



# House of Representatives

**File No. 622**

General Assembly

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February Session, 2004 **(Reprint of File No. 297)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5483  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 16, 2004

**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 Section 17b-811a of the general statutes is repealed and  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 employed at  
6 the time they [exhaust time-limited benefits under] leave the  
7 temporary family assistance program and who: (1) [have] Have  
8 income which exceeds the payment standard under said program, or  
9 (2) are employed a minimum of twelve hours per week. The  
10 commissioner may establish a durational limit for the receipt of such  
11 assistance which shall not exceed a period of twelve months.

12 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a simplified  
13 eligibility determination and application process for transitional  
14 rental assistance. The program shall be designed to allow the provision  
15 of such assistance to commence with the first month in which the

16 applicant is no longer receiving benefits under the temporary family  
17 assistance program.

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

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

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
Social Services, Dept.	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.

House "A" clarified the newly eligible population. It had no fiscal impact.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5483 (as amended by House "A")\*

**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 in which an individual is working and has income exceeding the TFA benefit who exhaust their time-limited Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits (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 in which an individual is working and has income above the TFA benefit when the family leaves the TFA program, but also makes them eligible when they still have unused months of TFA available. And it permits subsidies to families who leave TFA regardless of income, if an individual in the family is working when the family leaves and the individual is working at least 12 hours per week.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the minimum 12-hour work requirement.

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 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 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