



House Bill No. 6401

Public Act No. 09-9

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 4-66e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) The self-sufficiency measurement shall not be used to: (1) Analyze the success or failure of any program; (2) determine or establish eligibility or benefit levels for any state or federal public assistance program, including, but not limited to, temporary family assistance, child care assistance, medical assistance, state administered general assistance, [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance or eligibility for the HUSKY plan; (3) determine whether a person subject to time-limited benefits under the temporary family assistance program qualifies for an extension of benefits under such program; or (4) supplement the amount of benefits awarded under the temporary family assistance program.

Sec. 2. Section 4-71c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall

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annually compute the cost of an increase in assistance payments under the state-administered general assistance program, state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program and [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program based on the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers provided if the increase in such index exceeds five per cent, the computation shall be based on a five per cent increase.

Sec. 3. Section 9-23j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

As used in sections 9-7b and 9-12, subsection (a) of section 9-17, sections 9-19b, 9-19e, 9-19g, 9-19h, 9-19i, 9-20, 9-21, 9-23a, 9-23g, 9-23h, 9-23k to 9-23o, inclusive, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-32, 9-35, 9-35b, 9-35c, 9-40a, 9-42, 9-43, 9-50a, 9-56 and 9-59, "public assistance offices" means offices of state agencies that administer or provide services under the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance, Medicaid, Women, Infants and Children, and temporary family assistance programs.

Sec. 4. Subdivision (57) of section 12-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(57) Sales of any items purchased with [federal food stamp coupons, subject to the provisions of section 12-412e] supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.

Sec. 5. Subsection (s) of section 12-574 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(s) Any person or business organization issued a license to conduct dog racing pursuant to subsection (c) of section 12-574c shall employ persons who, at the time of employment, are recipients of assistance

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under the state-administered general assistance program, state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program to fill not less than twenty per cent of the positions created by the conversion of a jai alai fronton to a dog race track if such persons have been trained for such employment by public or publicly-funded agencies in coordination with such licensee.

Sec. 6. Section 17b-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Department of Social Services is designated as the state agency for the administration of (1) the child care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; (2) the Connecticut energy assistance program pursuant to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; (3) programs for the elderly pursuant to the Older Americans Act; (4) the state plan for vocational rehabilitation services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994; (5) the refugee assistance program pursuant to the Refugee Act of 1980; (6) the legalization impact assistance grant program pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; (7) the temporary assistance for needy families program pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; (8) the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act; (9) the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; (10) the state supplement to the Supplemental Security Income Program pursuant to the Social Security Act; (11) the state child support enforcement plan pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act; and (12) the state social services plan for the implementation of the social services block grants and community services block grants pursuant to the Social Security Act. The Department of Social Services is designated a public housing agency for the purpose of administering

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the Section 8 existing certificate program and the housing voucher program pursuant to the Housing Act of 1937.

Sec. 7. Section 17b-7a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Commissioner of Social Services shall develop a state-wide fraud early detection system. The purpose of such system shall be to identify, investigate and determine if an application for assistance under programs administered by the department, including, but not limited to, (1) the temporary family assistance program, (2) the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program, (3) the child care subsidy program, or (4) the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act is fraudulent prior to granting assistance. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, for the purpose of developing and implementing said system. The commissioner shall submit quarterly reports concerning savings realized through the implementation of the state-wide fraud early detection system to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

Sec. 8. Section 17b-75 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

When used in reference to the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program, the following terms have the meanings herein assigned: "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Social Services; "dependent child" means a needy child under the age of eighteen, or under the age of nineteen and in full-time attendance in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training if, before he attains age nineteen, he may reasonably be expected to complete the program of such

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secondary school or such training and who is living with his father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle or aunt, or any other relative approved by the commissioner in a place of residence maintained by one or more of such relatives as his or their own home; "beneficiary" means any adult or minor child receiving assistance under the provisions of said programs; "local officer" means the public official charged with administration of public assistance in any town, city or borough.

Sec. 9. Section 17b-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Commissioner of Social Services shall furnish forms for the use of applicants under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program and [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program, local officials and himself, and shall establish and maintain a system of records and accounts which shall show the number of applications and the disposition of the same, the record of payments made to each recipient of aid and such other information as may be necessary for the proper operation and administration of said sections and as the rules and regulations of the United States government require if the United States government makes contributory allotments of federal funds to the state of Connecticut for aid extended under the provisions of said programs.

