



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7240**

January Session, 2007

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB07240LAB\_\_051507 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE STATE'S WELFARE REFORM  
INITIATIVE.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (a) The Department of Social Services shall administer a temporary  
5 family assistance program under which cash assistance shall be  
6 provided to eligible families in accordance with the temporary  
7 assistance for needy families program, established pursuant to the  
8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
9 1996. The Commissioner of Social Services may operate portions of the  
10 temporary family assistance program as a solely state-funded  
11 program, separate from the federal temporary assistance for needy  
12 families program, if the commissioner determines that doing so  
13 will enable the state to avoid fiscal penalties under the temporary  
14 assistance for needy families program. Families receiving assistance  
15 under the solely state-funded portion of the temporary family  
16 assistance program shall be subject to the same conditions of eligibility  
17 as those receiving assistance under the federal temporary assistance for  
18 needy families program. Under the temporary family assistance

19 program, benefits shall be provided to a family for not longer than  
20 twenty-one months, except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of  
21 this section. For the purpose of calculating said twenty-one-month  
22 time limit, months of assistance received on and after January 1, 1996,  
23 pursuant to time limits under the aid to families with dependent  
24 children program, shall be included. For purposes of this section,  
25 "family" means one or more individuals who apply for or receive  
26 assistance together under the temporary family assistance program. If  
27 the commissioner determines that federal law allows individuals not  
28 otherwise in an eligible covered group for the temporary family  
29 assistance program to become covered, such family may also, at the  
30 discretion of the commissioner, be composed of (1) a pregnant woman,  
31 or (2) a parent, both parents or other caretaker relative and at least one  
32 child who is under the age of eighteen, or who is under the age of  
33 nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary school or its  
34 equivalent. A caretaker relative shall be related to the child or children  
35 by blood, marriage or adoption or shall be the legal guardian of such a  
36 child or pursuing legal proceedings necessary to achieve guardianship.  
37 If the commissioner elects to allow state eligibility consistent with any  
38 change in federal law, the commissioner may administratively transfer  
39 any qualifying family cases under the cash assistance portion of the  
40 state-administered general assistance program to the temporary family  
41 assistance program without regard to usual eligibility and enrollment  
42 procedures. If such families become an ineligible coverage group  
43 under the federal law, the commissioner shall administratively transfer  
44 such families back to the cash assistance portion of the state-  
45 administered general assistance program without regard to usual  
46 eligibility and enrollment procedures to the degree that such families  
47 are eligible for the state program.

48 Sec. 2. Section 17b-112e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

50 (a) The Department of Social Services shall provide safety net  
51 services for certain families [no longer receiving benefits or] identified  
52 as having significant barriers to employment and families who are at

53 risk of losing benefits under the temporary family assistance program  
54 or no longer receiving program benefits. Such families shall include  
55 those: (1) Identified as having significant barriers to employment  
56 during the initial assessment by the department's eligibility worker or  
57 during the first twelve months of employment services by an  
58 employment services case manager; (2) who have made a good faith  
59 effort to seek and maintain employment but have not been able to do  
60 so or who are at risk of failing to complete the employment services  
61 program; (3) who have exhausted their eligibility for temporary family  
62 assistance program benefits; and (4) who are not eligible for six-month  
63 extensions of temporary family assistance benefits due to: [(1)] (A) The  
64 receipt of two sanctions from the department during the first twenty  
65 months of the twenty-one-month time limit of said temporary family  
66 assistance program; or [(2)] (B) the determination by the department  
67 that such a family has not made a good-faith effort to seek and  
68 maintain employment.

