



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6526

January Session, 2009

* HB06526LAB 040309 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL THAT
MONITORS THE TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) There is established a council to monitor the implementation of
4 the temporary family assistance program and the employment services
5 program. The council shall be composed of the chairmen and ranking
6 members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
7 having cognizance of matters relating to human services, or their
8 designees, the chairmen and ranking members of the joint standing
9 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
10 relating to labor, or their designees, one child care provider and one
11 expert on child support enforcement, to be appointed by the president
12 pro tempore of the Senate; one representative of advocacy groups, to
13 be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; two education and
14 training specialists, one experienced in job training and one
15 experienced in basic adult education, one to be appointed by the
16 minority leader of the Senate and one to be appointed by the minority
17 leader of the House of Representatives; one member of the public who
18 is a current recipient of benefits under the temporary family assistance
19 program, to be appointed by speaker of the House of Representatives;

20 and two members, one experienced in higher education programs and
21 one experienced in teenage pregnancy issues, to be appointed by the
22 majority leader of the House of Representatives. The council shall elect
23 a chairperson from among its members. The council shall convene its
24 first meeting not later than September 1, 1997.

25 (b) Beginning September 1, 1997, at meetings scheduled by the
26 council, the Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor
27 Commissioner shall update the council on the implementation of the
28 temporary family assistance program and the employment services
29 program. The council shall submit recommendations to the
30 department regarding, but not limited to, the availability of quality
31 child care and the provision of seamless child care services, procedures
32 for informing parents and teenagers about family planning and
33 pregnancy prevention, client education regarding their rights and
34 responsibilities, the effectiveness of child support enforcement, the
35 effect of reduced exemptions, time limits and increased sanctions, the
36 coordination with Medicaid managed care and health care reform
37 measures and the fiscal impact of these program changes.

38 (c) Not later than January 1, 2010, and quarterly thereafter, the
39 Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor Commissioner shall
40 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
41 members of the council and to the joint standing committee of the
42 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
43 services concerning the status of the temporary family assistance
44 program and the employment services program. Such report shall
45 include, but not be limited to: (1) Specific information concerning the
46 temporary assistance for needy families program, including (A) the
47 number of families that receive cash assistance and a description of the
48 composition of such families by number, gender, race, ethnicity and
49 age, (B) the number of program applications received, the action taken
50 on each application and the reason for the denial of any application,
51 (C) the number of families whose cash assistance has been terminated
52 and the reason for the termination, (D) the number of families who
53 have received an extension of cash assistance beyond twenty-one

54 months, the number of months that each of the families has received
55 cash assistance and the reason for the most recent extension, (E) the
56 number of families with earned income receiving cash assistance and
57 the amount of each family's income, (F) the number of families
58 receiving cash assistance who have received one sanction from the
59 Department of Social Services and the number of such families who
60 have received more than one sanction from the department, (G) the
61 number of families receiving safety net services, as described in section
62 17b-112e, and (H) the number of families with children that receive
63 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and report no
64 income; (2) specific information concerning Jobs First employment
65 services program participants, including (A) the number of
66 participants receiving cash assistance, (B) a description of the
67 participants by gender, race, ethnicity, age and education level, (C) the
68 number of participants enrolled in each employment service, (D) the
69 amount of wages received by each program participant as a result of
70 their participation in the program, and (E) the number of participants
71 that the Labor Department has identified as having one or more
72 barriers to employment and the number of participants having each
73 type of barrier to employment; and (3) expenditures relative to the
74 temporary assistance for needy families block grant, as required by
75 section 17b-114o.

76 [(c)] (d) On January 1, 1998, and quarterly thereafter, the council
77 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
78 4a, to the General Assembly on the [implementation] status of the
79 temporary family assistance program and the employment services
80 program.

81 (e) Not later than September 1, 2009, the council shall conduct a
82 study of the status of the temporary family assistance program and the
83 employment services program. Such study shall include, but not be
84 limited to, an examination of (1) the characteristics of the program
85 participants, including the income levels of such participants, (2) the
86 effects of the programs on participants, and (3) areas of the programs
87 needing improvement. To obtain information, the council shall: (A)

88 Review information submitted by the Commissioner of Social Services
 89 and the Labor Commissioner, (B) hold informational forums, and (C)
 90 seek information from members of the public, who may include
 91 municipal officials, educators, program participants, labor union
 92 officials, health care providers and advocates for low income families.

93 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2010, the
 94 council shall submit a report in accordance with the provisions of
 95 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its findings and
 96 recommendations to the General Assembly and to each member of the
 97 Connecticut congressional delegation concerning the current status of
 98 the temporary family assistance program and the employment services
 99 program. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the
 100 number of families in the state whose income is at or below the federal
 101 poverty level, (2) the number of families in the state whose income is at
 102 or below seventy-five per cent of the federal poverty level, (3) a
 103 description of the effects of the temporary family assistance program
 104 on families with income at or below seventy-five per cent of the federal
 105 poverty level, (4) the effects of minimum wage employment on
 106 families with incomes at or below the federal poverty level, (5)
 107 proposals for improving the temporary family assistance program and
 108 Jobs First employment services program, (6) identification of state and
 109 federal programs that help reduce the number of families living in
 110 poverty, encourage economic development and assist working families
 111 and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, and (7) proposals for
 112 improving such state and federal programs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17b-29
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

LAB *Joint Favorable*

