



## Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

<b>Agency name</b>	State Board of Social Services
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation</b>	22 VAC 40-35
<b>Regulation title</b>	Virginia Independence Program
<b>Action title</b>	Change diversionary assistance to once every 12 months
<b>Final agency action date</b>	June 17, 2009
<b>Document preparation date</b>	June 17, 2009

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of the Virginia Register Act, the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*, and Executive Orders 21 (02) and 58 (99).

### Summary

*Please provide a brief summary of all regulatory changes, including the rationale behind such changes. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.*

The 2009 Session of the General Assembly passed legislation (Chapter 61 and Chapter 547 of the 2009 Acts of Assembly) to amend the time frames during which needy households can receive diversionary cash assistance, a one-time lump sum assistance payment intended to divert the family from long-term welfare. Rather than being restricted to receipt once every 60 months, the law was amended to allow receipt of diversionary cash assistance up to once every 12 months.

### Statement of final agency action

*Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.*

On June 17, 2009, the State Board of Social Services took action to amend the Virginia Independence Program regulation found at 22 VAC 40-35-40 of the Virginia Administrative Code to allow receipt of diversionary cash assistance once in a 12-month period.

### Family impact

*Assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.*

---

This regulation will have a positive impact on families. Allowing more frequent diversionary cash assistance payments will provide opportunities for families to maintain ongoing employment and enhance their independence, well-being, and personal responsibility, and avoid long-term welfare dependence.