



**AN ACT TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS CARING FOR  
ELDERLY PARENTS IN THE HOME.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide  
3 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an elderly  
4 parent, including, but not limited to: (A) Homemaker services; (B)  
5 adult day care; (C) temporary care in a licensed medical facility; (D)  
6 home-health care; or (E) companion services.
- 7 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who voluntarily assumes the  
8 responsibility for the ongoing care of such person's elderly parent.
- 9 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an  
10 elderly parent for respite care services.
- 11 (4) "Elderly parent" means an individual age sixty-five years or  
12 older who requires continuous medical care and resides in the same  
13 dwelling unit as his or her son or daughter.
- 14 (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Social Services.
- 15 (6) "Department" means the Department of Social Services.
- 16 (b) The commissioner shall establish a demonstration program,

17 within available appropriations, to provide respite care services for  
18 caretakers provided the elderly parent meets the requirements set  
19 forth in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite care services may be  
20 administered directly by the department, or through contracts for  
21 services between the department and providers of such services or by  
22 means of direct subsidy to caretakers to purchase such services for  
23 their parents.

24 (c) (1) No elderly parent may participate in the program if such  
25 parent (A) has an annual income of more than thirty thousand dollars  
26 or liquid assets of more than eighty thousand dollars, or (B) is covered  
27 by Medicaid.

28 (2) No elderly parent who participates in the program may receive  
29 more than three thousand five hundred dollars for services under the  
30 program in any fiscal year or receive more than thirty days of out-of-  
31 home respite care services other than adult day care services under the  
32 program in any fiscal year.

33 (3) The commissioner may require an elderly parent who  
34 participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite care  
35 services under the program, except the commissioner may waive such  
36 copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such  
37 individual.

38 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
39 the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the  
40 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include, but need not  
41 be limited to: (1) Standards for eligibility for respite care services; (2)  
42 the basis for priority in receiving services; (3) qualifications and  
43 requirements of providers; (4) a requirement that providers accredited  
44 by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare  
45 Organizations, when available, receive preference in contracting for  
46 services; (5) provider reimbursement levels; (6) limits on services and  
47 cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule for copayments.

48 (e) The commissioner may allocate any funds appropriated in excess

49 of five hundred thousand dollars for the demonstration program  
50 among the five area agencies on aging according to need, as  
51 determined by said commissioner.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) Any individual who is a caretaker, as defined in  
53 subdivision (5) of section 17b-450 of the general statutes, and who is  
54 subject to the tax under chapter 229 of the general statutes for any  
55 taxable year shall be entitled, in addition to any exemption to which  
56 such person is entitled pursuant to section 12-702 of the general  
57 statutes, to a deduction from Connecticut adjusted gross income, for  
58 purposes of said chapter, of the amount paid by that person for the  
59 expenses incurred by the person during the taxable year in providing  
60 health, home care or day care services for an elderly person sixty years  
61 of age or older, provided: (1) The elderly person lives in a residential  
62 dwelling unit with the caretaker; (2) the expenses are for services and  
63 equipment that are medically necessary; and (3) the annual income of  
64 the caretaker, when combined with the annual income of the elderly  
65 person, is not more than one hundred thousand dollars.

66 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage and section 2 shall  
67 be applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2001.

**AGE**

**JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R**

**FIN**