



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

***Raised Bill No. 855***

LCO No. 2736



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICES STATUTES.***

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  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, 2013*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit, in accordance  
5 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of  
6 the General Assembly having cognizance of energy planning and  
7 activities, appropriations, and human services [the following] a  
8 Connecticut energy assistance program annual plan on the  
9 implementation of the block grant program authorized under the Low-  
10 Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended. [:]

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

16        [(A)] (1) Criteria for determining which households are to receive  
17 emergency and weatherization assistance;

18        [(B)] (2) A description of systems used to ensure referrals to other  
19 energy assistance programs and the taking of simultaneous  
20 applications, as required under section 16a-41;

21        [(C)] (3) A description of outreach efforts;

22        [(D)] (4) Estimates of the total number of households eligible for  
23 assistance under the program and the number of households in which  
24 one or more elderly or physically disabled individuals eligible for  
25 assistance reside; and

26        [(E)] (5) Design of a basic grant for eligible households that does not  
27 discriminate against such households based on the type of energy used  
28 for heating. [;]

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

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

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

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

43        (3) Not later than November first, annually, a report covering the

44 preceding twelve calendar months, including:

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

51 (B) Types of weatherization assistance provided;

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

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

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

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

60 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-8 of the general statutes is  
61 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
62 *passage*):

63 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit an application  
64 for a federal waiver of any assistance program requirements, except for  
65 (1) any such application pertaining to routine operational issues, (2)  
66 any such application submitted in order to comply with a statutory  
67 requirement, and (3) any proposed amendment to the Medicaid state  
68 plan to make a change in program requirements that would have  
69 required a waiver were it not for the passage of the Patient Protection  
70 and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, and the Health Care and  
71 Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, P.L. 111-152, to the joint standing  
72 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

73 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state  
74 agencies prior to the submission of such application or proposed  
75 amendment to the federal government. Not later than thirty days after  
76 the date of their receipt of such application or proposed amendment,  
77 the joint standing committees shall: [(1)] (A) Hold a public hearing on  
78 the waiver application, or [(2)] (B) in the case of a proposed  
79 amendment to the Medicaid state plan, notify the Commissioner of  
80 Social Services whether or not said joint standing committees intend to  
81 hold a public hearing. Any notice to the commissioner indicating that  
82 the joint standing committees intend to hold a public hearing on a  
83 proposed amendment to the Medicaid state plan shall state the date on  
84 which the joint standing committees intend to hold such public  
85 hearing, which shall not be later than sixty days after the joint standing  
86 committees' receipt of the proposed amendment. At the conclusion of a  
87 public hearing held in accordance with the provisions of this section,  
88 the joint standing committees shall advise the commissioner of their  
89 approval, denial or modifications, if any, of the commissioner's waiver  
90 application or proposed amendment. If the joint standing committees  
91 advise the commissioner of their denial of the commissioner's waiver  
92 application or proposed amendment, the commissioner shall not  
93 submit the application for a federal waiver or proposed amendment to  
94 the federal government. If such committees do not concur, the  
95 committee chairpersons shall appoint a committee of conference which  
96 shall be composed of three members from each joint standing  
97 committee. At least one member appointed from each joint standing  
98 committee shall be a member of the minority party. The report of the  
99 committee of conference shall be made to each joint standing  
100 committee, which shall vote to accept or reject the report. The report of  
101 the committee of conference may not be amended. If a joint standing  
102 committee rejects the report of the committee of conference, that joint  
103 standing committee shall notify the commissioner of the rejection and  
104 the commissioner's waiver application or proposed amendment shall  
105 be deemed approved. If the joint standing committees accept the  
106 report, the committee having cognizance of matters relating to

107 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies shall advise the  
108 commissioner of their approval, denial or modifications, if any, of the  
109 commissioner's waiver application or proposed amendment. If the  
110 joint standing committees do not so advise the commissioner during  
111 [the] such thirty-day period, the waiver application or proposed  
112 amendment shall be deemed approved. Any application for a federal  
113 waiver or proposed amendment submitted to the federal government  
114 by the commissioner, pursuant to this section, shall be in accordance  
115 with the approval or modifications, if any, of the joint standing  
116 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
117 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state  
118 agencies.

