

1 H.534

2 An act relating to community action agencies

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

4 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

5 CHAPTER 59. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES

6 § 3901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

7 (a) Recognizing that the economic well-being and social equity of every
8 Vermonter has long been a fundamental concern of the State, it remains
9 evident that ~~poverty continues to be the lot of~~ a substantial number of
10 Vermont's population continues to experience poverty. It is the policy of ~~this~~
11 the State to help develop the full potential of each of its citizens so they can
12 contribute to the fullest extent possible to the life of our communities and the
13 State as a whole.

14 (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to strengthen, supplement, and
15 coordinate efforts that further this policy through:

16 (1) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning,
17 coordinating, and managing federal, State, and other sources of assistance
18 related to the problem of poverty;

19 (2) the better organization and utilization of a range of services related
20 to the needs of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income; and

1 (3) the broadening of the resource base of programs to secure a more
2 active role in assisting ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income from business,
3 labor, and other groups from the private sector.

4 § 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

5 (a) The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity is hereby
6 authorized to allocate available financial assistance for community ~~services~~
7 action agencies and programs in accordance with State and federal law and
8 regulation.

9 (b) The Director may provide financial assistance to community ~~services~~
10 action agencies for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of
11 community ~~service~~ action programs to provide a range of services and
12 activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of
13 poverty in the community or in areas of the community where poverty is a
14 particularly acute problem. Components of those services and activities may
15 involve, without limitation of other activities and supporting facilities designed
16 to assist ~~low income~~ participants with low income:

17 (1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

18 (2) to obtain adequate education;

19 (3) to make better use of available income;

20 (4) to ~~provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living~~
21 environment have access to safe, secure, and permanent housing;

1 The Director shall designate private nonprofit ~~community-based~~
2 community-based organizations ~~who~~ that have demonstrated or ~~who~~ that can
3 demonstrate the ability to provide services and activities as defined in
4 subsection 3902(b) of this title as community ~~services~~ action agencies.

5 § 3904. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCY ASSESSMENT
6 AND PLAN

7 Each designated community ~~services~~ action agency shall determine the need
8 for activities and services within the area served by the agency ~~and shall~~
9 ~~thereafter prepare a community services plan that describes the method by~~
10 ~~which the agency will provide those services~~ every three years, complete an
11 assessment, and incorporate that information into an annual community action
12 plan. The plan shall include a schedule for the anticipated provision of new or
13 ~~additional~~ ongoing services and shall specify the resources that are needed by
14 and available to the agency to implement the plan. ~~The community services~~
15 ~~plan shall be updated annually.~~

16 § 3905. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES;
17 ADMINISTRATION

18 (a) Each community ~~services~~ action agency shall administer its programs as
19 set out in the community ~~services~~ action plan and as approved by its board of
20 directors.

1 (b) Each board of a nonprofit ~~community-based~~ community-based
2 organization that is designated a community ~~services~~ action agency under
3 section 3903 of this chapter shall have an executive committee of not more
4 than seven members who shall be representative of the composition of the
5 board and the board shall be so constituted that:

6 (1) ~~one third of the members of the board are elected public officials~~
7 ~~currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected~~
8 ~~officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one third of the~~
9 ~~membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public~~
10 ~~officials may be counted in meeting such one-third requirement;~~

11 (2) a minimum of one-third of the members of the board are persons
12 chosen in accordance with election procedures adequate to ensure that they are
13 representative of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income in the area served; ~~and~~

14 (2) one-third of the members of the board are elected public officials
15 currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected
16 officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one-third of the
17 membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public
18 officials may be counted in meeting such one-third requirement; and

19 (3) the remainder of the members of the board are officials or members
20 of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major
21 groups and interests in the community.

1 (c) Each member of ~~the~~ a board selected to represent a specific geographic
2 area within a community shall reside in the area ~~he or she~~ the member
3 represents. ~~No person selected under subdivision (b)(2) or (3) of this section~~
4 ~~as a member of a board shall serve on such board for more than five~~
5 ~~consecutive years, or more than a total of 10 years~~ Each board shall adopt term
6 limits to govern its members.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.