



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1221

LCO No. 4377

04377 _____ HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-FUNDED FOOD STAMPS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-790a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, within available
4 appropriations, shall establish a food assistance program for
5 individuals entering the United States prior to April 1, 1998, whose
6 immigrant status meets the eligibility requirements of the federal Food
7 Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, but who are no longer eligible for food
8 stamps solely due to their immigrant status under Public Law 104-193.
9 Individuals who enter the United States after April 1, 1998, must have
10 resided in the state for six months prior to becoming eligible for the
11 state program. The commissioner may administer such program in
12 accordance with the provisions of the federal food stamp program,
13 except those pertaining to the determination of immigrant status under
14 Public Law 104-193.

15 [(b) The amount of the initial assistance provided to individuals

16 under this section shall be determined at the commissioner's
17 discretion, based on one of the following methodologies: (1) A
18 calculated benefit amount for each case; (2) a basic benefit amount for
19 all cases; or (3) a continuation of the benefit amount previously
20 received under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, prior
21 to discontinuance. Individuals may be eligible for retroactive
22 payments back to April 1, 1998.]

23 [(c) Not later than April 1, 1999, the] (b) The commissioner shall
24 provide assistance to an individual under this section in an amount
25 equal to seventy-five per cent of the amount the individual would be
26 eligible to receive under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as
27 amended.

28 [(d)] (c) The commissioner shall terminate assistance under this
29 section to any individual whose federal food stamp benefits have been
30 restored.

31 [(e)] (d) The commissioner shall implement the policies and
32 procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this section while
33 in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation
34 form, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is published in
35 the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after implementation.
36 Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final
37 regulations are effective.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	17b-790a

Statement of Purpose:

To permit the Commissioner of Social Services to implement a percentage reduction in the amount of state-funded food stamps for noncitizens in order to keep program expenditures within available appropriations.

[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.]