



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

***Raised Bill No. 5306***

LCO No. 2046



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY STATE SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-105a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek a waiver from  
4 federal law to allow persons who live in an area in which (1) the  
5 unemployment rate is greater than ten per cent, or (2) there is an  
6 insufficient number of jobs to provide such persons with employment,  
7 to be exempt from the three-month participation limit of the  
8 supplemental nutrition assistance program implemented pursuant to  
9 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement vehicle  
11 evaluation provisions in accordance with 7 CFR 273.8(f)(4).

12 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to 7 USC  
13 2014(e)(6), shall implement the federal option to mandate the use of a  
14 standard utility allowance, to be used in place of actual utility costs, for

15 purposes of calculating the excess shelter deduction of applicants for, or  
16 recipients of, supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.  
17 Pursuant to 7 USC 2014(e)(6)(C)(iii)(III), the commissioner shall not  
18 prorate a standard utility allowance based upon the fact that an assisted  
19 household shares the utility with an individual who is not a member of  
20 the assisted household.

21 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services, to the extent permissible  
22 under federal law, shall expedite supplemental nutrition assistance  
23 program eligibility determinations for a victim of domestic violence, as  
24 defined in section 17b-112a. The commissioner shall provide an eligible  
25 victim temporary supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits  
26 for not less than ninety days before redetermining eligibility for benefits.  
27 In conducting an expedited initial eligibility determination, the  
28 commissioner shall subtract from such victim's household income the  
29 income of any spouse, domestic partner or other household member  
30 credibly accused by such victim of domestic violence. For purposes of  
31 this subsection, allegations of domestic violence may be substantiated  
32 by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of  
33 section 17b-112a.

34 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 17b-749 of the 2020  
35 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
36 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

37 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants  
38 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty  
39 per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner: (1)  
40 [may] May increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed  
41 under federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children  
42 and Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so  
43 that children adopted [on or after October 1, 1999,] from the Department  
44 of Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program,  
45 [and] (3) [on and after March 1, 2003,] shall waive the income standards  
46 for not less than ninety days from the date of application for a victim of  
47 domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-112a, at which time the

48 commissioner shall redetermine eligibility based upon the income  
49 standards, and (4) shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-  
50 five per cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and  
51 recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary  
52 family assistance. For purposes of this subsection, allegations of  
53 domestic violence may be substantiated by the commissioner pursuant  
54 to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a. The  
55 commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to  
56 establish income criteria and durational requirements for such waiver  
57 of income standards.

58 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
59 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards  
60 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system  
61 with preference given to serving (A) victims of domestic violence, as  
62 defined in section 17b-112a, (B) recipients of temporary family  
63 assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities  
64 under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First" program, [(B)] (C)  
65 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued  
66 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care  
67 subsidy program, [(C)] (D) teen parents, [(D)] (E) low-income working  
68 families, [(E)] (F) adoptive families of children who were adopted from  
69 the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver  
70 of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this  
71 section, and [(F)] (G) working families who are at risk of welfare  
72 dependency; (2) health and safety standards for child care providers not  
73 required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for child care  
74 services which account for differences in the age of the child, number of  
75 children in the family, the geographic region and type of care provided  
76 by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services  
77 provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion  
78 of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child  
79 care directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)  
80 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended  
81 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers

82 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which  
83 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding  
84 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative  
85 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate  
86 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover  
87 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment  
88 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy  
89 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other approved  
90 activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that  
91 (A) allows the commissioner to exercise discretion in prioritizing within  
92 and between existing priority groups, including, but not limited to,  
93 children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended from time to time, and  
94 households with an infant or toddler, and (B) reflects the priority and  
95 eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection [, which  
96 is reviewed periodically,] with the inclusion of this information in the  
97 annual report required to be issued [annually] by the office to the  
98 Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733.  
99 Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of  
100 child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

101 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 17b-191 of the general statutes is  
102 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
103 *2020*):

104 (c) To be eligible for cash assistance under the program, a person shall  
105 (1) be (A) eighteen years of age or older; (B) a minor found by a court to  
106 be emancipated pursuant to section 46b-150; or (C) under eighteen years  
107 of age and the commissioner determines good cause for such person's  
108 eligibility, and (2) not have assets exceeding two hundred fifty dollars  
109 or, if such person is married, such person and his or her spouse shall not  
110 have assets exceeding five hundred dollars. In determining eligibility,  
111 the commissioner shall not consider as income (A) Aid and Attendance  
112 pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the  
113 surviving spouse of such veteran, or (B) for a period not less than ninety  
114 days from the date of application, the income of a spouse, domestic  
115 partner or other household member credibly accused of domestic

116 violence by a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-112a.  
117 The commissioner shall redetermine the eligibility of a victim of  
118 domestic violence after ninety days. For purposes of this subsection,  
119 allegations of domestic violence may be substantiated by the  
120 commissioner pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of section  
121 17b-112a. No person who is a substance abuser and refuses or fails to  
122 enter available, appropriate treatment shall be eligible for cash  
123 assistance under the program until such person enters treatment. No  
124 person whose benefits from the temporary family assistance program  
125 have terminated as a result of time-limited benefits or for failure to  
126 comply with a program requirement shall be eligible for cash assistance  
127 under the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	17b-105a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	17b-749(b) and (c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	17b-191(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To expedite nutritional assistance, child care benefits and cash assistance for victims of domestic violence.

*[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.]*