



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 935

LCO No. 4836

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN
BENEFITS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17b-112c of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section:
4 (1) A qualified alien admitted into the United States on or after August
5 22, 1996, or other lawfully residing immigrant alien determined
6 eligible for temporary family assistance or cash assistance under the
7 state-administered general assistance program prior to July 1, 1997, or
8 other lawfully residing immigrant alien or alien who formerly held the
9 status of permanently residing under color of law, shall remain eligible
10 for such assistance until July 1, [2001] 2003, and (2) a qualified alien,
11 other lawfully residing immigrant alien admitted into the United
12 States on or after August 22, 1996, other lawfully residing immigrant
13 alien or an alien who formerly held the status of permanently residing
14 under color of law and not determined eligible prior to July 1, 1997,
15 shall be eligible for such assistance subsequent to six months from
16 establishing residency in this state until July 1, [2001] 2003, except if

17 the individual is otherwise qualified for the purpose of state receipt of
18 federal financial participation.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 17b-116 of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

21 (e) Persons domiciled and residing in Connecticut or who have no
22 other residence, and who are United States citizens or who have been
23 admitted as qualified aliens, as defined in Section 431 of Public Law
24 104-193, into the United States prior to August 22, 1996, or other
25 lawfully residing immigrant aliens or aliens who formerly held the
26 status of permanently residing under color of law shall be eligible for
27 support under the general assistance program. A qualified alien
28 admitted into the United States on or after August 22, 1996, or other
29 lawfully residing immigrant alien determined eligible for general
30 assistance prior to July 1, 1997, shall remain eligible for such assistance
31 until July 1, [2001] 2003. Qualified aliens or other lawfully residing
32 immigrant aliens admitted into the United States on or after August 22,
33 1996, and not determined eligible for assistance prior to July 1, 1997,
34 shall be eligible for such assistance subsequent to six months from
35 establishing residency in this state until July 1, [2001] 2003. Qualified
36 aliens must pursue citizenship to the maximum extent allowed by law
37 as a condition of eligibility for the general assistance program unless
38 incapable of doing so due to a medical problem, language barrier or
39 other reason as determined by the Commissioner of Social Services.
40 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any qualified alien
41 or other lawfully residing immigrant alien or alien who formerly held
42 the status of permanently residing under color of law who is a victim
43 of domestic violence or who has mental retardation shall be eligible for
44 general assistance.

45 Sec. 3. Section 17b-257b of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

47 Qualified aliens, as defined in Section 431 of Public Law 104-193,
48 admitted into the United States on or after August 22, 1996, other

49 lawfully residing immigrant aliens or aliens who formerly held the
50 status of permanently residing under color of law who have been
51 determined eligible for Medicaid or for state-administered general
52 assistance medical aid prior to July 1, 1997, may be eligible until July 1,
53 [2001] 2003, for state-funded medical assistance which shall provide
54 coverage to the same extent as the Medicaid program, state-
55 administered general assistance medical aid or the HUSKY Plan, Part B
56 provided other conditions of eligibility are met. Such qualified aliens
57 or lawfully residing immigrant aliens or aliens who formerly held the
58 status of permanently residing under color of law who have not been
59 determined eligible for Medicaid or for state-administered general
60 assistance medical aid prior to July 1, 1997, shall be eligible for state-
61 funded assistance or the HUSKY Plan, Part B subsequent to six months
62 from establishing residency in this state until July 1, [2001] 2003.
63 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any qualified alien or
64 other lawfully residing immigrant alien or alien who formerly held the
65 status of permanently residing under color of law who is a victim of
66 domestic violence or who has mental retardation shall be eligible for
67 state-funded assistance or the HUSKY Plan, Part B pursuant to this
68 section. Only individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid shall be
69 eligible for state-funded assistance pursuant to this section.

70 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 17b-342 of the general statutes is
71 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

72 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer the
73 Connecticut home-care program for the elderly state-wide in order to
74 prevent the institutionalization of elderly persons (1) who are
75 recipients of medical assistance, (2) who are eligible for such
76 assistance, (3) who would be eligible for medical assistance if residing
77 in a nursing facility, or (4) who meet the criteria for the state-funded
78 portion of the program under subsection (i) of this section. For
79 purposes of this section, a long-term care facility is a facility which has
80 been federally certified as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care
81 facility. The commissioner shall make any revisions in the state

82 Medicaid plan required by Title XIX of the Social Security Act prior to
83 implementing the program. The annualized cost of the community-
84 based services provided to such persons under the program shall not
85 exceed sixty per cent of the weighted average cost of care in skilled
86 nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities. The program shall be
87 structured so that the net cost to the state for long-term facility care in
88 combination with the community-based services under the program
89 shall not exceed the net cost the state would have incurred without the
90 program. The commissioner shall investigate the possibility of
91 receiving federal funds for the program and shall apply for any
92 necessary federal waivers. A recipient of services under the program,
93 and the estate and legally liable relatives of the recipient, shall be
94 responsible for reimbursement to the state for such services to the
95 same extent required of a recipient of assistance under the state
96 supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family
97 assistance program or food stamps program. Only a United States
98 citizen or a noncitizen who meets the citizenship requirements for
99 eligibility under the Medicaid program shall be eligible for home-care
100 services under this section, except a qualified alien, as defined in
101 Section 431 of Public Law 104-193, admitted into the United States on
102 or after August 22, 1996, or other lawfully residing immigrant alien
103 determined eligible for services under this section prior to July 1, 1997,
104 shall remain eligible for such services until July 1, [2001] 2003.
105 Qualified aliens or other lawfully residing immigrant aliens not
106 determined eligible prior to July 1, 1997, shall be eligible for services
107 under this section subsequent to six months from establishing
108 residency until July 1, [2001] 2003. Notwithstanding the provisions of
109 this subsection, any qualified alien or other lawfully residing
110 immigrant alien or alien who formerly held the status of permanently
111 residing under color of law who is a victim of domestic violence or
112 who has mental retardation shall be eligible for assistance pursuant to
113 this section. Qualified aliens, as defined in Section 431 of Public Law
114 104-193, or other lawfully residing immigrant aliens or aliens who
115 formerly held the status of permanently residing under color of law

116 shall be eligible for services under this section provided other
117 conditions of eligibility are met.

118 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the continuation of benefits under state-funded temporary family assistance, general assistance, Medicaid, the HUSKY Plan, Part B and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders for qualified aliens and other lawfully residing immigrant aliens.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.; REP. TRUGLIA, 145th Dist.