



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6576

LCO No. 3341



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*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 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	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17b-112(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10-4o(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	17a-54

Statement of Purpose:

To enhance the quality of life and reduce the effects of trauma on children by supporting grandparents and other nonparent relatives who are raising them.

[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.]