



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 325

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 5297

House of Representatives, March 30, 2009

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROJECT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-369 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to Section 6071 of
4 the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, shall submit an application to the
5 Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a Money Follows
6 the Person demonstration project. Such project shall serve not more
7 than five thousand persons and shall be designed to achieve the
8 objectives set forth in Section 6071(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of
9 2005. Services available under the demonstration project shall include,
10 but not be limited to, personal care assistance services. The
11 commissioner may apply for a Medicaid research and demonstration
12 waiver under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, if such waiver is
13 necessary to implement the demonstration project. The commissioner
14 may, if necessary, modify any existing Medicaid home or community-

15 based waiver if such modification is required to implement the
16 demonstration project.

17 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit, in
18 accordance with this subdivision, a copy of any report on the Money
19 Follows the Person demonstration project that the commissioner is
20 required to submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and
21 that pertains to (A) the status of the implementation of the Money
22 Follows the Person demonstration project, (B) the anticipated date that
23 the first eligible person or persons will be transitioned into the
24 community, or (C) information concerning when and how the
25 Department of Social Services will transition additional eligible
26 persons into the community. The commissioner shall submit such copy
27 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
28 cognizance of matters relating to human services and to the select
29 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
30 relating to aging, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.
31 Copies of reports prepared prior to October 1, 2009, shall be submitted
32 by said date and copies of reports prepared thereafter shall be
33 submitted semiannually.

34 (2) After October 1, 2009, if the commissioner has not prepared any
35 new reports for submission to the Secretary of Health and Human
36 Services for any six-month submission period under subdivision (1) of
37 this subsection, the commissioner shall prepare and submit a written
38 report in accordance with this subdivision to the joint standing
39 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
40 relating to human services and to the select committee of the General
41 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, in
42 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall
43 include (A) the status of the implementation of the Money Follows the
44 Person demonstration project, (B) the anticipated date that the first
45 eligible person or persons will be transitioned into the community, and
46 (C) information concerning when and how the Department of Social
47 Services will transition additional eligible persons into the community.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to submit certain reports to the General Assembly. The department will incur minimal administrative costs to meet these requirements.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5297

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROJECT.

SUMMARY:

The federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration program is a five-year program that permits states to move individuals out of nursing homes or other institutional settings and into less-restrictive, community-based settings. This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to provide MFP status reports to the Human Services and Aging committees, semiannually, starting October 1, 2009.

To meet this requirement, the commissioner must provide the committees with a copy of any report he is required to submit to the federal Department of Health and Human Services pertaining to (1) the program's implementation status, (2) the anticipated date the first eligible participant will transition into the community, and (3) the department's plan to transition additional eligible participants into the community. Reports prepared prior to October 1, 2009 must be submitted to the committees by that date.

If the commissioner is not required to submit an MFP status report to the federal government during any six month period, he must prepare and submit his own report addressing these issues to the committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

MFP

In 2005, Congress, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, enacted the

MFP provisions as a way to encourage states to rebalance their long-term care spending by moving individuals from nursing homes or other institutions into less-restrictive, community-based settings. The law requires that program participants (1) reside in the nursing home for at least six months and (2) need a nursing home level of care once they leave.

States that run the demonstration projects are eligible for an enhanced federal match (75% instead of 50%) of state expenditures for the first year of Medicaid-eligible services. For some of these services, states must commit to providing them once the year is up through some other authority (e.g., federal home- and community-based services waiver). Federal matching funds (50%) are also available to support services not allowed by Medicaid that the state will provide during the demonstration, such as housing coordinators.

Other federal laws allow states to provide Medicaid-funded community-based services to the elderly and disabled and Connecticut currently runs several waiver programs that offer these services. These programs generally have enrollment caps. State law allows the DSS commissioner to modify the existing Medicaid waivers if necessary for carrying out the demonstration.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Aging

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/17/2009)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 17 Nay 1 (03/12/2009)