



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5507

February Session, 2006

* HB05507APP 040406 *

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
4 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
5 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
6 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance
7 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department
8 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,
9 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the
10 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies
11 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of
12 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
13 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
14 such program within the existing budgetary resources available.

15 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
16 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
17 income up to [fifty] sixty per cent of the state-wide median income, [,
18 except the commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to
19 seventy-five per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon] Upon

20 the request of the Commissioner of Children and Families, the
21 Commissioner of Social Services may waive the income standards for
22 adoptive families so that children adopted on or after October 1, 1999,
23 from the Department of Children and Families are eligible for the child
24 care subsidy program, [, and (3) on and after March 1, 2003, shall
25 reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per cent of the
26 state-wide median income for applicants and recipients who qualify
27 based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family assistance.] The
28 commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
29 to establish income criteria and durational requirements for such
30 waiver of income standards.

31 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
32 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
33 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
34 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
35 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
36 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
37 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
38 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
39 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
40 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
41 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, and
42 working families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and
43 safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed;
44 (3) a reimbursement system for child care services [which account] that
45 accounts for differences in the age of the child, number of children in
46 the family, the geographic region and type of care provided by
47 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services
48 provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion
49 of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child
50 care directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
51 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
52 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process which assures
53 that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal

54 access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement
55 scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process;
56 (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged
57 fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments;
58 and (9) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that reflects
59 the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this
60 subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this
61 information in the annual report required to be issued annually by the
62 Department of Social Services to the Governor and the General
63 Assembly in accordance with subdivision (10) of section 17b-733. Such
64 action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child,
65 region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

66 (d) On or after January 1, 1998, a provider under the child care
67 subsidy program that qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives
68 payment for child care services for recipients under this section shall
69 be reimbursed for such services until informed by the Department of
70 Social Services of the parent's ineligibility.

71 (e) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
72 from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services with the
73 following information in order to maintain eligibility for
74 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
75 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
76 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
77 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
78 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
79 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
80 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
81 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

82 (f) On or after January 1, 1998, the commissioner shall adopt
83 regulations, in accordance with [the provisions of] chapter 54, to
84 implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	17b-749
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<i>KID</i>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HS
<i>HS</i>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	APP
<i>APP</i>	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i>	