



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5708

February Session, 2008

* _____HB05708HS_____031808_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE CARE 4 KIDS 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 Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 substitute in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

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, seeking employment, attending high school or an
7 institution of higher education or who receives cash assistance under
8 the temporary family assistance program from the Department of
9 Social Services and is participating in an approved education, training,
10 or other job preparation activity. Services available under the child
11 care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies for
12 children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen
13 with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
14 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
15 such program within the existing budgetary resources available.

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

20 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
21 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
22 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
23 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
24 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
25 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
26 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
27 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
28 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
29 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
30 requirements for such 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), and working
42 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
43 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
44 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
45 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
46 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
47 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
48 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
49 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
50 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) temporary eligibility standards for unemployed parents who
59 are seeking employment, provided such temporary eligibility shall not
60 exceed four weeks in a one-year period and such unemployed parent
61 shall provide evidence of good-faith efforts to seek and obtain suitable
62 work during the temporary eligibility period; and (10) a waiting list for
63 the child care subsidy program that reflects the priority and eligibility
64 system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed
65 periodically, with the inclusion of this information in the annual report
66 required to be issued annually by the Department of Social Services to
67 the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with
68 subdivision (10) of section 17b-733 of the 2008 supplement to the
69 general statutes. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family
70 income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting
71 list.

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

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

