

SEN. MARK A. MACDONALD, VICE CHAIR
SEN. CHRISTOPHER BRAY
SEN. VIRGINIA "GINNY" LYONS
SEN. DAVID WEEKS



REP. TREVOR SQUIRRELL, CHAIR
REP. SETH BONGARTZ
REP. MARK HIGLEY
REP. CAROL ODE
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STATE OF VERMONT

Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

MINUTES

April 25, 2024

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, April 25, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in room 267 of the Pavilion Office Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

The following members were present:

Sen. Mark A. MacDonald, Vice Chair
Sen. Christopher Bray
Sen. Virginia "Ginny" Lyons
Sen. David Weeks

Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Chair
Rep. Mark Higley

Staff present:

Jennifer Carbee
Charlene Dindo
Lindsey Schreier

Committee Counsel
Committee Assistant
Administrative Assistant

Approval of prior minutes

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the minutes.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

24-E04 - Department for Children and Families/Eligibility Criteria for Temporary Housing Assistance. Heidi Moreau, Policy Analyst, Department for Children and Families, and Nicole Tousignant, Economics Benefits Director, Economic Services Division, Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee. Michael Benvenuto, Project Director, Elder Law Project, Vermont Legal Aid, and Brenda Siegel, Executive Director, End Homelessness Vermont, also testified on the rule.

This emergency rule maintains categorical eligibility for temporary housing assistance for families with children under 18 years of age or who are 18 or 19 years of age and attending school. It also continues the use of revised income contribution methodology and maintains the Department's authority to withhold payment from motels for lodging licensing violations.

On motion of Sen. Lyons, the Committee approved the rule on a vote of 4-2-2. Representatives Ode and Bongartz were not present.

24-E05 - Department for Children and Families/Emergency Housing Transition Benefit. Heidi Moreau, Policy Analyst, Department for Children and Families, and Nicole Tousignant, Economics Benefits Director, Economic Services Division, Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee. Michael Benvenuto, Project Director, Elder Law Project, Vermont Legal Aid, and Brenda Siegel, Executive Director, End Homelessness Vermont, also testified on the rule.

This rule maintains the eligibility criteria for the emergency housing transition benefit adopted under Secretary of State emergency rule filing number 23-E12.

On motion of Sen. Lyons, the Committee approved the rule on a vote of 6-0-2. Representatives Ode and Bongartz were not present.

24-P05 - Vermont Health Access/Private Nonmedical Institution Rules Simplification. James LaRock, Lawyer, Department of Vermont Health Access, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule strikes all of the Division of Rate Setting's existing standalone rules on establishing payment rates for private nonmedical institutions and replaces them with updated rules as a part of the Agency of Human Services' Health Care Administrative Rules.

With Mr. LaRock's consent to the extension of the Committee's review period pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 842, action on this rule was postponed until May 16, 2024.

24-P06 - Department of Vermont Health Access/Nursing Home Reimbursement Rule Simplification. James LaRock, Lawyer, Department of Vermont Health Access, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule strikes all of the Division of Rate Setting's existing standalone rules on establishing payment rates for nursing homes and replaces them with updated rules as a part of the Agency of Human Services' Health Care Administrative Rules.

With Mr. LaRock's consent to the extension of the Committee's review period pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 842, action on this rule was postponed until May 16, 2024.

Adjournment and next meeting

The Committee adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 16, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in room 267 of the Pavilion Office Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Carbee
Committee Counsel

cc: APA Clerk, Secretary of State
ICAR, Agency of Administration