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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 285 (File 220, as amended by Senate "A")\*

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING TIME LIMITS IN THE TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DURING A STATE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By law, Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) provides cash assistance to families, generally subject to a 21-month time limit with up to two six-month extensions. Current law excludes from this time limit any months of TFA benefits received during a public health emergency declared by Governor Ned Lamont. This bill broadens this provision to exclude any months of benefits received during a state public health emergency, including emergencies declared by the governor or the legislature related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Existing law also exempts certain families from the time limit (e.g., a family with a needy caretaker relative who is incapacitated or of an advanced age).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

\*Senate Amendment "A" requires these months to be excluded, replacing a provision in the underlying bill that allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to exclude them at her discretion and in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management secretary.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Bills***

SB 197, favorably reported by the Human Services and Appropriations committees, increases the TFA time limit to 60 months and eliminates the six-month extensions.

SB 192 (File 215), favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, changes the way DSS calculates penalties for failing to meet

TFA requirements.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 7 (03/17/2022)