
13 ~~modification of the work requirement exceeding 60 days due to the existence~~
14 ~~of conditions rendering the participant unable to work shall be confirmed by~~
15 ~~the independent medical review of one or more physicians, physician~~
16 ~~assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, or other health care providers~~
17 ~~designated by the Secretary of Human Services prior to receipt of continued~~
18 ~~financial assistance under the Reach Up program.~~

19 * * *

1 (1) ~~No more than one parent per family may participate at the same~~
2 ~~time.~~ [Repealed.]

3 (2) ~~If the participating parent is in a two-parent family, the~~
4 ~~nonparticipating parent shall, if able to work, be working full-time; if able to~~
5 ~~work part-time, shall be working at least the number of hours per week that he~~
6 ~~or she has been determined able to work part-time; or, if unable to work, may~~
7 ~~be unemployed.~~ [Repealed.]

8 (3)(A) ~~The~~ A participating parent has not already received a
9 postsecondary undergraduate degree.

10 (B) ~~The~~ A participating parent has already received a postsecondary
11 undergraduate degree, and the occupations for which it prepared ~~the~~ that
12 participating parent are obsolete.

13 (C) ~~The~~ A participating parent, due to a disability, is no longer able
14 to perform the occupations for which the degree prepared ~~him or her~~ that
15 participating parent.

16 (D) The preparation for occupations that ~~the~~ a participating parent
17 received through the postsecondary undergraduate degree is outdated and not
18 marketable in the current labor market.

19 (4) ~~The~~ A participating parent shall be a matriculating student in a two-
20 year or four-year degree program as provided for in the postsecondary
21 education plan.

