



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 283

February Session, 2012

* _____SB00283AGEHS_031512_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF BENEFITS RECEIVED
UNDER THE VETERANS' AID AND ATTENDANCE IMPROVED
PENSION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16a-41a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2012*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit to the joint
5 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
6 energy planning and activities, appropriations, and human services the
7 following on the implementation of the block grant program
8 authorized under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of
9 1981, as amended:

10 (1) Not later than August first, annually, a Connecticut energy
11 assistance program annual plan which establishes guidelines for the
12 use of funds authorized under the Low-Income Home Energy
13 Assistance Act of 1981, as amended, and includes the following:

14 (A) Criteria for determining which households are to receive
15 emergency and weatherization assistance;

16 (B) A description of systems used to ensure referrals to other energy
17 assistance programs and the taking of simultaneous applications, as

18 required under section 16a-41;

19 (C) A description of outreach efforts;

20 (D) Estimates of the total number of households eligible for
21 assistance under the program and the number of households in which
22 one or more elderly or physically disabled individuals eligible for
23 assistance reside; [and]

24 (E) Design of a basic grant for eligible households that does not
25 discriminate against such households based on the type of energy used
26 for heating; and

27 (F) An exemption for aid and attendance benefits provided by the
28 Veterans' Administration from the determination of income eligibility
29 for assistance under the program.

30 (2) Not later than January thirtieth, annually, a report covering the
31 preceding months of the program year, including:

32 (A) In each community action agency geographic area and
33 Department of Social Services region, the number of fuel assistance
34 applications filed, approved and denied, the number of emergency
35 assistance requests made, approved and denied and the number of
36 households provided weatherization assistance;

37 (B) In each such area and district, the total amount of fuel,
38 emergency and weatherization assistance, itemized by such type of
39 assistance, and total expenditures to date; and

40 (C) For each state-wide office of each state agency administering the
41 program, each community action agency and each Department of
42 Social Services region, administrative expenses under the program, by
43 line item, and an estimate of outreach expenditures; and

44 (3) Not later than November first, annually, a report covering the
45 preceding twelve calendar months, including:

46 (A) In each community action agency geographic area and
47 Department of Social Services region, (i) seasonal totals for the
48 categories of data submitted under subdivision (1) of this subsection,
49 (ii) the number of households receiving fuel assistance in which elderly
50 or physically disabled individuals reside, and (iii) the average
51 combined benefit level of fuel, emergency and renter assistance;

52 (B) Types of weatherization assistance provided;

53 (C) Percentage of weatherization assistance provided to tenants;

54 (D) The number of homeowners and tenants whose heat or total
55 energy costs are not included in their rent receiving fuel and
56 emergency assistance under the program by benefit level;

57 (E) The number of homeowners and tenants whose heat is included
58 in their rent and who are receiving assistance, by benefit level; and

59 (F) The number of households receiving assistance, by energy type
60 and total expenditures for each energy type.

61 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-104 of the 2012 supplement to
62 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
63 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

64 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer the
65 program of state supplementation to the Supplemental Security
66 Income Program provided for by the Social Security Act and state law.
67 The commissioner may delegate any powers and authority to any
68 deputy, assistant, investigator or supervisor, who shall have, within
69 the scope of the power and authority so delegated, all of the power
70 and authority of the Commissioner of Social Services. The
71 commissioner shall establish a standard of need based on the cost of
72 living in this state for the temporary family assistance program and the
73 state-administered general assistance program. The commissioner
74 shall make a reinvestigation, at least every twelve months, of all cases
75 receiving aid from the state, except that such reinvestigation may be

76 conducted every twenty-four months for recipients of assistance to the
77 elderly or disabled with stable circumstances, and shall maintain all
78 case records of the several programs administered by the Department
79 of Social Services so that such records show, at all times, full
80 information with respect to eligibility of the applicant or recipient. In
81 the determination of need under any public assistance program, such
82 income or earnings shall be disregarded as federal law requires, and
83 such income or earnings may be disregarded as federal law permits.
84 The commissioner shall encourage and promulgate such incentive
85 earning programs as are permitted by federal law and regulations. The
86 commissioner shall disregard aid and attendance benefits provided by
87 the Veterans' Administration from the determination of income
88 eligibility for the program of state supplementation.

89 Sec. 3. Section 17b-261 of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes
90 is amended by adding subsection (j) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

91 (NEW) (j) The Commissioner of Social Services shall disregard aid
92 and attendance benefits provided by the Veterans' Administration
93 from the determination of income eligibility for the Medicaid program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2012	16a-41a(a)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2012	17b-104(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2012	17b-261

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Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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