



General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 5388

February Session, 2004

LCO No. 1499

* **HB05388HS_APP030404** *

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-349e of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide
5 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an individual
6 with Alzheimer's disease.

7 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who has the responsibility for the
8 care of an individual with Alzheimer's disease or has assumed the
9 responsibility for such individual voluntarily, by contract or by order
10 of a court of competent jurisdiction.

11 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an
12 individual with Alzheimer's disease for respite care services.

13 (4) "Individual with Alzheimer's disease" means an individual with

14 Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a
16 demonstration program, within available appropriations, to provide
17 respite care services for caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's
18 disease, provided such individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the
19 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite
20 care services may include, but need not be limited to (1) homemaker
21 services; (2) adult day care; (3) temporary care in a licensed medical
22 facility; (4) home-health care; or (5) companion services. Such respite
23 care services may be administered directly by the department, or
24 through contracts for services with providers of such services, or by
25 means of direct subsidy to caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's
26 disease to purchase such services.

27 (c) (1) No individual with Alzheimer's disease may participate in the
28 program if such individual (A) has an annual income of more than
29 [thirty] thirty-five thousand dollars or liquid assets of more than eighty
30 thousand dollars, or (B) is covered by Medicaid. On July 1, 2004, and
31 annually thereafter, the commissioner shall increase the income limit
32 established under this subsection over that of the previous fiscal year
33 to reflect the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security income, if
34 any.

35 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the
36 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars
37 for services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than
38 thirty days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day
39 care services under the program in any fiscal year.

40 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's
41 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite
42 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive
43 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such
44 individual.

45 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
46 the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
47 section. Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to (1)
48 standards for eligibility for respite care services; (2) the basis for
49 priority in receiving services; (3) qualifications and requirements of
50 providers, which shall include specialized training in Alzheimer's
51 disease, dementia and related disorders; (4) a requirement that
52 providers accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of
53 Healthcare Organizations, when available, receive preference in
54 contracting for services; (5) provider reimbursement levels; (6) limits
55 on services and cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule for copayments.

56 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services may allocate any funds
57 appropriated in excess of five hundred thousand dollars for the
58 demonstration program among the five area agencies on aging
59 according to need, as determined by said commissioner.

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

HS

Joint Favorable C/R

APP