



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 574**

LCO No. 2677

\* SB00574PH\_APP031708 \*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-59c of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (a) The Department of Public Health [is authorized to] may  
5 administer the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for  
6 Women, Infants and Children in the state, in accordance with federal  
7 law and regulations. The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt  
8 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, necessary  
9 to administer the program.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish a program to  
11 serve as an enhancement to the federal Special Supplemental Food  
12 Program for Women, Infants and Children pursuant to subsection (a)  
13 of this section. The commissioner shall establish eligibility  
14 requirements for services and benefits under such enhancement  
15 program that are substantially similar to the requirements for the

16 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children  
17 under federal law.

18 [(b)] (c) There is established a Women, Infants and Children  
19 Advisory Council consisting of the chairpersons of the joint standing  
20 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
21 relating to public health; the Commissioner of Public Health or a  
22 designee; the executive director of the Commission on Children or a  
23 designee; a nutrition educator, appointed by the Governor; two local  
24 directors of the Women, Infants and Children program, one each  
25 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker  
26 of the House of Representatives; two recipients of assistance under the  
27 Women, Infants and Children program, one each appointed by the  
28 majority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and  
29 two representatives of an anti-hunger organization, one each  
30 appointed by the minority leaders of the Senate and the House of  
31 Representatives. Council members shall serve for a term of two years.  
32 The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the council shall be  
33 elected by the full membership of the council. Vacancies shall be filled  
34 by the appointing authority. The council shall meet at least twice a  
35 year. Council members shall serve without compensation. The council  
36 shall advise the Department of Public Health on issues pertaining to  
37 increased participation and access to services under the federal Special  
38 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children.

39 Sec. 2. Section 17b-77 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes  
40 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
41 *October 1, 2008*):

42 (a) Application for aid under the state supplement program,  
43 medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program and  
44 food stamps program, shall be made to the Commissioner of Social  
45 Services. The name and address of each such applicant shall be  
46 recorded with the commissioner. Such application, in the case of  
47 temporary family assistance, shall be made by the supervising relative,  
48 his authorized representative, or, in the case of an individual who is

49 incapacitated, someone acting responsibly for him and shall contain  
50 the name and the exact residence of such applicant, the name, place  
51 and date of birth of each dependent child, the Social Security number  
52 of the supervising relative and of each dependent child, and such other  
53 information as is required by the commissioner. If such supervising  
54 relative or any such child does not have a Social Security number, the  
55 commissioner shall assist in obtaining a Social Security number for  
56 each such person seeking public assistance and during the time  
57 required to obtain such Social Security numbers the supervising  
58 relative and children shall not be precluded from eligibility under this  
59 section. By such application, the applicant shall assign to the  
60 commissioner the right of support, present, past and future, due all  
61 persons seeking assistance and shall assist the commissioner in  
62 pursuing support obligations due from the noncustodial parent. On  
63 and after October 1, 2008, such assignment under the temporary family  
64 assistance program shall apply only to such support rights as accrue  
65 during the period of assistance, not to exceed the total amount of  
66 assistance provided to the family under said program. Notice of such  
67 assignment shall be conspicuously placed on said application and shall  
68 be explained to the applicant at the time of application. All information  
69 required to be provided to the commissioner as a condition of such  
70 eligibility under federal law shall be so provided by the applicant,  
71 provided, no person shall be determined to be ineligible if the  
72 applicant has good cause for the refusal to provide information  
73 concerning the noncustodial parent or if the provision of such  
74 information would be against the best interests of the dependent child  
75 or children, or any of them. The Commissioner of Social Services shall  
76 adopt by regulation, in accordance with chapter 54, standards as to  
77 good cause and best interests of the child. Any person aggrieved by a  
78 decision of the commissioner as to the determination of good cause or  
79 the best interests of such child or children may request a fair hearing in  
80 accordance with the provisions of sections 17b-60 and 17b-61. All  
81 statements made by the applicant concerning income, resources and  
82 any other matters pertaining to eligibility shall be certified to by the  
83 applicant as true and correct under penalty of false statement, and for

84 any such certified statement which is untrue or incorrect such  
85 applicant shall be subject to the penalties provided for false statement  
86 under section 17b-97.

87 (b) The Department of Social Services shall ensure that applicants  
88 for aid under the medical assistance program, HUSKY Plan, Part A  
89 and HUSKY Plan, Part B, the temporary family assistance program, the  
90 food stamps program, and the Connecticut Energy Assistance program  
91 are advised of the application process for aid under the federal Special  
92 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children  
93 administered by the Department of Public Health.

94 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
95 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health, from the  
96 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the purpose  
97 of establishing a state-funded program that is substantially similar in  
98 all respects to the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for  
99 Women, Infants and Children.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	19a-59c
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	17b-77
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**PH**

*Joint Favorable C/R*

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