



STATE OF VERMONT

Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

MINUTES

June 13, 2024

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, June 13, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 11 of the State House in Montpelier, Vermont.

The following members were present:

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

Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Chair
Rep. Seth Bongartz
Rep. Mark Higley
Rep. Carol Ode

Staff present:

Damien Leonard
Charlene Dindo
Lindsey Schreier

Committee Counsel
Committee Assistant
Administrative Assistant

Approval of prior minutes

On motion of Sen. Bray, the minutes of the May 16, 2024 meeting were approved.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

23-P22 - State Board of Education/Rule Series 2000: Education Quality Standards Review of Rule and Request for Adoption Deadline Extension. Kim Gleason, Member, State Board of Education, and Sarah Buxton, Special Counsel, State Board of Education, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee. Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair, Vermont State Board of Education, also testified on the rule.

These rule amendments are intended to reflect the recommendations of the working group created in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 1 (Act 1 Working Group) regarding ethnic and social equity standards for students.

On motion of Rep. Bongartz, the Committee unanimously approved the extension of the adoption deadline to June 21, 2024.

On motion of Rep. Bongartz, the Committee approved the rule, with proposed modifications submitted by the State Board of Education in the memorandum dated June 10, 2024, on a vote of 7-1.

23-P37 - State Board of Education/Independent School Program Approval Rules and Extension of the Adoption Deadline. Jennifer Samuelson, Esq., Chair, Vermont State Board of Education, and Sarah Buxton, Special Counsel, State Board of Education, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

These rule amendments are intended to reflect the recommendations of the working group created in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 1 (Act 1 Working Group) regarding ethnic and social equity standards for students.

On motion of Rep. Bongartz, the Committee unanimously approved the extension of the adoption deadline to June 21, 2024.

On motion of Rep. Bongartz, the Committee unanimously approved the rule with proposed modification submitted by the State Board of Education in the memorandum dated June 13, 2024.

24-P08 - Department for Children and Families/Reach First Rules. Heidi Moreau, Policy Analyst, Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to update the rules for the Reach First program, which provides short-term financial assistance to families, to align them with the requirements of 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 133.

On motion of Sen. Bray, the Committee unanimously approved the rule with proposed modifications submitted by the Department for Children and Families in the memorandum dated May 28, 2024.

24-P09 - Department for Children and Families/Reach Up Services Rules. Heidi Moreau, Policy Analyst, Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to update the Reach Up Services Rules, which govern participation requirements for families receiving Reach Up financial assistance, to align them with the requirements of 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 133.

On motion of Rep. Higley, the Committee unanimously approved the rule with proposed modifications submitted by the Department for Children and Families in the memorandum dated May 28, 2024.

24-P10 - Department for Children and Families/Reach Up Eligibility Rules. Heidi Moreau, Policy Analyst, Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to update the Reach Up Eligibility Rules, which govern the eligibility criteria for the Reach Up program, to align them with the requirements of 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 133.

On motion of Sen. Bray, the Committee unanimously approved the rule with proposed modifications submitted by the Department for Children and Families in the memorandum dated May 28, 2024.

24-P11 - Department for Children and Families/Postsecondary Education Program Rules. Heidi Moreau, Policy Analyst, Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to update the Postsecondary Education Program Rules, which provides financial assistance, case management, and support services to assist parents in eligible low-income families to obtain two- or four-year postsecondary undergraduate degrees, to align them with the requirements of 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 133.

On motion of Sen. Lyons, the Committee unanimously approved the rule with proposed modifications submitted by the Department for Children and Families in the memorandum dated May 28, 2024.

Adjournment and next meeting

The Committee adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June 27, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 11 of the State House in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Damien Leonard

Damien Leonard
Committee Counsel

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