



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 5484

LCO No. 5912

05912HB05484HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FEDERAL SPECIFIED
LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROGRAM AND THE
QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 17b-492 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (f) The Commissioner of Social Services may be the authorized
5 representative of a ConnPACE applicant or recipient for purposes of:
6 [enrolling] (1) Enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan, [or] (2) submitting
7 an application to the Social Security Administration to obtain the low
8 income subsidy benefit provided under Public Law 108-173, the
9 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of
10 2003, or (3) facilitating the enrollment in a Medicare Savings Program
11 of any applicant or recipient who elects to participate in said program.
12 The applicant or recipient shall have the opportunity to select a
13 Medicare Part D plan and shall be notified of such opportunity by the
14 commissioner. The applicant or recipient, prior to selecting a Medicare
15 Part D plan, shall have the opportunity to consult with the

16 commissioner, or the commissioner's designated agent, concerning the
17 selection of a Medicare Part D plan that best meets the prescription
18 drug needs of such applicant or recipient. In the event that such
19 applicant or recipient does not select a Medicare Part D plan within a
20 reasonable period of time, as determined by the commissioner, the
21 commissioner shall enroll the applicant or recipient in a Medicare Part
22 D plan designated by the commissioner in accordance with said act.
23 The applicant or recipient shall appoint the commissioner as such
24 applicant's or recipient's representative for the purpose of appealing
25 any denial of Medicare Part D benefits and for any other purpose
26 allowed under said act and deemed necessary by the commissioner.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Beginning with the fiscal year
28 ending June 30, 2008, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the
29 Commissioner of Social Services shall increase income disregards used
30 to determine eligibility by the Department of Social Services for the
31 federal Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary and the Qualifying
32 Individual Programs, administered in accordance with the provisions
33 of 42 USC 1396d(p), by an amount that has the effect of equalizing the
34 income levels used to determine eligibility for said programs with
35 income levels used to determine eligibility for the ConnPACE program
36 as prescribed in subsection (a) of section 17b-492 of the general
37 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	17b-492(f)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To enable more seniors to qualify for the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program and the Qualifying Individual Program, thereby entitling such persons to the low-income subsidies available under the Medicare Part D program which in turn will reduce ConnPACE program expenditures by maximizing the number of ConnPACE enrollees who obtain federal low-income subsidies.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SCHOFIELD, 16th Dist.

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