1	TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
2	The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill
3	No. 464 entitled "An act relating to the medical review process in the Reach
4	Up program and Postsecondary Education Program eligibility" respectfully
5	reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be
6	amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu
7	thereof the following:
8	Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:
9	§ 1101. DEFINITIONS
10	As used in this chapter:
11	* * *
12	(10) "Dependent child" means a child who is a resident of this State and
13	(A) is under 18 years of age; or
14	(B) is 18 years of age or older who is a full-time student in a
15	secondary school, or attending an equivalent level of vocational or technical
16	training, and is reasonably expected to complete the educational program
17	before reaching 19 22 years of age or is not expected to complete the
18	educational program before reaching 19 22 years of age solely due to a
19	documented disability.
20	* * *

- 1 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 1103 is amended to read:
- 2 § 1103. ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT LEVELS
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- (c) The Commissioner shall adopt rules for the determination of eligibility for the Reach Up program and benefit levels for all participating families that include the following provisions:
- (1) No Not less than the first \$250.00 \$X.00 per month of earnings from an unsubsidized job and 25 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings shall be disregarded in determining the amount of the family's financial assistance grant. The family shall receive the difference between countable income and the Reach Up payment standard in a partial financial assistance grant.
- (2) No Not less than the first \$90.00 \$X.00 per month of earnings from a subsidized job shall be disregarded in determining the amount of the family's financial assistance grant. The family shall receive the difference between countable income and the Reach Up payment standard in a partial financial assistance grant. Earnings from subsidized jobs shall qualify for federal and State earned income credit if the family is otherwise eligible for such credit.

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- 1 (f) The Commissioner shall disregard no not less than \$50.00 \$100.00 per 2 month of child support payments in determining eligibility and benefit levels 3 for participating families.
- 4 ***
- 5 Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 1105 is amended to read:
- 6 § 1105. CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

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- (a) A financial assistance case shall not be closed until child support payments, minus the first \$50.00 \$100.00 per month in such payments received on behalf of the family, in combination with other countable income, have exceeded the financial assistance payment standard in 12 consecutive calendar months.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if financial assistance to a participating family is terminated due to receipt of child support, minus the first \$50.00 \$100.00 per month in such payments, that in combination with other countable income is in excess of the financial assistance cash payment standard, and the family again becomes eligible for financial assistance within the following 12 calendar months solely because the family no longer receives excess child support, financial assistance shall be paid as of the date of the family's reapplication.
- 20 Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 1107 is amended to read:
- § 1107. CASE MANAGEMENT; FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLANS;

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COORDINATED SERVICES

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall provide all Reach Up services to participating families through a case management model informed by knowledge of the family's home, community, employment, and available resources. Services may be delivered in the district office, the family's home, or the community in a way that facilitates progress toward accomplishment of the family development plan consistent with research on best practices. Case management may be provided to other eligible families. The case manager, with the full involvement of the family, shall recommend, and the Commissioner shall modify as necessary, a family development plan established under the Reach First or Reach Up program for each participating family, with a right of appeal as provided by section 1132 of this title. A case manager shall be assigned to each participating family as soon as the family begins to receive financial assistance. If administratively feasible and appropriate, the case manager shall be the same case manager the family was assigned in the Reach First program. The applicant for or recipient of financial assistance under this chapter shall have the burden of demonstrating the existence of his or her condition.

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- 20 Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 1112 is amended to read:
- § 1112. FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1	(a)(1) Each participating adult in a family applying for or receiving
2	financial assistance shall comply with each Reach Up family development plan
3	requirement provided for in the family development plan, unless good cause
4	exists for such noncompliance as defined by the Commissioner by rule.
5	(2) The process of developing a family development plan shall include
6	planning and engaging in goal achievement related to employment, training,
7	and education; addressing obstacles to employment; following through with
8	established steps to achieve goals; reviewing and revising goals as necessary;
9	and setting new goals as each existing goal is achieved.
10	* * *
11	Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 1113 is amended to read:
12	§ 1113. WORK REQUIREMENTS
13	(a) Each participating adult in a family receiving a financial assistance
14	grant shall fulfill a work requirement in accordance with this section. Subject
15	to the provisions of this chapter, and provided that all services required by this
16	chapter are offered when appropriate and are available when needed to support
17	fulfillment of the work requirement, an adult having a work requirement shall
18	obtain employment or participate in one or more work activities, and shall
19	work in accordance with the requirements of this section, in order to maintain
20	continued eligibility for financial assistance and to avoid fiscal sanctions.

