



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 70

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7094

House of Representatives, March 19, 2019

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A DIAPER STIPEND FOR CERTAIN RECIPIENTS OF TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-112 of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (h) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this
4 section, on and after September 1, 2019, a family receiving assistance
5 shall receive an additional benefit of thirty dollars monthly for each
6 child under three years of age to purchase diapers for such child. The
7 department shall adopt regulations in accordance with federal law to
8 ensure that such benefit is used solely for the purchase of diapers. The
9 department may implement policies and procedures to implement the
10 provisions of this subsection while in the process of adopting such
11 policies and procedures as regulations, provided the department posts
12 such policies or procedures on the eRegulations System prior to
13 adopting the regulations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-112

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	At Least \$1.1 million	At Least \$1.4 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill will result in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS), Temporary Family Assistance Program (TFA) of approximately \$1.1 million in FY 20 and an annualized cost of approximately \$1.4 million in FY 21 to provide a monthly diaper benefit of \$30 to TFA clients for each child under the age of 3.

In addition, the bill will result in administrative expenses to DSS related to regulations adopted to “ensure that such benefit is used solely for the purchase of diapers.” The bill will require DSS to validate and/or otherwise regulate a recipient’s use of funds to comply with the requirements of the bill which is outside the scope of what is currently required for recipients of TFA cash assistance. The scope of administrative expense will depend on how the regulations are operationalized at the agency.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of TFA children under the age of 3 and any administrative increases.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7094*****AN ACT CONCERNING A DIAPER STIPEND FOR CERTAIN RECIPIENTS OF TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE.*****SUMMARY**

On and after September 1, 2019, this bill provides an additional \$30 monthly benefit to families receiving Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) to purchase diapers for each child under the age of three, including children conceived and born while the family receives assistance and regardless of existing law's benefit limits (see BACKGROUND).

The bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to adopt regulations in accordance with federal law to ensure that the additional benefit is used solely for the purchase of diapers. Under the bill, DSS may implement policies and procedures to administer the program while adopting them in regulations. The department may do this only if it posts the policies and procedures on the state eRegulations system before adopting them. The policies and procedures are valid until regulations are adopted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***TFA Family Cap Policy***

TFA benefits are calculated based on family size. Under Connecticut's TFA program, additional benefits are reduced by 50 percent for a child conceived and born to a family while on assistance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 6 (03/05/2019)