Sec. 10. Section 17b-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Application for aid under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program and [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program, shall be made to the Commissioner of Social Services. The name and address of each such applicant shall be recorded with the commissioner. Such

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application, in the case of temporary family assistance, shall be made by the supervising relative, his authorized representative, or, in the case of an individual who is incapacitated, someone acting responsibly for him and shall contain the name and the exact residence of such applicant, the name, place and date of birth of each dependent child, the Social Security number of the supervising relative and of each dependent child, and such other information as is required by the commissioner. If such supervising relative or any such child does not have a Social Security number, the commissioner shall assist in obtaining a Social Security number for each such person seeking public assistance and during the time required to obtain such Social Security numbers the supervising relative and children shall not be precluded from eligibility under this section. By such application, the applicant shall assign to the commissioner the right of support, present, past and future, due all persons seeking assistance and shall assist the commissioner in pursuing support obligations due from the noncustodial parent. On and after October 1, 2008, such assignment under the temporary family assistance program shall apply only to such support rights as accrue during the period of assistance, not to exceed the total amount of assistance provided to the family under said program. Notice of such assignment shall be conspicuously placed on said application and shall be explained to the applicant at the time of application. All information required to be provided to the commissioner as a condition of such eligibility under federal law shall be so provided by the applicant, provided, no person shall be determined to be ineligible if the applicant has good cause for the refusal to provide information concerning the noncustodial parent or if the provision of such information would be against the best interests of the dependent child or children, or any of them. The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt by regulation, in accordance with chapter 54, standards as to good cause and best interests of the child. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner as to the determination of good cause or the best interests of such child or

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children may request a fair hearing in accordance with the provisions of sections 17b-60 and 17b-61. All statements made by the applicant concerning income, resources and any other matters pertaining to eligibility shall be certified to by the applicant as true and correct under penalty of false statement, and for any such certified statement which is untrue or incorrect such applicant shall be subject to the penalties provided for false statement under section 17b-97, as amended by this act.

Sec. 11. Section 17b-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

No person shall be deemed ineligible to receive an award under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, state-administered general assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program for himself or herself or for any person for whose support he or she is liable by reason of having an interest in real property, maintained as his or her home, provided the equity in such property shall not exceed the limits established by the commissioner. The commissioner may place a lien against any property to secure the claim of the state for all amounts which it has paid or may thereafter pay to such person or in such person's behalf under any such program, or to or on behalf of any person for whose support he or she is liable, except for property maintained as a home in aid to families of dependent children cases, in which case such lien shall secure the state only for that portion of the assistance grant awarded for amortization of a mortgage or other encumbrance beginning with the fifth month after the original grant for principal payment on any such encumbrance is made, and each succeeding month of such grant thereafter. The claim of the state shall be secured by filing a certificate in the land records of the town or towns in which any such real estate is situated, describing such real estate. Any such lien may, at any time during which the amount

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secured by such lien remains unpaid, be foreclosed in an action brought in a court of competent jurisdiction by the commissioner on behalf of the state. Any real estate to which title has been taken by foreclosure under this section, or which has been conveyed to the state in lieu of foreclosure, may be sold, transferred or conveyed for the state by the commissioner with the approval of the Attorney General, and the commissioner may, in the name of the state, execute deeds for such purpose. Such lien shall be released by the commissioner upon payment of the amount secured by such lien, or an amount equal to the value of the beneficiary's interest in such property if the value of such interest is less than the amount secured by such lien, at the commissioner's discretion, and with the advice and consent of the Attorney General, upon a compromise of the amount due to the state. At the discretion of the commissioner, the beneficiary, or, in the case of a husband and wife living together, the survivor of them, as long as he or she lives, or a dependent child or children, may be permitted to occupy such real property.

Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 17b-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The commissioner, upon receipt of an application for aid, shall promptly and with due diligence make an investigation, such investigation to be completed within forty-five days after receipt of the application or within sixty days after receipt of the application in the case of an application in which a determination of disability must be made. If an application for an award is not acted on within forty-five days after the filing of an application, or within sixty days in the case of an application in which a determination of disability must be made, the applicant may apply to the commissioner for a hearing in accordance with sections 17b-60 and 17b-61. The commissioner shall grant aid only if he finds the applicant eligible therefor, in which case

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he shall grant aid in such amount, determined in accordance with levels of payments established by the commissioner, as is needed in order to enable the applicant to support himself, or, in the case of temporary family assistance, to enable the relative to support such dependent child or children and himself, in health and decency, including the costs of such medical care as he deems necessary and reasonable, not in excess of the amounts set forth in the various fee schedules promulgated by the Commissioner of Social Services for medical, dental and allied services and supplies or the charges made for comparable services and supplies to the general public, whichever is less, and the cost of necessary hospitalization as is provided in section 17b-239, over and above hospital insurance or other such benefits, including workers' compensation and claims for negligent or wilful injury. The commissioner, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, shall in determining need, take into consideration any available income and resources of the individual claiming assistance. The commissioner shall make periodic investigations to determine eligibility and may, at any time, modify, suspend or discontinue an award previously made when such action is necessary to carry out the provisions of the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, state-administered general assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program. The parent or parents of any child for whom aid is received under the temporary family assistance program and any beneficiary receiving assistance under the state supplement program shall be conclusively presumed to have accepted the provisions of sections 17b-93, 17b-94 and 17b-95.

Sec. 13. Section 17b-85 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

If any person receiving an award for the care of any dependent child or children, or any person legally liable for the support of such

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child or children, or any other person being supported wholly or in part under the provisions of the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, state-administered general assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program or any beneficiary under said sections or any legally liable relative of such beneficiary, receives property, wages, income or resources of any kind, such person or beneficiary, within ten days after obtaining knowledge of or receiving such property, wages, income or resources, shall notify the commissioner thereof, orally or in writing, unless good cause is established for failure to provide such notice, as determined by the commissioner. No such person or beneficiary shall sell, assign, transfer, encumber or otherwise dispose of any property without the consent of the commissioner. The provisions of section 17b-137 shall be applicable with respect to any person applying for or receiving an award under said sections. Any change in the information which has been furnished on an application form or a redetermination of eligibility form shall also be reported to the commissioner, orally or in writing, within ten days of the occurrence of such change, unless good cause is established for failure to provide such notice, as determined by the commissioner.

Sec. 14. Section 17b-86 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Aid provided under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, state-administered general assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program shall be inalienable by assignment, sale, attachment, execution or otherwise, and shall be subject to the provisions of any amending or repealing act that may be passed, and no beneficiary or other person shall have any vested right to any such aid.

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Sec. 15. Section 17b-88 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

If a beneficiary of assistance under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, aid to families with dependent children program, temporary family assistance program, state-administered general assistance program, [or] food [stamps] stamp program or supplemental nutrition assistance program receives any award or grant over the amount to which he is entitled under the laws governing eligibility, the Department of Social Services (1) shall immediately initiate recoupment action and shall consult with the Division of Criminal Justice to determine whether to refer such overpayment, with full supporting information, to the state police, to a prosecuting authority for prosecution or to the Attorney General for civil recovery, or (2) shall take such other action as conforms to federal regulations, including, but not limited to, conducting administrative disqualification hearings for cases involving alleged fraud in the food stamp program, supplemental nutrition assistance program, the aid to families with dependent children program, the temporary family assistance program or the state-administered general assistance program.

Sec. 16. Section 17b-97 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any food stamps or supplemental nutrition assistance furnished or any sums paid to or on behalf of any person under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, aid to families with dependent children program, state-administered general assistance program, [or] food [stamps] stamp program or supplemental nutrition assistance program as a result of any false statement, misrepresentation or concealment of or failure to disclose assets by him, or by any person legally liable for his support, may be recovered in an action brought by the state against

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such person or persons.

(b) Any person who, by means of an intentionally false statement or misrepresentation or by impersonation or other fraudulent act or device, obtains, or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any person to obtain, any monetary award under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, aid to families with dependent children program, state-administered general assistance program, [or] food [stamps] stamp program or supplemental nutrition assistance program to which he is not entitled; and any person who, with intent to defraud, buys or aids or abets in buying or in any way disposing of the property of a person receiving an award, and any person who, with intent to defraud, violates the provisions of section 17b-85, as amended by this act, or any other provision of said programs shall be subject to the penalties for larceny under sections 53a-122 and 53a-123, depending on the amount involved. When a person receiving assistance is convicted of an offense involving an overpayment of public assistance under said sections, the Commissioner of Social Services may discontinue his award or take such other action as conforms to federal regulations.

