



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 72**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6576

*House of Representatives, March 15, 2023*

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. GARIBAY of the 60th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2023*):

4 (a) (1) The Department of Social Services shall administer a  
5 temporary family assistance program under which cash assistance shall  
6 be provided to eligible families in accordance with the temporary  
7 assistance for needy families program, established pursuant to the  
8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
9 1996. The Commissioner of Social Services may operate portions of the  
10 temporary family assistance program as a solely state-funded program,  
11 separate from the federal temporary assistance for needy families  
12 program, if the commissioner determines that doing so will enable the  
13 state to avoid fiscal penalties under the temporary assistance for needy  
14 families program. Families receiving assistance under the solely state-

15 funded portion of the temporary family assistance program shall be  
16 subject to the same conditions of eligibility as those receiving assistance  
17 under the federal temporary assistance for needy families program.  
18 Under the temporary family assistance program, benefits shall be  
19 provided to a family for not longer than twenty-one months, except as  
20 provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. For the purpose of  
21 calculating said twenty-one-month time limit, months of assistance  
22 received on and after January 1, 1996, pursuant to time limits under the  
23 aid to families with dependent children program, shall be included. For  
24 purposes of this section, "family" means one or more individuals who  
25 apply for or receive assistance together under the temporary family  
26 assistance program. If the commissioner determines that federal law  
27 allows individuals not otherwise in an eligible covered group for the  
28 temporary family assistance program to become covered, such family  
29 may also, at the discretion of the commissioner, be composed of [(1)] (A)  
30 a pregnant woman, or [(2)] (B) a parent, both parents or other caretaker  
31 relative and at least one child who is under the age of eighteen, or who  
32 is under the age of nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary  
33 school or its equivalent. A caretaker relative shall be related to the child  
34 or children by blood, marriage or adoption or shall be the legal guardian  
35 of such a child or pursuing legal proceedings necessary to achieve  
36 guardianship. If the commissioner elects to allow state eligibility  
37 consistent with any change in federal law, the commissioner may  
38 administratively transfer any qualifying family cases under the cash  
39 assistance portion of the state-administered general assistance program  
40 to the temporary family assistance program without regard to usual  
41 eligibility and enrollment procedures. If such families become an  
42 ineligible coverage group under the federal law, the commissioner shall  
43 administratively transfer such families back to the cash assistance  
44 portion of the state-administered general assistance program without  
45 regard to usual eligibility and enrollment procedures to the degree that  
46 such families are eligible for the state program.

47 (2) To the extent permissible under federal law, the payment  
48 standard for a family that receives benefits under the temporary family  
49 assistance program, and in which the head of the household is a

50 nonparent caretaker relative and the legal guardian of a child, shall be  
51 equal to the prevailing monthly foster care rate per child, based on the  
52 child's age and medical condition, paid by the Department of Children  
53 and Families.

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-4o of the general statutes is  
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
56 *1, 2023*):

57 (a) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the  
58 Department of Social Services, shall coordinate a family resource center  
59 program to provide comprehensive child care services, remedial  
60 educational and literacy services, families-in-training programs and  
61 supportive services to parents who are recipients of temporary family  
62 assistance and other parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal  
63 guardians in need of such services. The family resource centers shall be  
64 located in or associated with public schools, and any family resource  
65 center established on or after July 1, 2000, shall be located in a public  
66 elementary school unless the Commissioner of Education waives such  
67 requirement. The commissioner shall determine the manner in which  
68 the grant recipients of such program, such as municipalities, boards of  
69 education and child care providers, shall be selected. The family  
70 resource center shall provide: (1) Quality full-day child care and school  
71 readiness programs for children age three and older who are not  
72 enrolled in school and child care for children enrolled in school up to  
73 the age of twelve for before and after regular school hours and on a full-  
74 day basis during school holidays and school vacation, in compliance  
75 with all state statutes and regulations governing child care services, as  
76 described in section 19a-77, and, in the case of the school readiness  
77 programs, in compliance with the standards set for such programs  
78 pursuant to section 10-16p; (2) support services to parents, nonparent  
79 caretaker relatives and legal guardians of newborn infants to ascertain  
80 their needs and provide them with referrals to other services and  
81 organizations and, if necessary, education in parenting skills; (3)  
82 support and educational services to parents, nonparent caretaker  
83 relatives and legal guardians whose children are participants of the

