

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

4 § 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

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 § 3903. DESIGNATION OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND
2 ACTIVITIES TO AMELIORATE OR ELIMINATE POVERTY

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

7 § 3904. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCY ASSESSMENT
8 AND PLAN

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

1 § 3905. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES;

2 ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

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

19 (2) one-third of the members of the board are elected public officials
20 currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected
21 officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one-third of the

1 membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public

2 officials may be counted in meeting such one-third requirement; and

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

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

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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