



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6587

LCO No. 4375

04375 _____ HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES'
ESTABLISHMENT OF A BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-261 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible
5 person whose income, including any available support from legally
6 liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent
7 child, is not more than one hundred forty-three per cent, pending
8 approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (e) of
9 this section, of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income
10 under the temporary family assistance program in the appropriate
11 region of residence and if such person is an institutionalized
12 individual as defined in Section 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42
13 USC 1396p(c), and has not made an assignment or transfer or other
14 disposition of property for less than fair market value for the purpose
15 of establishing eligibility for benefits or assistance under this section.
16 Any such disposition shall be treated in accordance with Section

17 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(c). Any disposition of
18 property made on behalf of an applicant or recipient or the spouse of
19 an applicant or recipient by a guardian, conservator, person
20 authorized to make such disposition pursuant to a power of attorney
21 or other person so authorized by law shall be attributed to such
22 applicant, recipient or spouse. A disposition of property ordered by a
23 court shall be evaluated in accordance with the standards applied to
24 any other such disposition for the purpose of determining eligibility.
25 The commissioner shall establish the standards for eligibility for
26 medical assistance at one hundred forty-three per cent of the benefit
27 amount paid to a family unit of equal size with no income under the
28 temporary family assistance program in the appropriate region of
29 residence. Except as provided in section 17b-277, the medical
30 assistance program shall provide coverage to persons under the age of
31 nineteen with family income up to one hundred eighty-five per cent of
32 the federal poverty level without an asset limit and to persons under
33 the age of nineteen and their parents and needy caretaker relatives,
34 who qualify for coverage under Section 1931 of the Social Security Act,
35 with family income up to one hundred eighty-five per cent of the
36 federal poverty level without an asset limit. Such levels shall be based
37 on the regional differences in such benefit amount, if applicable, unless
38 such levels based on regional differences are not in conformance with
39 federal law. Any income in excess of the applicable amounts shall be
40 applied as may be required by said federal law, and assistance shall be
41 granted for the balance of the cost of authorized medical assistance.
42 The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide applicants for
43 assistance under this section, at the time of application, with a written
44 statement advising them of (1) the effect of an assignment or transfer
45 or other disposition of property on eligibility for benefits or assistance,
46 (2) the effect that having income that exceeds the limits prescribed in
47 this subsection will have with respect to program eligibility, and (3)
48 the availability of, and eligibility for, services provided by the
49 Nurturing Families Network established pursuant to section 17b-751b.
50 Persons who are determined ineligible for assistance pursuant to this

51 section shall be provided a written statement notifying such persons of
52 their ineligibility and advising such persons of the availability of
53 HUSKY Plan, Part B health insurance benefits. On and after January 1,
54 2014, the Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a basic health
55 program in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. On and after
56 January 1, 2014, all individuals with family income up to two hundred
57 per cent of the federal poverty level, as determined in accordance with
58 the Affordable Care Act, and who are ineligible for medical assistance
59 pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act, shall be eligible for
60 medical assistance under a basic health program. Medical assistance
61 provided through the basic health program shall include all benefits,
62 limits on cost-sharing and other consumer safeguards that apply to
63 medical assistance provided in accordance with Title XIX of the Social
64 Security Act. Individuals enrolled in the basic health program shall
65 include adults, including, but not limited to, parents with incomes
66 above one hundred thirty-three per cent of the federal poverty level,
67 but not exceeding two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level as
68 determined under the Affordable Care Act, who would otherwise
69 qualify for HUSKY Plan, Part A and individuals described in section
70 17b-257b. To the extent that federal funds received pursuant to the
71 basic health program exceed the cost of medical assistance that would
72 otherwise be provided to such enrollees pursuant to Title XIX of the
73 Social Security Act, the excess of such federal funds shall be used to
74 increase reimbursement rates for providers serving individuals
75 receiving benefits pursuant to this section. The Commissioner of Social
76 Services shall take all necessary actions to maximize federal funding
77 received in connection with the establishment of a basic health
78 program.

79 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There is established an account
80 to be known as the "basic health program account" which shall be a
81 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account
82 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the
83 account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by SustiNet Plan
84 Authority for the purposes of operating a basic health plan in

85 conformance with Section 1331 of the Affordable Care Act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-261(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a basic health program in accordance with the federal Affordable Care Act.

[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.]