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H.580

Introduced by Representatives Scheu of Middlebury and Conlon of Cornwall
Referred to Committee on
Date:
Subject: Commerce and trade; adaptive sports; mobility-enhancing equipment
Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a grant
program for the purchase in this State of adaptive sports and other mobility-
enhancing equipment that does not qualify for a sales and use tax exemption.

An act relating to a grant program for adaptive sports and mobility-
enhancing equipment

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

Sec. 1. ADAPTIVE SPORTS AND MOBILITY-ENHANCING
EQUIPMENT; GRANT PROGRAM

(a)(1) A qualifying individual who purchases qualifying adaptive sports
and mobility-enhancing equipment in this State from a qualifying seller may be
eligible for a grant under this section in the amount of six percent of the sales
price, not to exceed a total grant of \$600.00 per qualifying individual.

(2) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall
award grants under this section on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to

1 available funding. The annual funding available for grants made under this
2 section shall not exceed a total of \$30,000.00.

3 (b) The Agency shall:

4 (1) in consultation with the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and
5 Independent Living, design and implement the Adaptive Sports and Mobility-
6 Enhancing Equipment Grant Program and relevant procedures, which shall
7 include a simple certification process to verify that individuals require
8 equipment for medical reasons and that sellers qualify to sell equipment
9 eligible for a grant under this section;

10 (2) promote awareness of the Program, including through coordination
11 with the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and
12 relevant trade and consumer groups;

13 (3) adopt measurable goals, performance measures, and an audit strategy
14 to assess the utilization and performance of the Program; and

15 (4) on or before October 1, 2022, submit a report to the House
16 Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development
17 and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development,
18 Housing and General Affairs concerning the implementation of this section,
19 including:

1 (A) a description of the certification process, procedures, and
2 performance measures adopted pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (3) of this
3 subsection (b);

4 (B) the promotion and marketing of the Program pursuant to
5 subdivision (2) of this subsection (b); and

6 (C) any additional recommendations regarding:

7 (i) individuals qualifying under the Program, which shall include a
8 recommended income limit for eligibility;

9 (ii) qualifying types of adaptive sports and mobility-enhancing
10 equipment;

11 (iii) sellers qualifying under the Program; and

12 (iv) the maximum amount of the grant.

13 (c) As used in this section:

14 (1) “Agency” means the Agency of Commerce and Community
15 Development.

16 (2) “Qualifying adaptive sports and mobility-enhancing equipment”
17 means equipment, including repair and replacement parts of such equipment,
18 that:

19 (A) is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the
20 ability to move from one place to another and is appropriate for use in a home,
21 in a person’s community, or in a motor vehicle;

1 (B) is not generally used by persons with typical mobility;

2 (C) does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor
3 vehicle normally provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer; and

4 (D) is not eligible for a sales and use tax exemption pursuant to
5 32 V.S.A. § 9741(2).

6 (3) “Qualifying individual” means a natural person who requires
7 adaptive sports and mobility-enhancing equipment for medical reasons.

8 (4) “Qualifying seller” means a seller of adaptive sports and mobility-
9 enhancing equipment that:

10 (A) holds a certificate of authority to do business within this State;

11 (B) is in good standing with respect to any and all taxes payable
12 pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3113(g); and

13 (C) is certified under this section by the Agency.

14 (5) “Sales price” has the same meaning as in 32 V.S.A. § 9701(4).

15 Sec. 2. GRANT PROGRAM SUNSET

16 Sec. 1 of this act (Adaptive Sports and Mobility-Enhancing Equipment
17 Grant Program) is repealed on July 1, 2025.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.