(c) Repealed by P.A. 74-140, S. 3.

(d) Any person who, by means of an intentionally false statement or misrepresentation or by impersonation or other fraudulent act or device, obtains, or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any person to obtain, or who knowingly uses, transfers, acquires, alters, or attempts to use, traffic in, forge or possess, any United States Department of Agriculture food coupon, food stamp coupon authorization to participate card, or Department of Social Services public assistance photographic identification card or electronically coded identification and debit card, shall be subject to the penalties for larceny under sections 53a-122 and 53a-123, depending on the amount involved.

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(e) Any person having duties in the administration of a state or federally funded public assistance program who fraudulently misappropriates, attempts to misappropriate, or aids and abets in the misappropriation of any United States Department of Agriculture food coupon, food stamp coupon authorization to participate card, or Department of Social Services public assistance photographic identification card or electronically coded identification and debit card, shall be subject to the penalties for larceny under sections 53a-122 and 53a-123, depending on the amount involved and shall be subject to discipline or discharge by the commissioner.

(f) Any person having duties in the administration of a state or federally funded public assistance program who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by another, solicits, accepts or agrees to accept from another, any benefit for, because of or as consideration for, taking, or promising to take, action which results, or is intended to result, in the unlawful award, transfer or receipt of public assistance benefits or United States Department of Agriculture food stamp or supplemental nutrition assistance benefits shall be subject to the penalty provided for bribe receiving under section 53a-148 and shall be subject to discipline or discharge by the commissioner.

Sec. 17. Section 17b-98 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The cost of aid furnished under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program, state-administered general assistance program and [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program as well as the cost of its administration, shall be borne entirely by the state of Connecticut, except to such extent as such cost to the state may be reduced by grants from the federal government.

Sec. 18. Section 17b-105a of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek a waiver from federal law to allow persons who live in an area in which (1) the unemployment rate is greater than ten per cent, or (2) there is an insufficient number of jobs to provide such persons with employment, to be exempt from the three-month participation limit of the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program implemented pursuant to the [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement vehicle evaluation provisions in accordance with 7 CFR 273.8(f)(4).

(c) The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to 7 USC 2014(e)(6), shall implement the federal option to mandate the use of a standard utility allowance, to be used in place of actual utility costs, for purposes of calculating the excess shelter deduction of applicants for, or recipients of, [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits. Pursuant to 7 USC 2014(e)(6)(C)(iii)(III), the commissioner shall not prorate a standard utility allowance based upon the fact that an assisted household shares the utility with an individual who is not a member of the assisted household.

Sec. 19. Section 17b-105b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Department of Social Services shall be required to pursue the maximum [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance benefit extensions permitted by the Code of Federal Regulations Title 7, Part 273, Section 273.12, for those households leaving the temporary assistance for needy families program.

Sec. 20. Section 17b-105c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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The Commissioner of Social Services, in accordance with federal law, may implement policy to simplify program administration and increase payment accuracy in the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program, while in the process of adopting such policy as regulation, provided notice of such policy is published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days of implementation.

Sec. 21. Section 17b-109 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Commissioner of Social Services may provide photo identification cards to recipients of assistance under the temporary family assistance program and to heads of households and their authorized representatives in the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program. The commissioner may contract with public or private organizations for the provision of such cards.

Sec. 22. Subsection (f) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(f) A family leaving assistance at the end of (1) said twenty-one-month time limit, including a family with income above the payment standard, or (2) the sixty-month limit shall have an interview for the purpose of being informed of services that may continue to be available to such family, including employment services available through the Labor Department. Said interview shall contain a determination of benefits available to said family provided by the Department of Social Services. Said interview shall also include a determination of whether such family is eligible for [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance or Medicaid. Information and referrals shall be made to such a family for services and benefits including, but not limited to, the earned income tax credit, rental subsidies emergency housing, employment services and energy

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assistance.

