



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 6146

LCO No. 4448

04448HB06146HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 17b-492 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2009*):

4 (f) The Commissioner of Social Services may be the authorized
5 representative of a ConnPACE applicant or recipient for purposes of:
6 [enrolling] (1) Enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan or submitting an
7 application to the Social Security Administration to obtain the low
8 income subsidy benefit provided under Public Law 108-173, the
9 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of
10 2003, or (2) facilitating the enrollment in a Medicare savings program
11 of any such applicant or recipient who elects to participate in said
12 program. The applicant or recipient shall have the opportunity to
13 select a Medicare Part D plan and shall be notified of such opportunity
14 by the commissioner. The applicant or recipient, prior to selecting a
15 Medicare Part D plan, shall have the opportunity to consult with the
16 commissioner, or the commissioner's designated agent, concerning the

17 selection of a Medicare Part D plan that best meets the prescription
 18 drug needs of such applicant or recipient. In the event that such
 19 applicant or recipient does not select a Medicare Part D plan within a
 20 reasonable period of time, as determined by the commissioner, the
 21 commissioner shall enroll the applicant or recipient in a Medicare Part
 22 D plan designated by the commissioner in accordance with said act.
 23 The applicant or recipient shall appoint the commissioner as such
 24 applicant's or recipient's representative for the purpose of appealing
 25 any denial of Medicare Part D benefits and for any other purpose
 26 allowed under said act and deemed necessary by the commissioner.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) For the fiscal year ending June
 28 30, 2010, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Social
 29 Services shall increase income disregards used to determine eligibility
 30 by the Department of Social Services for the federal Specified Low-
 31 Income Medicare Beneficiary, the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary and
 32 the Qualifying Individual Programs, administered in accordance with
 33 the provisions of 42 USC 1396d(p), by an amount that equalizes the
 34 income levels used to determine eligibility for said programs with
 35 income levels used to determine eligibility for the ConnPACE program
 36 under subsection (a) of section 17b-492 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17b-492(f)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To make ConnPACE members eligible for the Medicare Savings Programs and also for the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidies.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SCHOFIELD, 16th Dist.; SEN. PRAGUE, 19th Dist.
 SEN. HARRIS, 5th Dist.; REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.
 REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.

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