



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6966

LCO No. 4527

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

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
15 Journal within twenty days of implementation. The commissioner
16 may, within available appropriations, provide payment, determined

17 by said commissioner, for vitamins and nutritional supplements
18 prescribed by a physician that prevent or treat opportunistic diseases
19 and conditions associated with AIDS or HIV infection.

20 Sec. 2. (NEW) There shall be established pilot projects in the five
21 municipalities having the highest total number of cases of acquired
22 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency
23 virus (HIV infection) as of January 1, 2001, and in one underserved
24 rural area to increase the employability, employment and career
25 advancement of unemployed persons with acquired
26 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency
27 virus (HIV infection). The pilot projects shall be located at community-
28 based organizations which have a history of working with persons
29 with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human
30 immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection). Each pilot project shall
31 include an evaluation component which shall use outcome measures
32 such as the number of clients served by the project, the number of
33 persons who receive job training and the number of persons who
34 obtain employment.

35 Sec. 3. Section 17b-255 of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

37 (a) There is established, in the Department of Social Services, a
38 program to provide insurance assistance for [people] persons with
39 [~~AIDS~~] acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human
40 immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection) disease. Under the program
41 the state shall pay insurance premiums for persons with [~~AIDS-~~
42 ~~related~~] acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human
43 immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection) disease who, without such
44 assistance, would be unable to obtain health insurance coverage
45 through an employer. To qualify for assistance a person shall have a
46 family income less than [two] four hundred per cent of the federal
47 poverty level [, shall have less than ten thousand dollars in cash assets]
48 and shall have health insurance which may be continued upon

49 termination of employment of the applicant, the applicant's spouse or
50 the applicant's parent. Insurance premiums and medical expenses for
51 which the applicant has no coverage, which are incurred in the month
52 of application, shall be deducted from gross income for the purpose of
53 determining income eligibility for the program. Eligibility shall be
54 periodically redetermined and any uncovered medical expenses
55 incurred in the month of redetermination shall be deducted from gross
56 income in determining continued eligibility for the program. An
57 applicant for assistance shall document the risk of losing health
58 insurance and submit a physician's statement that the applicant has an
59 [AIDS-related] acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or
60 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection) disease.

61 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in
62 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
63 section, which shall include the establishment of (1) higher income
64 eligibility limits for applicants with dependents; (2) an application
65 process for the program, including application forms; and (3) a
66 procedure by which the insurance premiums of participants in the
67 program shall be paid.

68 (c) Except as otherwise specified in this section, the insurance
69 assistance for [people] persons with [AIDS] acquired
70 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency
71 virus (HIV infection) disease program shall be operated in a manner
72 consistent with the Medicaid program.

73 (d) The Department of Social Services shall investigate the
74 purchasing of a managed care insurance program in lieu of the
75 issuance of individual policies.

76 Sec. 4. Section 17b-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

78 The Commissioner of Social Services may administer, within
79 available appropriations, a program providing payment for the cost of

80 drugs prescribed by a physician for the prevention or treatment of
81 acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) [, AIDS-related complex
82 (ARC)] or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection). The
83 commissioner shall determine specific drugs to be covered and may
84 implement a pharmacy lock-in procedure for the program. The
85 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
86 provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of this section. The
87 commissioner may implement the program while in the process of
88 adopting regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt the
89 regulations is published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty
90 days of implementation. The regulations may include eligibility for all
91 persons with AIDS or HIV infection whose income is below four
92 hundred per cent of the federal poverty level. The commissioner [may]
93 shall, within available appropriations, purchase and maintain
94 insurance policies for eligible clients, including, but not limited to,
95 coverage of costs associated with such policies, that provide a full
96 range of HIV treatments and access to comprehensive primary care
97 services as determined by the commissioner and as provided by
98 federal law, and may provide payment, determined by said
99 commissioner, for (1) drugs and nutritional supplements prescribed by
100 a physician that prevent or treat opportunistic diseases and conditions
101 associated with AIDS or HIV infection; (2) ancillary supplies related to
102 the administration of such drugs; and (3) laboratory tests ordered by a
103 physician.

104 Sec. 5. The sum of three hundred thousand dollars is appropriated
105 to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the
106 fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for the program established pursuant
107 to section 1 of this act.

108 Sec. 6. The sum of eight hundred thousand dollars is appropriated
109 to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the
110 fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for the pilot projects established
111 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

112 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide care, treatment and services for persons with AIDS or HIV infection.

[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.]