84 child care services of the program and who are interested in obtaining a  
85 high school diploma or its equivalent. Parents and their preschool age  
86 children and nonparent caretaker relatives, legal guardians and  
87 preschool age children in their care may attend classes in parenting and  
88 child learning skills together so as to promote the mutual pursuit of  
89 education and enhance parent-child interaction; (4) training, technical  
90 assistance and other support by the staff of the center to operators and  
91 staff of family child care homes, as described in section 19a-77, in the  
92 community and serve as an information and referral system for other  
93 child care needs in the community or coordinate with such systems as  
94 may already exist in the community; (5) a families-in-training program  
95 to provide, within available appropriations, community support  
96 services to expectant parents and parents, nonparent caretaker relatives  
97 and legal guardians of children under the age of three. Such services  
98 shall include, but not be limited to, providing information and advice to  
99 parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians on their  
100 children's language, cognitive, social and motor development, visiting a  
101 participant's home on a regular basis, organizing group meetings at the  
102 center for neighborhood parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and  
103 legal guardians of young children and providing a reference center for  
104 parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians who need  
105 special assistance or services. The program shall provide for the  
106 recruitment of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal  
107 guardians to participate in such program; [and] (6) a sliding scale of  
108 payment, as developed in consultation with the Department of Social  
109 Services, for child care services at the center; and (7) referrals of parents,  
110 nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to community  
111 programs concerning childhood development and positive parenting  
112 practices. The center shall also provide a teen pregnancy prevention  
113 program for adolescents emphasizing responsible decision-making and  
114 communication skills.

115 Sec. 3. Section 17a-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
116 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

117 The Department of Children and Families shall establish, within

118 available appropriations, community-based, multiservice parent  
 119 education and support centers. The goal of each center shall be to  
 120 improve parenting and enhance family functioning in order to provide  
 121 children and youths increased opportunities for positive development.  
 122 Each center shall provide: (1) Parent, nonparent caretaker relative and  
 123 legal guardian education and training services; (2) parent, nonparent  
 124 caretaker relative and legal guardian support services; (3) information  
 125 about and coordination of other community services; (4) consultation  
 126 services; [and] (5) coordination of child care and transportation services  
 127 to facilitate participation in the center's programs; and (6) referrals of  
 128 parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to  
 129 community programs concerning childhood development and positive  
 130 parenting practices. Each center shall conduct outreach programs and  
 131 shall be accessible with respect to schedule and location.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	17b-112(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	10-4o(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	17a-54

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3, "and referrals of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to community programs concerning childhood development and positive parenting practices." was changed to "; and (6) referrals of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to community programs concerning childhood development and positive parenting practices." for consistency.

**AGE** 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 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	At least \$16.7 million	At least \$16.7 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill will result in a cost of at least \$16.7 million in FY 24 and FY 25 to the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Temporary Family Assistance Program (TFA).

This bill increases the payment standard for families whose head of household is: (1) a nonparent caretaker relative and (2) the legal guardian of a child, to 100% of a foster care rate. The bill does not specify which category of foster care reimbursement rate the TFA payment standard will be indexed to. Assuming the average monthly foster care rate of \$819, the bill will result in an increased annual cost to DSS of at least \$16.7 million. Current average monthly TFA rates for family units range from \$489 for a family with one child to an average of \$1,005 for a family with between three and five children. The cost to the state will be more for children with higher needs and associated services. For context, the average monthly foster care rate for a child with medically complex needs is approximately \$1,578.

The actual cost will depend on: (1) the number of individuals impacted and (2) the foster care rate used as the basis for the TFA

payment.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to: (1) the number of individuals impacted and (2) the foster care rate used as the basis for the TFA payment.

Sources: *Department of Children and Families Foster Care Subsidies*  
*Department of Social Services Caseload Information*

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6576**

***AN ACT STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN.***

**SUMMARY**

To the extent allowed by federal law, this bill increases the temporary family assistance (TFA) payment to families with a head of household who is (1) a nonparent caretaker relative (e.g., grandparent) and (2) the legal guardian of a child. It does this by making the TFA payment equal to the prevailing monthly foster care rate for families based on the child's age and medical condition.

Generally, nonparent caretaker relatives may qualify for financial assistance through the departments of children and families (DCF) or social services (DSS). Those who become guardians of foster children through DCF (i.e., Subsidized Guardianship Program) receive a larger payment than those who are guardians of children not involved in the child welfare system and receive a TFA payment for the child from DSS.

DCF payments equal the prevailing monthly foster care rate, which varies based on the child's age and medical condition. TFA payments vary by family size.

Additionally, the bill expands the scope of (1) State Department of Education (SDE) family resource centers and (2) DCF parent education and support centers to include resources, programs, and services for nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians (see BACKGROUND). It also requires these centers to make referrals for parents, nonparent caretaker relatives, and legal guardians to community programs on childhood development and positive parenting practices.



Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except that the provision increasing TFA child-only payments takes effect July 1, 2023.

**BACKGROUND**

***SDE Family Resource Centers***

By law, SDE and DSS must coordinate family resource centers together. These centers are generally located in public elementary schools and provide comprehensive child care services, remedial educational and literacy services, families-in-training programs, and supportive services to parents who receive TFA and other parents who need services.

***DCF Parent Education and Support Centers***

DCF operates, within available appropriations, community-based, multiservice parent education and support centers. The goal of each center is to improve parenting and family functioning to give children and youths more opportunities for positive development. Centers provide (1) parent education and training services; (2) parent support services; (3) information on, and coordination of, other community services; (4) consultation services; and (5) coordination of child care and transportation services to facilitate participation in the center’s programs.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)