



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5290

LCO No. 144



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

***AN ACT INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES WHO ARE
RAISING CHILDREN.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (a) (1) The Department of Social Services shall administer a
5 temporary family assistance program under which cash assistance
6 shall be provided to eligible families in accordance with the temporary
7 assistance for needy families program, established pursuant to the
8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
9 1996. The Commissioner of Social Services may operate portions of the
10 temporary family assistance program as a solely state-funded
11 program, separate from the federal temporary assistance for needy
12 families program, if the commissioner determines that doing so will
13 enable the state to avoid fiscal penalties under the temporary
14 assistance for needy families program. Families receiving assistance

15 under the solely state-funded portion of the temporary family
16 assistance program shall be subject to the same conditions of eligibility
17 as those receiving assistance under the federal temporary assistance for
18 needy families program. Under the temporary family assistance
19 program, benefits shall be provided to a family for not longer than
20 twenty-one months, except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of
21 this section. For the purpose of calculating said twenty-one-month
22 time limit, months of assistance received on and after January 1, 1996,
23 pursuant to time limits under the aid to families with dependent
24 children program, shall be included. For purposes of this section,
25 "family" means one or more individuals who apply for or receive
26 assistance together under the temporary family assistance program. If
27 the commissioner determines that federal law allows individuals not
28 otherwise in an eligible covered group for the temporary family
29 assistance program to become covered, such family may also, at the
30 discretion of the commissioner, be composed of [(1)] (A) a pregnant
31 woman, or [(2)] (B) a parent, both parents or other caretaker relative
32 and at least one child who is under the age of eighteen, or who is
33 under the age of nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary school
34 or its equivalent. A caretaker relative shall be related to the child or
35 children by blood, marriage or adoption or shall be the legal guardian
36 of such a child or pursuing legal proceedings necessary to achieve
37 guardianship. If the commissioner elects to allow state eligibility
38 consistent with any change in federal law, the commissioner may
39 administratively transfer any qualifying family cases under the cash
40 assistance portion of the state-administered general assistance
41 program to the temporary family assistance program without regard
42 to usual eligibility and enrollment procedures. If such families become
43 an ineligible coverage group under the federal law, the commissioner
44 shall administratively transfer such families back to the cash assistance
45 portion of the state-administered general assistance program without
46 regard to usual eligibility and enrollment procedures to the degree that
47 such families are eligible for the state program.

48 (2) To the extent permissible under federal law, the payment
49 standard for a family that receives assistance under the temporary
50 family assistance program pursuant to this section and in which the
51 head of the household is a nonparent caretaker relative and the legal
52 guardian of a child shall be equal to seventy-five per cent of the
53 applicable monthly foster care rate paid by the Department of
54 Children and Families for children of the same number and needs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	17b-112(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To provide financial assistance to grandparents and other nonparent relatives who have assumed the responsibility of raising needy children.

[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.]