



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 396**

February Session, 2024



**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 disbursement of funding  
7 under such contract. Within available appropriations, the department  
8 shall disburse additional payments not later than thirty days after the  
9 area agency on aging provides documentation prescribed by the  
10 department of such expenditures. The area agency on aging shall  
11 transfer additional payments not later than thirty days after receipt from  
12 the department to vendors that contract with the agency to participate  
13 in the elderly nutrition program. Not later than July 1, 2025, and  
14 annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services  
15 shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,  
16 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
17 cognizance of matters relating to aging and human services on the  
18 feasibility of the department disbursing additional funds under an  
19 elderly nutrition program contract upon evidence that a contracting

20 area agency on aging has expended twenty-five per cent or more of the  
21 initial disbursement of funding under the contract.

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

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

48 (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, the commissioner shall file a report  
49 on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
50 general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General  
51 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and human  
52 services.

53       Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 17b-90 of the general statutes is  
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
55 *2024*):

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

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

122 information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary to  
123 identify inmates or parolees with IV-D support cases who may benefit  
124 from Department of Correction educational, training, skill building,  
125 work or rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase an  
126 inmate's or parolee's ability to fulfill such inmate's support obligation,  
127 (10) to any authorized representative of the Judicial Branch, in IV-D  
128 support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section  
129 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary  
130 to: (A) Identify noncustodial parents with IV-D support cases who may  
131 benefit from educational, training, skill building, work or rehabilitation  
132 programming that will significantly increase such parent's ability to  
133 fulfill such parent's support obligation, (B) assist in the administration  
134 of the Title IV-D child support program, or (C) assist in the identification  
135 of cases involving family violence, (11) to any authorized representative  
136 of the State Treasurer, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision  
137 (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information that is necessary to  
138 identify child support obligors who owe overdue child support prior to  
139 the Treasurer's payment of such obligors' claim for any property  
140 unclaimed or presumed abandoned under part III of chapter 32, [or] (12)  
141 to any authorized representative of the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
142 and Management any information necessary for the implementation  
143 and operation of the renters rebate program established by section 12-  
144 170d, or (13) to any authorized representative of the Department of  
145 Aging and Disability Services, or to an area agency on aging contracting  
146 with said department to provide services under the elderly nutrition  
147 program, information on persons enrolled in the supplemental nutrition  
148 assistance program who have requested or been recommended to  
149 receive elderly nutrition program services. No such representative shall  
150 disclose any information obtained pursuant to this section, except as  
151 specified in this section. Any applicant for assistance provided through  
152 [said department] the Department of Social Services shall be notified  
153 that, if and when such applicant receives benefits, the department will  
154 be providing law enforcement officials with the address of such  
155 applicant upon the request of any such official pursuant to section 17b-  
156 16a.

157 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2024) (a) The Commissioner of Social  
158 Services, upon a request from the Commissioner of Aging and Disability  
159 Services, or from an area agency on aging contracting with the  
160 Department of Aging and Disability Services to provide services under  
161 the elderly nutrition program, shall provide information on whether a  
162 person who is eligible to receive services under the elderly nutrition  
163 program is receiving benefits from the supplemental nutrition  
164 assistance program.

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

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

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

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(e), "round" was changed to "disbursement", "such payments" was changed to "additional payments", and "vendors participating" was changed to "vendors that contract with the agency to

