



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 989

LCO No. 3773

03773_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-349e of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide
5 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an individual
6 with Alzheimer's disease.

7 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who has the responsibility for the
8 care of an individual with Alzheimer's disease or has assumed the
9 responsibility for such individual voluntarily, by contract or by order
10 of a court of competent jurisdiction.

11 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an
12 individual with Alzheimer's disease for respite care services.

13 (4) "Individual with Alzheimer's disease" means an individual with

14 Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a
16 demonstration program, within available appropriations, to provide
17 respite care services for caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's
18 disease, provided such individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the
19 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite
20 care services may include, but need not be limited to (1) homemaker
21 services; (2) adult day care; (3) temporary care in a licensed medical
22 facility; (4) home-health care; [or] (5) companion services; or (6)
23 personal care assistant services. Such respite care services may be
24 administered directly by the department, or through contracts for
25 services with providers of such services, or by means of direct subsidy
26 to caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease to purchase such
27 services.

28 (c) (1) No individual with Alzheimer's disease may participate in the
29 program if such individual (A) has an annual income of more than
30 [thirty] forty-one thousand dollars or liquid assets of more than
31 [eighty] one hundred nine thousand dollars, or (B) is receiving services
32 under the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. On July 1,
33 2009, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall increase such
34 income and asset eligibility criteria over that of the previous fiscal year
35 to reflect the annual cost of living adjustment in Social Security
36 income, if any.

37 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the
38 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars
39 for services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than
40 thirty days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day
41 care services under the program in any fiscal year, except that the
42 commissioner may adopt regulations pursuant to subsection (d) of this
43 section to provide up to seven thousand five hundred dollars for
44 services to a participant in the program who demonstrates a need for
45 additional services.

46 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's
47 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite
48 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive
49 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such
50 individual.

51 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
52 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section.
53 Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to (1) standards
54 for eligibility for respite care services; (2) the basis for priority in
55 receiving services; (3) qualifications and requirements of providers,
56 which shall include specialized training in Alzheimer's disease,
57 dementia and related disorders; (4) a requirement that providers
58 accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare
59 Organizations, when available, receive preference in contracting for
60 services; (5) provider reimbursement levels; (6) limits on services and
61 cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule for copayments.

62 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services may allocate any funds
63 appropriated in excess of five hundred thousand dollars for the
64 demonstration program among the five area agencies on aging
65 according to need, as determined by said commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2009	17b-349e

Statement of Purpose:

To update income and asset eligibility criteria for the Alzheimer's Respite Care program and to allow personal care assistants to provide respite care services under the program.

[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.]