



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5251

February Session, 2006

* HB05251ED 032306 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD
POVERTY COUNCIL RELATED TO JOB TRAINING AND CHILD
WELLNESS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) Within available
2 appropriations, the Office of Workforce Competitiveness established
3 pursuant to section 4-124w of the general statutes, may establish a pilot
4 program to provide any eligible individual with a minor dependent
5 access to training in order to obtain skills and credentials necessary to
6 obtain and maintain employment. Such skills and credentials may
7 include, but need not be limited to (1) a high school diploma or its
8 equivalent; (2) an alternative degree; (3) English as a second language
9 training; and (4) vocational training. For purposes of this section, an
10 eligible individual is an individual who would qualify for benefits
11 under the temporary assistance for needy families program pursuant
12 to Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Commissioners of Public
14 Health, Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
15 jointly establish a program to inform applicants to the Healthy Start
16 program about the availability of, and eligibility for, services provided
17 by the Nurturing Families Network established pursuant to section
18 17a-56 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes.

19 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17b-261 of the 2006 supplement to
20 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
21 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

22 (a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible
23 person whose income, including any available support from legally
24 liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent
25 child, is not more than one hundred forty-three per cent, pending
26 approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (d) of
27 this section, of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income
28 under the temporary family assistance program in the appropriate
29 region of residence and if such person is an institutionalized
30 individual as defined in Section 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42
31 USC 1396p(c), and has not made an assignment or transfer or other
32 disposition of property for less than fair market value for the purpose
33 of establishing eligibility for benefits or assistance under this section.
34 Any such disposition shall be treated in accordance with Section
35 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(c). Any disposition of
36 property made on behalf of an applicant or recipient or the spouse of
37 an applicant or recipient by a guardian, conservator, person
38 authorized to make such disposition pursuant to a power of attorney
39 or other person so authorized by law shall be attributed to such
40 applicant, recipient or spouse. A disposition of property ordered by a
41 court shall be evaluated in accordance with the standards applied to
42 any other such disposition for the purpose of determining eligibility.
43 The commissioner shall establish the standards for eligibility for
44 medical assistance at one hundred forty-three per cent of the benefit
45 amount paid to a family unit of equal size with no income under the
46 temporary family assistance program in the appropriate region of
47 residence, pending federal approval, except that the medical assistance
48 program shall provide coverage to persons under the age of nineteen
49 up to one hundred eighty-five per cent of the federal poverty level
50 without an asset limit. Said medical assistance program shall also
51 provide coverage to persons under the age of nineteen and their
52 parents and needy caretaker relatives who qualify for coverage under

53 Section 1931 of the Social Security Act with family income up to one
54 hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset
55 limit, upon the request of such a person or upon a redetermination of
56 eligibility. Such levels shall be based on the regional differences in
57 such benefit amount, if applicable, unless such levels based on regional
58 differences are not in conformance with federal law. Any income in
59 excess of the applicable amounts shall be applied as may be required
60 by said federal law, and assistance shall be granted for the balance of
61 the cost of authorized medical assistance. All contracts entered into on
62 and after July 1, 1997, pursuant to this section shall include provisions
63 for collaboration of managed care organizations with the [Healthy
64 Families Connecticut Program] Nurturing Families Network
65 established pursuant to section 17a-56, as amended. The Commissioner
66 of Social Services shall provide applicants for assistance under this
67 section, at the time of application, with a written statement advising
68 them of (1) the effect of an assignment or transfer or other disposition
69 of property on eligibility for benefits or assistance, and (2) the
70 availability of, and eligibility for, services provided by the Nurturing
71 Families Network established pursuant to section 17a-56, as amended.

72 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 19a-62a of the general statutes is
73 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
74 *1, 2006*):

75 (a) (1) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Public
76 Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall
77 establish a pilot program for the early identification and treatment of
78 pediatric asthma. The Commissioner of Public Health shall make
79 grants-in-aid under the pilot program for projects to be established in
80 two municipalities to identify, screen and refer children with asthma
81 for treatment. Such projects shall work cooperatively with providers of
82 maternal and child health, including, but not limited to, local health
83 departments, community health centers, Healthy Start and [Healthy
84 Families] the Nurturing Families Network established pursuant to
85 section 17a-56, as amended, to target children who were born

