



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 396

LCO No. 2397



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-851 of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsections (e) and (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (NEW) (e) The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall
4 disburse additional payments under the elderly nutrition program to
5 any area agency on aging contracting with the department that has
6 expended fifty per cent or more of the initial round of funding under
7 such contract. Within available appropriations, the department shall
8 disburse such payments not later than thirty days after the area agency
9 on aging provides documentation prescribed by the department of such
10 expenditures. The area agency on aging shall transfer such payments
11 not later than thirty days after receipt from the department to vendors
12 participating in the elderly nutrition program. Not later than July 1,
13 2025, and annually thereafter, the department shall file a report, in
14 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, with the joint standing
15 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

16 relating to aging and human services on the feasibility of the department
17 disbursing additional funds under an elderly nutrition program
18 contract upon evidence that a contracting area agency on aging has
19 expended twenty-five per cent or more of the initial round of funding
20 under the contract.

21 (NEW) (f) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall
22 require each area agency on aging, in consultation with chief elected
23 officials and municipal agents for elderly persons appointed pursuant
24 to section 7-127b, to develop a continuity of effort plan for the area such
25 agency serves to minimize any disruption to benefits provided under
26 the elderly nutrition program when a provider leaves the program or
27 there is a significant increase in service levels or demand for the
28 program. An area agency on aging shall notify chief elected officials,
29 municipal agents for the elderly and state and federal legislative
30 representatives of the area such agency serves whenever there is a
31 significant change in service levels for the elderly nutrition program.
32 Such plan shall include an area agency on aging applying for funding to
33 support elderly nutrition program services through the grant database
34 portal established pursuant to section 5 of this act.

35 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Aging and
36 Disability Services, in consultation with area agencies on aging, shall
37 develop a plan to streamline the contracting process, related compliance
38 reporting and eligibility and assessment forms used under the elderly
39 nutrition program. The plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (1)
40 providing a template or portal that elderly nutrition program providers
41 can utilize to reduce redundancies in required reporting or applications,
42 (2) automatic approval for services under the program based on a client
43 eligibility assessment, and (3) modifications to client eligibility forms to
44 require no more than the minimum information required under Title III
45 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended from time to time.

46 (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, the commissioner shall file a report
47 on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
48 general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General

49 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and human
50 services.

51 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 17b-90 of the general statutes is
52 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
53 *2024*):

54 (b) No person shall, except for purposes directly connected with the
55 administration of programs of the Department of Social Services and in
56 accordance with the regulations of the commissioner, solicit, disclose,
57 receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or
58 acquiesce in the use of, any list of the names of, or any information
59 concerning, persons applying for or receiving assistance from the
60 Department of Social Services or persons participating in a program
61 administered by said department, directly or indirectly derived from
62 the records, papers, files or communications of the state or its
63 subdivisions or agencies, or acquired in the course of the performance
64 of official duties. The Commissioner of Social Services shall disclose (1)
65 to any authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner such
66 information directly related to unemployment compensation,
67 administered pursuant to chapter 567 or information necessary for
68 implementation of sections 17b-112l, 17b-688b, 17b-688c and 17b-688h
69 and section 122 of public act 97-2 of the June 18 special session, (2) to
70 any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health
71 and Addiction Services any information necessary for the
72 implementation and operation of the basic needs supplement program,
73 (3) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of
74 Administrative Services or the Commissioner of Emergency Services
75 and Public Protection such information as the Commissioner of Social
76 Services determines is directly related to and necessary for the
77 Department of Administrative Services or the Department of
78 Emergency Services and Public Protection for purposes of performing
79 their functions of collecting social services recoveries and overpayments
80 or amounts due as support in social services cases, investigating social
81 services fraud or locating absent parents of public assistance recipients,
82 (4) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Children