Sec. 23. Section 17b-112d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

A person convicted of any offense under federal or state law, on or after August 22, 1996, which (1) is classified as a felony, and (2) has as an element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance, as defined in Subsection (6) of 21 USC 802, shall be eligible for benefits pursuant to the temporary assistance for needy families program or the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, if such person has completed a sentence imposed by a court. A person shall also be eligible for said benefits if such person is satisfactorily serving a sentence of a period of probation or is in the process of completing or has completed a sentence imposed by the court of mandatory participation in a substance abuse treatment program or mandatory participation in a substance abuse testing program.

Sec. 24. Subsection (g) of section 17b-112g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a family receiving diversion assistance from being eligible for other social service programs administered by the Department of Social Services including, but not limited to, [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance, child care assistance, medical assistance and transitional child care and medical assistance benefits.

Sec. 25. Subsection (a) of section 17b-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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(a) No resident of a town shall be deemed to be ineligible to receive relief from such town by reason of having an interest in real property, provided such real property (1) is maintained as such resident's primary home, or (2) would not be counted in determining eligibility for assistance under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program, and provided such resident shall deliver to such town, through its board of selectmen, an agreement executed and acknowledged in the form and manner required for the transfer of an interest in real property to reimburse such town for all amounts so paid to such resident or expended by such town on his behalf for maintenance, care or support, with interest at the rate of four per cent per annum. Such agreement shall describe by metes and bounds, and by street number and lot number, if any, the real property in which such beneficiary has an interest and shall be recorded in the land records of the town or towns in which such real property is located, and shall constitute a lien on such real property which may, at any time during which such amounts remain unpaid, be foreclosed in an action brought by such town in a court of competent jurisdiction, and such lien shall have precedence over all subsequently recorded encumbrances, except tax liens or other municipal liens of such towns. Such lien shall be released by such town by its board of selectmen upon payment of the amount, plus interest, by it secured. The board of selectmen of such town is authorized to adjust, remit or cancel, in whole or in part, any interest accruing under such lien, provided such procedure shall be deemed necessary and beneficial to such town by such selectmen and shall be so voted at a meeting of such selectmen and a record of such vote entered in the minutes of the meetings of such board. Such board of selectmen is also authorized to release such lien without payment of the amount secured thereby, in whole or in part, provided such procedure shall be deemed necessary and beneficial to the town by such selectmen and shall be so voted at a meeting of such selectmen and a record of such vote entered in the

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minutes of the meetings of such board. Upon the sale, after foreclosure, of such real estate, or any part thereof, and after complete satisfaction to such town of the amount secured by such lien, plus interest, together with all costs and expenses, any balance remaining shall be paid over by such selectmen to such resident or, if he is deceased, to his estate. The board of selectmen of such town is authorized to execute, in behalf of the town, all releases, deeds and other instruments necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Upon written request therefor, the selectmen shall forthwith issue to the applicant a statement of the amount due to be paid to cancel such lien. No such lien shall be valid and enforceable after the expiration of forty years from the date it was recorded.

Sec. 26. Section 17b-292a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Commissioner of Social Services, in determining if an individual continues to be eligible for the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B, shall determine whether such individual is a recipient of a child care subsidy under section 17b-749, [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance under the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or benefits under any other program administered by the Department of Social Services for the purpose of ascertaining whether the department has information necessary for the redetermination of eligibility under the HUSKY Plan. In the event such information is available, the commissioner shall use such information in such redetermination.

Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 17b-342 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer the

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Connecticut home-care program for the elderly state-wide in order to prevent the institutionalization of elderly persons (1) who are recipients of medical assistance, (2) who are eligible for such assistance, (3) who would be eligible for medical assistance if residing in a nursing facility, or (4) who meet the criteria for the state-funded portion of the program under subsection (i) of this section. For purposes of this section, a long-term care facility is a facility which has been federally certified as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility. The commissioner shall make any revisions in the state Medicaid plan required by Title XIX of the Social Security Act prior to implementing the program. The annualized cost of the community-based services provided to such persons under the program shall not exceed sixty per cent of the weighted average cost of care in skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities. The program shall be structured so that the net cost to the state for long-term facility care in combination with the community-based services under the program shall not exceed the net cost the state would have incurred without the program. The commissioner shall investigate the possibility of receiving federal funds for the program and shall apply for any necessary federal waivers. A recipient of services under the program, and the estate and legally liable relatives of the recipient, shall be responsible for reimbursement to the state for such services to the same extent required of a recipient of assistance under the state supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program or [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance program. Only a United States citizen or a noncitizen who meets the citizenship requirements for eligibility under the Medicaid program shall be eligible for home-care services under this section, except a qualified alien, as defined in Section 431 of Public Law 104-193, admitted into the United States on or after August 22, 1996, or other lawfully residing immigrant alien determined eligible for services under this section prior to July 1, 1997, shall remain eligible for such services. Qualified aliens or other lawfully residing immigrant aliens

