



AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE FUNDED WORK-STUDY PROGRAM FOR TANF RECIPIENTS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) For purposes of this section and section 17b-
2 749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act:

3 (1) "Needy person" means any parent or caretaker relative of a
4 minor child who is a member of a needy family, as defined by the state
5 plan for the temporary assistance for needy families program.

6 (2) "Eligible participant" means a person who is currently receiving
7 benefits from the temporary family assistance program or any other
8 needy person, whether or not such person is currently enrolled in an
9 eligible training program.

10 (3) "Eligible training program" means any training program
11 administered or operated by an eligible provider, as defined in section
12 31-111 of the general statutes, or any training or education program
13 offered by an accredited public or independent institution of higher
14 education in this state.

15 (b) The Labor Department shall:

16 (1) Establish a state funded work-study program for needy persons
17 in eligible training programs;

18 (2) Provide transportation assistance to needy persons participating
19 in the state funded work-study program established pursuant to
20 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

21 (3) Provide case management and such other support services as the
22 Labor Commissioner deems necessary to needy persons participating
23 in the state funded work-study program established pursuant to
24 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

25 (c) In administering the state funded work-study program
26 established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section,
27 the Labor Department shall (1) give priority for participation to eligible
28 participants whose family incomes are at or below the federal poverty
29 level, (2) reserve fifteen per cent of all available work-study positions
30 for eligible participants seeking to enroll in training and education
31 programs for nontraditional occupations, as identified by the United
32 States Department of Labor, (3) require eligible participants to enroll in
33 training and education programs that prepare job seekers for
34 occupations in demand in this state, as identified by the Labor
35 Department, (4) require that the rate of compensation paid to eligible
36 participants participating in the work-study program be not less than
37 the minimum fair wage set forth in section 31-58 of the general statutes
38 and not more than nine dollars per hour, (5) make work-study
39 positions subject to the worker displacement provisions of Section 407
40 of Title IV of the Social Security Act, and (6) structure the work-study
41 program to enable an eligible participant's family to be independent of
42 temporary family assistance by the end of the twenty-one-month time
43 limit for such assistance and increase the participant's ability to achieve
44 economic self-sufficiency.

45 (d) To be eligible to participate in the state funded work-study
46 program established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
47 this section, an eligible participant shall (1) enroll in and attend an
48 eligible training program on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the
49 eligible provider, or (2) if the eligible training program is administered
50 by a public or independent institution of higher education, take

51 sufficient courses to qualify for a Federal Pell Grant.

52 (e) Eligible participants may participate in the state funded work-
53 study program for at least thirty-two weeks and may participate for
54 longer periods of time with prior approval from the Labor Department
55 and the administrator of the eligible training program or public or
56 independent institution of higher education.

57 (f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations as are necessary
58 to carry out the provisions of this section.

59 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is
60 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

61 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
62 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
63 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
64 who is working, attending high school, participating in a work-study
65 program pursuant to section 1 of this act, or who receives cash
66 assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the
67 Department of Social Services and is participating in an approved
68 education, training, or other job preparation activity. Services available
69 under the child care program shall include the provision of child care
70 subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the
71 age of nineteen with special needs.

72 Sec. 3. (NEW) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30,
73 2003, the sum of one million nine hundred thousand dollars shall be
74 transferred from the federal temporary assistance for needy families
75 block grant to the Labor Department for purposes of establishing and
76 operating a work-study program pursuant to section 1 of this act.

77 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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