



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 158

LCO No. 950



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

***AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-349e of the 2018 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide
6 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an individual
7 with Alzheimer's disease.

8 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who has the responsibility for the
9 care of an individual with Alzheimer's disease or has assumed the
10 responsibility for such individual voluntarily, by contract or by order
11 of a court of competent jurisdiction.

12 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an
13 individual with Alzheimer's disease for respite care services.

14 (4) "Individual with Alzheimer's disease" means an individual with
15 Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

16 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall operate a program [,
17 within available appropriations,] to provide respite care services for
18 caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, provided such
19 individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the requirements set forth
20 in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite care services may include,
21 but need not be limited to: (1) [~~homemaker~~] Homemaker services; (2)
22 adult day care; (3) temporary care in a licensed medical facility; (4)
23 home-health care; (5) companion services; or (6) personal care assistant
24 services. Such respite care services may be administered directly by the
25 Department of Social Services, or through contracts for services with
26 providers of such services, or by means of direct subsidy to caretakers
27 of individuals with Alzheimer's disease to purchase such services.

28 (c) (1) [~~No~~] Effective July 1, 2018, no individual with Alzheimer's
29 disease may participate in the program if such individual (A) has an
30 annual income of more than [~~forty-one~~] fifty-one thousand dollars or
31 liquid assets of more than one hundred [~~nine~~] twenty thousand
32 dollars, or (B) is receiving services under the Connecticut home-care
33 program for the elderly. On July 1, [~~2009~~] 2019, and annually
34 thereafter, the commissioner shall increase such income and asset
35 eligibility criteria over that of the previous fiscal year to reflect the
36 annual cost of living adjustment in Social Security income, if any.

37 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the
38 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars
39 for services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than
40 thirty days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day
41 care services under the program in any fiscal year, except that the
42 commissioner shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection (d) of this
43 section to provide up to seven thousand five hundred dollars for
44 services to a participant in the program who demonstrates a need for
45 additional services.

46 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's
47 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite
48 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive
49 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such
50 individual.

51 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
52 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section.
53 Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to: (1)
54 [standards] Standards for eligibility for respite care services; (2) the
55 basis for priority in receiving services; (3) qualifications and
56 requirements of providers, which shall include specialized training in
57 Alzheimer's disease, dementia and related disorders; (4) a requirement
58 that providers accredited by the Joint Commission on the
59 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, when available, receive
60 preference in contracting for services; (5) provider reimbursement
61 levels; (6) limits on services and cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule
62 for copayments.

63 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services may allocate any funds
64 appropriated in excess of five hundred thousand dollars for the
65 program among the five area agencies on aging according to need, as
66 determined by [said] the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-349e

Statement of Purpose:

To expand eligibility for the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

[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.]