119 Sec. 3. Section 17b-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
120 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

121 (a) The Department of Social Services shall act as the single state  
122 agency to coordinate, plan and publish annually the state social  
123 services plan for the implementation of social services block grants and  
124 community services block grants as required by federal law and  
125 regulation. Said department shall furnish copies of [said] such plan to  
126 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
127 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of  
128 state agencies and human services, at least sixty days prior to  
129 publication, for their review and recommendations, and shall consult  
130 with and furnish to said committees any additional information on  
131 such plan which they may request.

132 (b) The Department of Social Services shall provide for the  
133 development of all mandated outreach programs in accordance with  
134 any mandate of the federal government as required by federal law and  
135 regulation for the implementation of social services block grants and  
136 community services block grants.

137 [(c) The Department of Social Services shall, on or before December

138 fifteenth, annually, report to the Governor and said joint standing  
139 committees with regard to the activity of the department in the  
140 implementation of social services block grants and community services  
141 block grants, including but not limited to, fiscal data on expenditures  
142 of state and federal funds thereunder, and any recommendations for  
143 needed program legislation to insure the receipt of all federal funds  
144 available to the state from such grants.]

145 [(d)] (c) Any organization receiving block grants pursuant to this  
146 section shall be subject to the provisions of section 17b-99.

147 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 17b-80 of the general statutes is  
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
149 *passage*):

150 (a) The commissioner, upon receipt of an application for aid, shall  
151 promptly and with due diligence make an investigation, such  
152 investigation to be completed [within] not later than forty-five days  
153 after receipt of the application or [within sixty] not later than ninety  
154 days after receipt of the application in the case of an application in  
155 which a determination of disability must be made. If an application for  
156 an award is not acted on [within] not later than forty-five days after  
157 the filing of an application, or [within sixty] not later than ninety days  
158 in the case of an application in which a determination of disability  
159 must be made, the applicant may apply to the commissioner for a  
160 hearing in accordance with sections 17b-60 and 17b-61. The  
161 commissioner shall grant aid only if he finds the applicant eligible  
162 therefor, in which case he shall grant aid in such amount, determined  
163 in accordance with levels of payments established by the  
164 commissioner, as is needed in order to enable the applicant to support  
165 himself, or, in the case of temporary family assistance, to enable the  
166 relative to support such dependent child or children and himself, in  
167 health and decency, including the costs of such medical care as he  
168 deems necessary and reasonable, not in excess of the amounts set forth  
169 in the various fee schedules promulgated by the Commissioner of

170 Social Services for medical, dental and allied services and supplies or  
171 the charges made for comparable services and supplies to the general  
172 public, whichever is less, and the cost of necessary hospitalization as is  
173 provided in section 17b-239, over and above hospital insurance or  
174 other such benefits, including workers' compensation and claims for  
175 negligent or wilful injury. The commissioner, subject to the provisions  
176 of subsection (b) of this section, shall in determining need, take into  
177 consideration any available income and resources of the individual  
178 claiming assistance. The commissioner shall make periodic  
179 investigations to determine eligibility and may, at any time, modify,  
180 suspend or discontinue an award previously made when such action is  
181 necessary to carry out the provisions of the state supplement program,  
182 medical assistance program, temporary family assistance program,  
183 state-administered general assistance program or supplemental  
184 nutrition assistance program. The parent or parents of any child for  
185 whom aid is received under the temporary family assistance program  
186 and any beneficiary receiving assistance under the state supplement  
187 program shall be conclusively presumed to have accepted the  
188 provisions of sections 17b-93, 17b-94 and 17b-95.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	16a-41a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17b-8(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	17b-26
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17b-80(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To repeal certain program reporting requirements, and revise the timeline to make disability determinations related to public assistance requests.

*[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.]*