



**Substitute House Bill No. 5290**

**Public Act No. 05-243**

**AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE TO THE UNEARNED INCOME DISREGARD FOR STATE SUPPLEMENT RECIPIENTS.**

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

Section 1. Section 17b-106 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[(a) On July 1, 1985, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the adult payment standards for the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program by four and three-tenths per cent over the standards for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1985, provided the commissioner shall apply the appropriate disregards. Notwithstanding the provisions of any regulation to the contrary, effective July 1, 1994, the commissioner shall reduce the appropriate unearned income disregard for recipients of the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program by seven per cent, provided if sufficient funds are available within accounts in the Department of Social Services and are transferred to the old age assistance account, the aid to the blind account and the aid to the disabled account, the commissioner shall increase the unearned income disregard for recipients of the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program to a level not to exceed that in effect on June 30, 1994.]

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(a) On January 1, 2006, and on each January first thereafter, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the unearned income disregard for recipients of the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program by an amount equal to the federal cost-of-living adjustment, if any, provided to recipients of federal Supplemental Security Income Program benefits for the corresponding calendar year. On July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter, the [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall increase the adult payment standards over those of the previous fiscal year for the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program by the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous calendar year, provided the annual increase, if any, shall not exceed five per cent, except that the adult payment standards for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1993, June 30, 1994, June 30, 1995, June 30, 1996, June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, June 30, 1999, June 30, 2000, June 30, 2001, June 30, 2002, June 30, 2003, June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005, shall not be increased. Effective October 1, 1991, the coverage of excess utility costs for recipients of the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program is eliminated. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner may increase the personal needs allowance component of the adult payment standard as necessary to meet federal maintenance of effort requirements.

(b) Effective July 1, 1998, the [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall provide a state supplement payment for recipients of Medicaid and the federal Supplemental Security Income Program who reside in long-term care facilities sufficient to increase their personal needs allowance to fifty dollars per month. Such state supplement payment shall be made to the long-term care facility to be deposited into the personal fund account of each such recipient. Effective July 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall

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increase such allowance to reflect the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security income, if any. For the purposes of this subsection, "long-term care facility" means a licensed chronic and convalescent nursing home, a chronic disease hospital, a rest home with nursing supervision, an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded or a state humane institution.

Approved July 8, 2005