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not determined eligible prior to July 1, 1997, shall be eligible for services under this section subsequent to six months from establishing residency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any qualified alien or other lawfully residing immigrant alien or alien who formerly held the status of permanently residing under color of law who is a victim of domestic violence or who has mental retardation shall be eligible for assistance pursuant to this section. Qualified aliens, as defined in Section 431 of Public Law 104-193, or other lawfully residing immigrant aliens or aliens who formerly held the status of permanently residing under color of law shall be eligible for services under this section provided other conditions of eligibility are met.

Sec. 28. Section 17b-790 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The department shall provide a program of nutrition education in accordance with the [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as from time to time amended, and shall provide information to participants and applicants on their rights and responsibilities under the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Sec. 29. Section 17b-790a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services, within available appropriations, shall establish a food assistance program for individuals entering the United States prior to April 1, 1998, whose immigrant status meets the eligibility requirements of the federal [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, but who are no longer eligible for [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance solely due to their immigrant status under Public Law 104-193. Individuals who enter the United States after April 1, 1998, must have resided in the state for six months prior to becoming eligible for the state program. The commissioner may administer such

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program in accordance with the provisions of the federal [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program, except those pertaining to the determination of immigrant status under Public Law 104-193.

(b) The commissioner shall provide assistance to an individual under this section in an amount equal to seventy-five per cent of the amount the individual would be eligible to receive under the federal [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended.

(c) The commissioner shall terminate assistance under this section to any individual whose federal [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance benefits have been restored.

(d) The commissioner shall implement the policies and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after implementation. Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

Sec. 30. Subsection (e) of section 31-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) On a biweekly basis, the Department of Social Services shall compile a list of individuals who are receiving public assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families, Medicaid, [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance, state supplement and state-administered general assistance programs and shall transmit such list to the Labor Department. The Labor Department shall promptly identify any new employee who is such an individual and said department shall transmit to the Department of Social Services the name, address and Social Security number of each such new employee

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and the name, address and state and federal tax registration or identification numbers of the employer.

Sec. 31. Subsection (b) of section 52-259b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a person is indigent and unable to pay a fee or fees or the cost of service of process if (1) such person receives public assistance, or (2) such person's income after taxes, mandatory wage deductions and child care expenses is one hundred twenty-five per cent or less of the federal poverty level. For purposes of this subsection, "public assistance" includes, but is not limited to, state-administered general assistance, temporary family assistance, aid to the aged, blind and disabled, [food stamps] supplemental nutrition assistance and Supplemental Security Income.

Sec. 32. Section 17b-105e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

As used in sections 17b-105e to 17b-105i, inclusive, as amended by this act:

(1) "Poverty reduction strategies" means a coordinated set of actions which may include, but is not limited to, job search and work experience; education and training, including adult basic education, high school equivalency preparation, adult literacy classes, vocational training and post-secondary education; payment of tuition; case management; related services that improve employability; income safety net services; quality child care during work and job training; family support; and reentry programs, that are based on best practices and aimed at reducing poverty or the risk of poverty for individuals and families (A) who are living in census tracts with high poverty rates, (B) whose incomes are at or below two hundred per cent of the

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federal poverty level, and (C) who are in one or more of the following target populations: (i) Adolescent parents, (ii) older adolescents and young adults, or (iii) low-income working families; and

(2) ["Food stamp] "Supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaborative" means a consortium of public and private providers, established pursuant to section 17b-105g, as amended by this act, to implement poverty reduction strategies.

Sec. 33. Section 17b-105f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Department of Social Services shall administer a [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training program, authorized under the federal [Food Stamp Act of 1977] Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, to provide employment and training activities, support services and other programs and services for recipients of the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program. The program shall provide for the receipt of federal matching funds to the state from the United States Department of Agriculture for funds expended on behalf of [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance recipients by state agencies, local governments, nonprofit entities, institutions of higher education and other eligible [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training providers for employment and training activities that qualify for such matching funds under federal law and regulations. The department shall seek to maximize the use of the federal matching funds provision under the program to the fullest extent permitted by federal law.

