



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 701

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6966

House of Representatives, May 9, 2001

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS OR HIV INFECTION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Commissioner of Social Services may, within
2 available appropriations, administer a program providing payment for
3 the cost of vitamins and nutritional supplements prescribed by a
4 physician for the prevention or treatment of acquired
5 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency
6 virus (HIV infection). The commissioner shall determine specific
7 vitamins and nutritional supplements to be covered under the
8 program. To be eligible for assistance under this section, a person shall
9 have a family income of less than four hundred per cent of the federal
10 poverty level. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
11 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement
12 the provisions of this section. The commissioner may implement the
13 program while in the process of adopting regulations, provided notice
14 of intent to adopt the regulations is published in the Connecticut Law

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Indeterminate Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Social Services

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

This bill allows the Department of Social Services to administer a program that pays for the cost of vitamins and nutritional supplements prescribed by a physician for the prevention or treatment of AIDS or HIV. This program is to be established within available appropriations. The cost of this program will be dependent upon the parameters of the program established by the department. The Appropriations Act, sHB 6668 (as favorably approved by the Appropriations Committee) includes no specific funding to establish this program.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6966

AN ACT PROVIDING SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS OR HIV INFECTION.**SUMMARY:**

The bill allows the social services commissioner, within available appropriations, to administer a program to pay for physician-prescribed vitamins and nutritional supplements to prevent or treat (1) acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and (2) associated opportunistic diseases and conditions. To be eligible, an individual's family income must be under 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL). (The FPL varies according to family size. For example, 400% of FPL would be \$34,360 for a single person, \$46,440 for a two-person family, and \$58,520 for a three-person family.) Under the bill, the commissioner must determine the specific items to be covered.

The bill requires the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations and allows her to implement the program while still in the process of adopting the regulations, as long as she publishes notice of intent to adopt them in the Connecticut Law Journal within 20 days of the program's implementation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Connecticut AIDS Drug Assistance Program***

Currently, the Connecticut AIDS Drug Assistance Program pays for certain AIDS- and HIV-related prescription drugs for people with family income up to 400% of FPL, but not vitamins or nutritional supplements. There is no asset test.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 16 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 51 Nay 0