



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 285***

LCO No. 2412



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17b-112 of the 2022 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (c) A family who is subject to time-limited benefits may petition the  
5 Commissioner of Social Services for six-month extensions of such  
6 benefits. The commissioner shall grant not more than two extensions to  
7 such family who has made a good faith effort to comply with the  
8 requirements of the program and despite such effort has a total family  
9 income at a level below the payment standard, or has encountered  
10 circumstances preventing employment including, but not limited to: (1)  
11 Domestic violence or physical harm to such family's children; or (2)  
12 other circumstances beyond such family's control. The commissioner  
13 shall disregard ninety dollars of earned income in determining  
14 applicable family income. The commissioner may grant a subsequent

15 six-month extension if each adult in the family meets one or more of the  
16 following criteria: (A) The adult is precluded from engaging in  
17 employment activities due to domestic violence or another reason  
18 beyond the adult's control; (B) the adult has two or more substantiated  
19 barriers to employment including, but not limited to, the lack of  
20 available child care, substance abuse or addiction, severe mental or  
21 physical health problems, one or more severe learning disabilities,  
22 domestic violence or a child who has a serious physical or behavioral  
23 health problem; (C) the adult is working thirty-five or more hours per  
24 week, is earning at least the minimum wage and continues to earn less  
25 than the family's temporary family assistance payment standard; or (D)  
26 the adult is employed and works less than thirty-five hours per week  
27 due to (i) a documented medical impairment that limits the adult's  
28 hours of employment, provided the adult works the maximum number  
29 of hours that the medical condition permits, or (ii) the need to care for a  
30 disabled member of the adult's household, provided the adult works the  
31 maximum number of hours the adult's caregiving responsibilities  
32 permit. Families receiving temporary family assistance shall be notified  
33 by the department of the right to petition for such extensions.  
34 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall  
35 not provide benefits under the state's temporary family assistance  
36 program to a family that is subject to the twenty-one month benefit limit  
37 and has received benefits beginning on or after October 1, 1996, if such  
38 benefits result in that family's receiving more than sixty months of time-  
39 limited benefits unless that family experiences domestic violence, as  
40 defined in Section 402(a)(7)(B), P.L. 104-193. For the purpose of  
41 calculating said sixty-month limit: (I) A month shall count toward the  
42 limit if the family receives assistance for any day of the month, provided  
43 any months of temporary family assistance received during [the] a state  
44 public health emergency [declared by Governor Ned Lamont shall not  
45 be included] including, but not limited to, any such emergency declared  
46 by the Governor or the General Assembly related to the COVID-19  
47 pandemic, as defined in section 4-216a, may be excluded at the  
48 discretion of the commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of the  
49 Office of Policy and Management, and (II) a month in which a family

50 receives temporary assistance for needy families benefits that are issued  
51 from a jurisdiction other than Connecticut shall count toward the limit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-112(c)
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To clarify that temporary family assistance benefits may be exempted from the twenty-one-month time limit during a state public health emergency, including, but not limited to, such emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*[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.]*