

1 H.93

2 Introduced by Representatives Garofano of Essex, Brumsted of Shelburne,
3 Gregoire of Fairfield, Small of Winooski, Black of Essex,
4 Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Goldman of
5 Rockingham, Hyman of South Burlington, LaMont of
6 Morristown, McGill of Bridport, Noyes of Wolcott, Pajala of
7 Londonderry, Priestley of Bradford, and Whitman of
8 Bennington

9 Referred to Committee on

10 Date:

11 Subject: Human services; Reach Up; benefit levels

12 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
13 Commissioner for Children and Families to annually set by rule the maximum
14 financial assistance for a family participating in Reach Up based on the
15 Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and the U.S. Department of
16 Housing and Urban Development's annual Fair Market Rents data.

17 An act relating to Reach Up benefit levels

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

19 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1103 is amended to read:

20 § 1103. ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT LEVELS

1 (a)(1) Financial assistance shall be given for the benefit of a dependent
2 child to the relative or caretaker with whom the child is living, unless
3 otherwise provided. The amount of financial assistance to which an eligible
4 person is entitled shall be determined with due regard to the income, resources,
5 and maintenance available to that person and, ~~as far as funds are available,~~
6 shall provide that person a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency
7 and health. ~~The~~ Annually, the Commissioner ~~may~~ shall fix by rule maximum
8 amounts of financial assistance ~~and act to ensure that the expenditures for the~~
9 ~~programs shall not exceed appropriations for them consistent with section 101~~
10 ~~of this title. In no case shall the Department expend State funds in excess of~~
11 ~~the appropriations for the programs under this chapter, including a personal~~
12 needs allowance, based on the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers
13 and a housing allowance based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
14 Development's annual Fair Market Rents data. The Commissioner may
15 increase housing allowances up to 120 percent of fair market rents for families
16 that include an individual with a disability, if required, as a reasonable
17 accommodation. If a family lives in or is moving into federally subsidized
18 housing in which rents are set at or about 30 percent of household income, or if
19 a family has tenant-based federal rental assistance, the family's shelter
20 expenses shall be budgeted at a fixed rate set in accordance with rules adopted
21 by the Commissioner pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

