



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Substitute Bill No. 396**



**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 in the period between the state fiscal  
178 year ending on June 30, 2025, and the federal fiscal year beginning on  
179 October 1, 2025, and (2) technology to provide a streamlined grant  
180 database portal of funding opportunities to enhance the elderly nutrition  
181 program and other services 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 Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 5(1), "from" was changed to "in the period between" and "to" was changed to "and" for clarity.

**HS**

*Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO C/R*

APP