1	H.464
2	Introduced by Representative Pugh of South Burlington
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Human services; Reach Up; Postsecondary Education Program
6	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) remove
7	the medical review process in the Reach Up program; and (2) enable both
8	parents in a qualifying two-parent family to participate in the Postsecondary
9	Education Program.
10 11	An act relating to the medical review process in the Reach Up program and Postsecondary Education Program eligibility
12	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
13	Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1114 is amended to read:
14	§ 1114. DEFERMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, AND REFERRAL
15	* * *
16	(b) The work requirements shall be either modified or deferred for:
17	* * *
18	(5) A participant who is needed in the home on a full- or part-time basis
19	in order to care for an ill or disabled parent, spouse, or child. In granting
20	deferments, the Department shall fully consider the participant's preference as

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

* * *

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

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1	Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 1122 is amended to read:
2	§ 1122. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM
3	* * *
4	(b) The Program authorized by this section shall be administered by the
5	Commissioner or by a contractor designated by the Commissioner. The
6	Program shall be supported with funds other than federal TANF block grant
7	funds provided under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, except that the
8	Commissioner may fund financial assistance grants and support services of
9	families participating in the Postsecondary Education Program with TANF
10	block grant or State maintenance of effort funds when the a participating
11	adult's parent's educational activities are a countable work activity under
12	federal law and when it will further one or more of the purposes in subdivision
13	1121(c)(1) of this title.
14	* * *
15	(d) To be financially eligible to participate in the Postsecondary Education
16	Program, the family's gross income minus the <u>a</u> participating parent's earnings
17	shall not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level for the appropriate
18	family size.
19	(e) All financially eligible families who apply to participate in the
20	Postsecondary Education Program will shall be considered for admission,

provided that they meet all of the following criteria:

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education plan.

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 h
6	or she has been determined able to work part time; or, if unable to work, ma
7	be unemployed. [Repealed.]
8	(3)(A) The \underline{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 <u>a</u> participating parent
17	received through the postsecondary undergraduate degree is outdated and not
18	marketable in the current labor market.
19	(4) The \underline{A} participating parent shall be a matriculating student in a two
20	year or four-year degree program as provided for in the postsecondary

1	(5) The \underline{A} participating parent has been determined to be eligible for
2	financial assistance from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and can
3	demonstrate that he or she has the ability to cover tuition costs.
4	(6) The \underline{A} participating parent agrees to limit employment to \underline{no} not
5	more than 20 hours per week when school is in session. The Department may
6	establish exceptions by rule to allow the a participating parent to work more
7	than 20 hours per week.
8	(7) The family and the <u>a</u> participating adult <u>parent</u> maintain financial
9	eligibility for the program and uninterrupted residency in Vermont for the
10	duration of participation in the Postsecondary Education Program.
11	(8) The \underline{A} participating parent maintains good academic standing at the
12	college.
13	* * *
14	(g) Continued participation in the Postsecondary Education Program is
15	contingent on the a participating parent:
16	* * *
17	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
18	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.