69 (b) Said safety net shall consist of services provided through the  
70 existing community service delivery network with additional  
71 resources provided by the Department of Social Services. Services shall  
72 be provided in-kind or through vendor or voucher payment. Services  
73 may include the following: (1) Food, shelter, clothing and employment  
74 assistance; (2) eviction prevention; (3) an in-depth family needs  
75 assessment; (4) intensive case management that includes visits to the  
76 family's home; [(4)] (5) continuous monitoring for child abuse or  
77 neglect; and [(5)] (6) for families at risk of losing benefits under the  
78 temporary family assistance program, individual performance  
79 contracts [that shall be] administered by the Labor Department [and]  
80 that require job training, job searching, volunteer work, participation  
81 in parenting programs or counseling or any other requirements  
82 deemed necessary by the Labor Commissioner.

83 (c) Families successfully meeting the program requirements  
84 established by the individual performance contracts in subdivision  
85 [(5)] (6) of subsection (b) of this section prior to the end of the twenty-  
86 one-month time limit shall be considered to have made a good faith

87 effort to comply with the requirements of the program for the  
88 purposes of qualifying for a six-month extension, provided they have  
89 made a good faith effort to comply with the individual performance  
90 contract or have not incurred a sanction subsequent to completing the  
91 individual performance contract.

92 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement policies  
93 and procedures necessary for the purposes of this section while in the  
94 process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form,  
95 provided the commissioner prints notice of intention to adopt the  
96 regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days of  
97 implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures  
98 implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the time  
99 final regulations are effective.

100 Sec. 3. Section 17b-698 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

102 The [Commissioner of Social Services] Labor Commissioner shall  
103 collect data from each job training and placement service funded by  
104 the [Department of Social Services] Labor Department and serving  
105 recipients of the temporary family assistance program for the purpose  
106 of assessing the success of job placement services in assisting a  
107 recipient of either such program to attain self-sufficiency. Data  
108 collected shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The number of clients  
109 served; (2) the number of clients placed in jobs; (3) types of job training  
110 received by recipients and if such training led to employment; (4) cost-  
111 effectiveness of job training; (5) types of jobs obtained by recipients; (6)  
112 salary and benefits of those jobs obtained; and (7) length of those jobs  
113 obtained.

114 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 31-254 of the general statutes is  
115 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
116 *1, 2007*):

117 (a) Each employer, whether or not otherwise subject to this chapter,  
118 shall keep accurate records of employment as defined in subsection (a)

119 of section 31-222, containing such information as the administrator  
120 may by regulation prescribe in order to effectuate the purposes of this  
121 chapter. Such records shall be open to, and available for, inspection  
122 and copying by the administrator or his authorized representatives at  
123 any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary. The  
124 administrator may require from any employer, whether or not  
125 otherwise subject to this chapter, any sworn or unsworn reports with  
126 respect to persons employed by him which are necessary for the  
127 effective administration of this chapter. Information [thus] obtained  
128 shall not be published or be open to public inspection, other than to  
129 public employees in the performance of their public duties, or to a  
130 regional workforce development board, or designee of such board,  
131 exclusively for the purpose of evaluating services provided to  
132 individuals participating in the Jobs First employment services  
133 program, in any manner revealing the employee's or the employer's  
134 identity, but any claimant at a hearing before a commissioner shall be  
135 supplied with information from such records to the extent necessary  
136 for the proper presentation of his claim. Any employee of the  
137 administrator, [or any other] public employee or regional workforce  
138 development board member, or designee of such board member, who  
139 violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than two  
140 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months or both and  
141 shall be dismissed from the service. Reports or records which have  
142 been required by the administrator and which have been used in  
143 computing benefit rights of claimants or in the determination of the  
144 amounts and rates of contributions shall be preserved by the  
145 administrator for a period of at least four years. Those records or  
146 reports required by the administrator which have not been used for the  
147 purpose of computing benefit rights or in the determination of the  
148 amounts or rates of contributions shall be preserved by the  
149 administrator for at least two and one-half years. Such records or  
150 reports may, after preservation for the minimum period required by  
151 this section, be destroyed by the administrator in his discretion,  
152 notwithstanding the provisions of section 11-8a. Notwithstanding any  
153 of the disclosure provisions of this chapter, the administrator shall

