

1 S.246

2 Introduced by Senators Clarkson, McCormack, Ram Hinsdale and White

3 Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General

4 Affairs

5 Date: January 11, 2024

6 Subject: Legislature; Joint Fiscal Office; basic needs budget; livable wage

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the

8 statute governing the biennial report on Vermont's basic needs budget and

9 livable wage.

10 An act relating to amending the Vermont basic needs budget and livable
11 wage

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

13 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 526 is amended to read:

14 § 526. BASIC NEEDS BUDGET AND LIVABLE WAGE; REPORT

15 (a) ~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this section:

16 * * *

17 (3) "Livable wage" means the hourly wage required in an urban or rural

18 area for a full-time worker ~~to pay for one-half of the basic needs budget for a~~

19 ~~two-person household with no children and~~ who lives in shared housing and

20 has employer-assisted health insurance averaged for both urban and rural areas

21 to pay for the basic needs budget.

1 (b) On or before January 15 of each new legislative biennium, ~~beginning in~~
2 ~~2009~~, the Joint Fiscal Office shall report the calculated basic needs budgets of
3 various representative household configurations and the calculated livable
4 wage for both urban and rural areas for the previous year. This calculation
5 may serve as an additional indicator of wage and other economic conditions in
6 the State and shall not be considered official State guidance on wages or other
7 forms of compensation.

8 (c) The methodology for calculating basic needs budgets shall be built on
9 methodology described in the November 9, 1999 ~~Livable Income Study~~ 2023
10 Basic Needs Budget Technical Advisory Committee report, modified as
11 appropriate by any statutory changes made by the General Assembly and
12 subsequent modifications adopted by the Joint Fiscal Committee under
13 subsection (d) of this section.

14 * * *

15 (e) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the methodology for
16 calculating the basic needs budget and livable wage shall be updated every six
17 years or more frequently to ensure that it continues to reflect the actual cost to
18 maintain a basic standard of living in Vermont.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.