



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 5566

LCO No. 1587

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Housing

Introduced by:
(HSG)

An Act Establishing A Program To Promote Environmentally Safe Housing For Children And Families.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) For purposes of this section:
- 2 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;
- 3 (2) "Eligible families" means any household which (A) is eligible for
4 the federal Medicaid program, (B) includes a child who is six years of
5 age or younger as of the effective date of this section, and (C) is
6 residing in a building built prior to 1978; and
- 7 (3) "The program" or "this program" means the program established
8 by this section.
- 9 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish a program to
10 promote environmentally safe housing for children and families
11 through education, medical screening and appropriate and cost-
12 effective repairs. Such program shall (A) identify eligible families and,
13 through home visits, provide education about the problems caused by
14 exposure to lead and how to avoid or lessen the effects of such

15 exposure, (B) provide blood lead screening for children who are six
16 years of age or younger, (C) identify measures to be taken to lessen the
17 effects from the presence of lead, including window repair or
18 replacement, (D) apply to federal programs and to other funding
19 sources which will pay for some of the costs of this program, and (E)
20 continue to evaluate the program's progress in order to plan for a
21 phase-out in three to five years. The commissioner shall contract with a
22 nonprofit entity which shall operate the program.

23 (c) Eligible costs by a nonprofit entity operating this program shall
24 include costs and expenses incurred in providing lead-safety
25 education, interim measures and window repair or replacement or
26 other remediation for dwelling units, administrative and management
27 expenses, planning and start-up costs, and any other costs and
28 expenses found by the commissioner to be necessary and reasonable
29 and in accordance with existing state regulations.

30 Sec. 2. (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this
31 section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to
32 time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more
33 series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate seven
34 million dollars.

35 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
36 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
37 Department of Public Health for the purpose of funding remediation
38 to dwelling units under the program established in section 1 of this act.

39 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
40 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
41 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
42 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
43 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
44 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
45 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
46 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not

47 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
48 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
49 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
50 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
51 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
52 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
53 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
54 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
55 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
56 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
57 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
58 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
59 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
60 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
61 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
62 due.

63 Sec. 3. The sum of one million forty thousand dollars is
64 appropriated to the Department of Public Health, from the General
65 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, for the operation of the
66 program established in section 1 of this act.

67 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Statement of Purpose:

To protect children by offering education and medical screening, and to improve housing by providing property improvements shown to be both low cost and effective at remediating lead hazards.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]