



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 105***

LCO No. 1375



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF FUNERAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-84 of the 2016 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) Upon the death of any beneficiary under the state supplement or  
5 the temporary family assistance program, the Commissioner of Social  
6 Services shall order the payment of a sum not to exceed one thousand  
7 four hundred dollars as an allowance toward the funeral and burial  
8 expenses of such [deceased] decedent. The payment for funeral and  
9 burial expenses shall be reduced by (1) the amount in any revocable or  
10 irrevocable funeral fund, (2) any prepaid funeral contract, [or] (3) the  
11 face value of any life insurance policy owned by the [recipient].  
12 Contributions may be made by any person for the cost of the funeral  
13 and burial expenses of the deceased over and above the sum  
14 established under this section without thereby diminishing the state's  
15 obligation.] decedent, (4) the net value of all liquid assets in the

16 decendent's estate, and (5) contributions in excess of three thousand two  
17 hundred dollars toward such funeral and burial expenses from all  
18 other sources, including friends, relatives and all other persons,  
19 organizations, agencies, veterans' programs and other benefit  
20 programs.

21 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services may adopt regulations, in  
22 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
23 section. The regulations may govern the types of funeral and burial  
24 services and items for which payment shall be issued, and the  
25 maximum amount that shall be issued for each such services or items.

26 Sec. 2. Section 17b-131 of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes  
27 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
28 *1, 2016*):

29 (a) When a person in any town, or sent from such town to any  
30 licensed institution or state humane institution, dies or is found dead  
31 therein and does not leave sufficient estate [or] and has no legally  
32 liable relative able to pay the cost of a proper funeral and burial, or  
33 upon the death of any beneficiary under the state-administered general  
34 assistance program, the Commissioner of Social Services shall give to  
35 such person a proper funeral and burial, and shall pay a sum not  
36 exceeding one thousand four hundred dollars as an allowance toward  
37 the funeral expenses of such [deceased, said] decendent. Said sum [to]  
38 shall be paid, upon submission of a proper bill, to the funeral director,  
39 cemetery or crematory, as the case may be. Such payment for funeral  
40 and burial expenses shall be reduced by (1) the amount in any  
41 revocable or irrevocable funeral fund, (2) any prepaid funeral contract,  
42 (3) the face value of any life insurance policy owned by the decendent,  
43 [and] (4) the net value of all liquid assets in the decendent's estate, and  
44 (5) contributions in excess of three thousand two hundred dollars  
45 toward such funeral and burial expenses from all other sources  
46 including friends, relatives and all other persons, organizations,  
47 [veterans' and other benefit programs and other agencies] agencies,

48 veterans' programs and other benefit programs.

49 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services may adopt regulations, in  
50 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
51 section. The regulations may govern the types of funeral and burial  
52 services and items for which payment shall be issued, and the  
53 maximum amount that shall be issued for each such services or items.

54 Sec. 3. Section 17b-198 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
55 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

56 The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in  
57 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement policies  
58 and procedures necessary to carry out the purposes of sections [17b-  
59 131,] 17b-191 to 17b-194, inclusive, and 17b-197. The Commissioner of  
60 Social Services shall implement such policies and procedures while in  
61 the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, or  
62 amending existing regulations provided notice of intent to adopt or  
63 amend the regulations is published [in the Connecticut Law Journal]  
64 on the eRegulations System within twenty days of implementation,  
65 and such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final  
66 regulations are effective. The commissioner shall also amend any  
67 regulations in existence on August 20, 2003, to conform to the  
68 provisions of this section and sections [17b-131,] 17b-191 to 17b-194,  
69 inclusive, and 17b-197.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17b-84
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17b-131
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17b-198

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow the Department of Social Services to reduce funeral payments for assistance recipients when other funds are available and to regulate the types of funeral expenses that the department will cover.

*[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.]*