



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 297

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5483

House of Representatives, March 29, 2004

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

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 Section 17b-811a of the general statutes is repealed and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, 2004*):

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 months of eligibility, including any extensions
11 permitted by subsection (c) of section 17b-112, as amended, for which
12 they are eligible. The commissioner may establish a durational limit for
13 the receipt of such assistance which shall not exceed a period of twelve
14 months.

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

21 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement [the]
 22 policies and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of
 23 subsections (a) and (b) of this section while in the process of adopting
 24 such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided notice of
 25 intent to adopt the regulations is published in the Connecticut Law
 26 Journal [within] not later than twenty days after implementation. Such
 27 policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final regulations
 28 are effective.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In line 10, the phrase "including any extensions" was substituted for "or the maximum number of extensions as" for added clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Department of Social Services	GF - See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill expands the potential eligible population for the Transitional Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP). As this program is not an entitlement, and is operated within available appropriations, the expansion of the eligible population will not result in an increase in the paid caseload for the T-RAP program. Therefore, there is no associated fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5483

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE**SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the circumstances under which families can receive rent subsidies from the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Transitional Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP). Under current law, families who exhaust their time-limited Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits and who are working and have income exceeding the TFA benefit (generally \$543 per month for a family of three living in most parts of the state) can get these subsidies. The bill continues to permit subsidies for families who are working and have income above the TFA benefit when they leave the TFA program, but also makes them eligible when they still have unused months of TFA available. And it permits subsidies to families who are no longer eligible for TFA because they have reached the program's time limit, including extensions, regardless of whether they have excess income or are working.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

BACKGROUND***T-RAP***

The T-RAP program provides up to 12 months of rental assistance to families who meet its eligibility criteria and live in private housing. DSS pays the subsidies from within its available appropriations.

TFA Time Limits and Extensions

Families who are not exempt from the program's time limits can receive TFA benefits for 21 months, or more if they qualify for extensions. In general, families can receive up to two six-month extensions when they have made a good faith effort to comply with the TFA program requirements but despite such efforts, earn less than the TFA payment. Families can also qualify for these extensions if circumstances beyond their control have prevented employment, such

as domestic violence. Additional extensions beyond the two are available in more limited circumstances.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0