



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 687

January Session, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL WAIVER APPLICATION PROCESS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-8 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit an application
4 for a federal waiver of any assistance program requirements, except
5 such application pertaining to routine operational issues, to the joint
6 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
7 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
8 and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
9 cognizance of matters relating to human services prior to the
10 submission of such application to the federal government. [Within]
11 Not later than thirty days after the date of their receipt of such
12 application, the joint standing committees [may] shall advise the
13 commissioner of their approval, denial or modifications, if any, of [his]
14 the commissioner's application. If the joint standing committees advise
15 the commissioner of their denial of the commissioner's application, the
16 commissioner shall not submit the application for a federal waiver to
17 the federal government. If such committees do not concur, the
18 committee chairpersons shall appoint a committee of conference which
19 shall be comprised of three members from each joint standing
20 committee. At least one member appointed from each joint standing

21 committee shall be a member of the minority party. The report of the
22 committee of conference shall be made to each joint standing
23 committee, which shall vote to accept or reject the report. The report of
24 the committee of conference may not be amended. If a joint standing
25 committee rejects the report of the committee of conference, the
26 commissioner's application shall be deemed approved. If the joint
27 standing committees accept the report, the committee having
28 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of
29 state agencies shall advise the commissioner of their approval, denial
30 or modifications, if any, of the commissioner's application. If the joint
31 standing committees do not so advise the commissioner during the
32 thirty-day period, the application shall be deemed approved. Any
33 application for a federal waiver submitted by the commissioner,
34 pursuant to this section, shall be in accordance with the approval or
35 modifications, if any, of the joint standing committee of the General
36 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and
37 the budgets of state agencies and the joint standing committee of the
38 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
39 services.

40 (b) If in developing the budget for the department for the next fiscal
41 year, the commissioner contemplates applying for a federal waiver,
42 [he] the commissioner shall notify the joint standing committee of the
43 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
44 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the joint standing
45 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
46 relating to human services of the possibility of such application.

47 (c) Prior to submission of an application for a waiver from federal
48 law to the General Assembly under subsection (a) of this section, the
49 Commissioner of Social Services shall publish a notice that the
50 commissioner intends to seek such a waiver in the Connecticut Law
51 Journal, along with a summary of the provisions of the waiver
52 application and the manner in which individuals may submit
53 comments. The commissioner shall allow fifteen days for written
54 comments on the waiver application prior to submission of the