(b) Federal grants received under the program shall be used in accordance with federal law and regulations to fund [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training activities.

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(c) The department shall select providers whose employment and training activities qualify for reimbursement under federal law and regulations to participate in the federal matching funds provision of the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training program. Providers shall be selected in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Social Services. In selecting providers, the department shall give priority to providers who are members of a [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaborative and whose strategies are aligned with the recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council and its plan to reduce child poverty developed pursuant to section 4-67x.

(d) The department shall distribute to providers pursuant to subsection (c) of this section federal matching funds in accordance with section 17b-105h, as amended by this act. Such funds shall be used for poverty reduction strategies.

Sec. 34. Section 17b-105g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Department of Social Services shall select among qualified [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaboratives to receive federal matching funds in accordance with section 17b-105h, as amended by this act. To be considered for receipt of such funds, each collaborative shall demonstrate its capacity to implement poverty reduction strategies to the department in such form and in such manner as the Commissioner of Social Services prescribes. Each collaborative shall identify (1) its priorities for reducing child poverty in such municipality or region, (2) how funds that are received by the collaborative will be utilized, (3) community partners and resources utilized to support poverty reduction strategies, and (4) its capacity to collect relevant data and measure outcomes.

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(b) Each [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaborative shall establish a governance structure, determine membership and identify or establish a fiscal agent. A collaborative shall consist of at least five member entities representing institutions of higher education, regional workforce development boards, social services nonprofit agencies, business associations, philanthropic organizations, municipalities, community action agencies or other community partners. A majority of the membership of each collaborative shall be [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training providers.

(c) Funds provided to a [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaborative shall be used to implement poverty reduction strategies in a municipality or region. Such strategies shall be aligned with the recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council and its plan to reduce child poverty developed pursuant to section 4-67x.

Sec. 35. Section 17b-105h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, the Department of Social Services may use such funds from the federal matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 17b-105f, as amended by this act, as are needed for operating expenses and to employ one staff position for purposes directly related to the administration of the matching funds provision for the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training program, and for any fiscal year thereafter may use such funds as is necessary to operate and administer said program.

(b) The remaining federal matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 17b-105f, as amended by this act, shall be used for poverty reduction strategies and distributed in the following manner:

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Seventy-five per cent of such remaining funds shall be provided to [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training providers whose expenditures generated the federal matching funds on a pro-rata basis, pursuant to section 17b-105f, as amended by this act; and twenty-five per cent of such remaining funds shall be provided to [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaboratives selected pursuant to section 17b-105g, as amended by this act, for implementation of poverty reduction strategies.

Sec. 36. Section 17b-105i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

On or before January 15, 2009, and annually thereafter from January 15, 2010, to January 15, 2014, inclusive, the Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations, and to the Child Poverty and Prevention Council on the amount of federal matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 17b-105f, as amended by this act, the amount used by the Department of Social Services for operating and administrative expenses, the amounts distributed to providers and [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training community collaboratives pursuant to section 17b-105h, as amended by this act, the use of such federal matching funds, including the population served, and the programs' outcomes using a results-based accountability framework.

Sec. 37. Section 17b-105d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the member agencies of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, may work with local governments, institutions of higher education, community action

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agencies and other entities to continue and expand efforts, within available appropriations, to enroll eligible individuals in the [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program and to enroll eligible [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance participants in education, employment and training activities.

Sec. 38. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (12) of section 22-380e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(A) The [food stamp] supplemental nutrition assistance program authorized by Title XIII of the federal Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, 7 USC 2011 et seq.

Sec. 39. Section 17b-791 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Department of Social Services shall establish a supplemental nutrition commodities assistance program to provide funds for the purchase of high protein or other nutritionally beneficial supplemental foods, or both, for soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters. Such foods shall be purchased in bulk by the Connecticut Food Bank through in-state wholesalers or brokers, or both, and allotted to existing soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters in accordance with the established policies of the Food Bank. Such soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters shall pay a handling charge of five cents per pound in order to cover the costs incurred by the Connecticut Food Bank. The food shall be distributed free of charge by the soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters.

Sec. 40. Section 12-412e of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Approved May 4, 2009