Adults shall participate in the process of planning and engaging in goal

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I	achievement related to employment, training, and education; address obstacles
2	to employment; follow through with established steps to achieve goals; review
3	and revise goals as necessary; and set new goals as each goal is achieved.
4	* * *
5	Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 1114 is amended to read:
6	§ 1114. DEFERMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, AND REFERRAL
7	* * *
8	(b) The work requirements shall be either modified or deferred for:
9	* * *
10	(5) A participant who is needed in the home on a full- or part-time basis
11	in order to care for an ill or disabled parent, spouse, or child. In granting
12	deferments, the Department shall fully consider the participant's preference as
13	to the number of hours the participant is able to leave home to participate in
14	work activities. A deferral or modification of the work requirement exceeding
15	60 days due to the existence of illness or disability pursuant to this subdivision
16	shall be confirmed by the independent medical review of one or more
17	physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, or other
18	health care providers designated by the Secretary of Human Services prior to
19	receipt of continued financial assistance under the Reach Up program.
20	* * *

(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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- 12 Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 1122 is amended to read:
- 13 § 1122. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

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(b) The Program authorized by this section shall be administered by the Commissioner or by a contractor designated by the Commissioner. The Program shall be supported with funds other than federal TANF block grant funds provided under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, except that the Commissioner may fund financial assistance grants and support services of families participating in the Postsecondary Education Program with TANF block grant or State maintenance of effort funds when the a participating

1	adult's parent's educational activities are a countable work activity under
2	federal law and when it will further one or more of the purposes in subdivision
3	1121(c)(1) of this title.
4	* * *
5	(d) To be financially eligible to participate in the Postsecondary Education
6	Program, the family's gross income minus the a participating parent's earnings
7	shall not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level for the appropriate
8	family size.
9	(e) All financially eligible families who apply to participate in the
10	Postsecondary Education Program will shall be considered for admission,
11	provided that they meet all of the following criteria:
12	(1) No more than one parent per family may participate at the same
13	time. [Repealed.]
14	(2) If the participating parent is in a two-parent family, the
15	nonparticipating parent shall, if able-to-work, be working full-time; if able-to-
16	work part time, shall be working at least the number of hours per week that he
17	or she has been determined able-to-work-part-time; or, if unable-to-work, may
18	be unemployed. [Repealed.]
19	(3)(A) The A participating parent has not already received a
20	postsecondary undergraduate degree.

than 20 hours per week.

1	(B) The A participating parent has already received a postsecondary
2	undergraduate degree, and the occupations for which it prepared the that
3	participating parent are obsolete.
4	(C) The A participating parent, due to a disability, is no longer able
5	to perform the occupations for which the degree prepared him or her that
6	participating parent.
7	(D) The preparation for occupations that the <u>a</u> participating parent
8	received through the postsecondary undergraduate degree is outdated and not
9	marketable in the current labor market.
10	(4) The A participating parent shall be a matriculating student in a two-
11	year or four-year degree program as provided for in the postsecondary
12	education plan.
13	(5) The \underline{A} participating parent has been determined to be eligible for
14	financial assistance from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and can
15	demonstrate that he or she has the ability to cover tuition costs.
16	(6) The A participating parent agrees to limit employment to no not
17	more than 20 hours per week when school is in session. The Department may
18	establish exceptions by rule to allow the a participating parent to work more

1	(7) The family and the <u>a</u> participating adult <u>parent</u> maintain financial
2	eligibility for the program and uninterrupted residency in Vermont for the
3	duration of participation in the Postsecondary Education Program.
4	(8) The A participating parent maintains good academic standing at the
5	college.
6	* * *
7	(g) Continued participation in the Postsecondary Education Program is
8	contingent on the a participating parent:
9	* * *
10	Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE
11	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.
12	and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act
13	relating to miscellaneous changes to the Reach Up Program"
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17	(Committee vote:)
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19	Representative
20	FOR THE COMMITTEE