



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 155**

February Session, 2002

Senate Bill No. 443

*Senate, March 26, 2002*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE HOUSING.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-811a of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement and  
4 administer, within available appropriations, a program of transitional  
5 rental assistance for private housing for persons who: [are] (1) Are  
6 employed at the time they [exhaust time-limited benefits under] leave  
7 the temporary family assistance program and who have income which  
8 exceeds the payment standard under said program, or (2) are no  
9 longer eligible for temporary family assistance because they have  
10 reached the maximum number of months of eligibility, or the  
11 maximum number of extensions for which they are eligible. The  
12 commissioner may establish a durational limit for the receipt of such  
13 assistance which shall not exceed a period of twelve months.

14 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a simplified  
15 eligibility determination and application process for transitional  
16 rental assistance. The program shall be designed to allow the provision  
17 of such assistance to commence with the first month in which the  
18 applicant is no longer receiving benefits under the temporary family  
19 assistance program.

20 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement the policies  
21 and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of subsections (a)  
22 and (b) of this section while in the process of adopting such policies  
23 and procedures in regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt  
24 the regulations is published in the Connecticut Law Journal within  
25 twenty days after implementation. Such policies and procedures shall  
26 be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

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:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Current FY \$</b>	<b>FY 03 \$</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>
GF - See Below	Dept of Social Services	None	See Below	See Below

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

This bill expands eligibility for the Temporary Rental Assistance (T-RAP) program to include families who are no longer eligible for Temporary Family Assistance as they exceed the maximum number of months of eligibility and extensions. Although this change expands the potential number of T-RAP beneficiaries, there is no direct fiscal impact as the program is not operated on an entitlement basis and is therefore subject to available appropriations.

It should be noted that in the current fiscal year, T-RAP is projected to spend only \$1 million of its original \$3.4 million appropriation due to lower than anticipated enrolment.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 443

***AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE HOUSING*****SUMMARY:**

Under current law, families qualify for the Transitional Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP) only if (1) the head of household is working; (2) their income exceeds the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) payment standard (currently a maximum of \$543 per month for a family of three); and (3) they exhaust the TFA time limits. (Department of Social Services (DSS) draft regulations those limits.)

This bill makes the program available to more families in two ways. First, it makes eligible any family who meets the work and income criteria and who leaves the TFA program for any reason, not just for exhausting the program's time limits. And, it offers the benefit to any family that loses eligibility for TFA because it has reached the program's 21-month time limit or exhausts its extensions to that limit, regardless of whether the head of household is working or the family's income is above the TFA standard.

Under the T-RAP, DSS, within available appropriations, provides a maximum 12-month housing subsidy for families residing in private housing. Families pay 40% of their income for rent and DSS pays the rest.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002

**BACKGROUND*****Extensions to TFA Time Limits***

In general, families can receive TFA benefits for up to 21 months. (Some families are exempt from the time limits.) But DSS must grant up to three six-month extensions when a family has made a good faith effort to comply with the program but still has family income below the payment standard or cannot find employment. DSS must grant

fourth and additional extensions in certain circumstances. It may not provide benefits to any family for more than 60 months, unless the family is experiencing domestic violence that prevents the adult from earning at least the TFA benefit.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 18 Nay 0