83 and Families necessary information concerning a child or the immediate
84 family of a child receiving services from the Department of Social
85 Services, including safety net services, if (A) the Commissioner of
86 Children and Families or the Commissioner of Social Services has
87 determined that imminent danger to such child's health, safety or
88 welfare exists to target the services of the family services programs
89 administered by the Department of Children and Families, or (B) the
90 Commissioner of Children and Families requires access to the federal
91 Parent Locator Service established pursuant to 42 USC 653 in order to
92 identify a parent or putative parent of a child, (5) to a town official or
93 other contractor or authorized representative of the Labor
94 Commissioner such information concerning an applicant for or a
95 recipient of assistance under state-administered general assistance
96 deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor
97 Commissioner to carry out their respective responsibilities to serve such
98 persons under the programs administered by the Labor Department
99 that are designed to serve applicants for or recipients of state-
100 administered general assistance, (6) to any authorized representative of
101 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the
102 purposes of the behavioral health managed care program established by
103 section 17a-453, (7) to any authorized representative of the
104 Commissioner of Early Childhood to carry out his or her respective
105 responsibilities under the two-generational academic achievement and
106 workforce readiness initiative established pursuant to section 17b-112l
107 and programs that regulate child care services or youth camps, (8) to a
108 health insurance provider, in IV-D support cases, as defined in
109 subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information
110 concerning a child and the custodial parent of such child that is
111 necessary to enroll such child in a health insurance plan available
112 through such provider when the noncustodial parent of such child is
113 under court order to provide health insurance coverage but is unable to
114 provide such information, provided the Commissioner of Social
115 Services determines, after providing prior notice of the disclosure to
116 such custodial parent and an opportunity for such parent to object, that
117 such disclosure is in the best interests of the child, (9) to any authorized

118 representative of the Department of Correction, in IV-D support cases,
119 as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231,
120 information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary to
121 identify inmates or parolees with IV-D support cases who may benefit
122 from Department of Correction educational, training, skill building,
123 work or rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase an
124 inmate's or parolee's ability to fulfill such inmate's support obligation,
125 (10) to any authorized representative of the Judicial Branch, in IV-D
126 support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section
127 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary
128 to: (A) Identify noncustodial parents with IV-D support cases who may
129 benefit from educational, training, skill building, work or rehabilitation
130 programming that will significantly increase such parent's ability to
131 fulfill such parent's support obligation, (B) assist in the administration
132 of the Title IV-D child support program, or (C) assist in the identification
133 of cases involving family violence, (11) to any authorized representative
134 of the State Treasurer, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision
135 (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information that is necessary to
136 identify child support obligors who owe overdue child support prior to
137 the Treasurer's payment of such obligors' claim for any property
138 unclaimed or presumed abandoned under part III of chapter 32, [or] (12)
139 to any authorized representative of the Secretary of the Office of Policy
140 and Management any information necessary for the implementation
141 and operation of the renters rebate program established by section 12-
142 170d, or (13) to any authorized representative of the Department of
143 Aging and Disability Services, or to an area agency on aging contracting
144 with said department to provide services under the elderly nutrition
145 program, information on persons enrolled in the supplemental nutrition
146 assistance program who have requested or been recommended to
147 receive elderly nutrition program services. No such representative shall
148 disclose any information obtained pursuant to this section, except as
149 specified in this section. Any applicant for assistance provided through
150 said department shall be notified that, if and when such applicant
151 receives benefits, the department will be providing law enforcement
152 officials with the address of such applicant upon the request of any such

153 official pursuant to section 17b-16a.

154 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
155 Services, upon a request from the Commissioner of Aging and Disability
156 Services, shall provide information on whether a person who is eligible
157 to receive services under the elderly nutrition program is receiving
158 benefits from the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

159 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
160 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, shall develop a plan to
161 maximize supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to
162 support the elderly nutrition program. The plan shall include, but need
163 not be limited to, (1) outreach to persons who may be eligible for both
164 the elderly nutrition program and the supplemental nutrition assistance
165 program, and (2) federally permissible uses of supplementary nutrition
166 assistance benefits to fund meals provided to persons age sixty and over,
167 persons with disabilities and such persons' households.

168 (c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social
169 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Aging and Disability
170 Services, shall file a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions
171 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing
172 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
173 relating to aging and human services.

174 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
175 Management, within available appropriations, shall allocate sufficient
176 funding to the Department of Aging and Disability Services to fund (1)
177 elderly nutrition program services from the state fiscal year ending on
178 June 30, 2025, to the federal fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2025, and
179 (2) technology to provide a streamlined grant database portal of funding
180 opportunities to enhance the elderly nutrition program and other services
181 provided by area agencies on aging.

182 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The sum of five million five hundred
183 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Aging and
184 Disability Services from the General Fund, for each of the fiscal years

185 ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, for the elderly nutrition
186 program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17a-851(e) and (f)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-90(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement task force recommendations for the elderly nutrition program.

[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.]