
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6941

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE INCOME EARNED BY A CHILD OF AN APPLICANT FROM THE CALCULATION OF GROSS INCOME IN CONSIDERATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the household income eligibility requirements for the Department of Housing's (DOH) Rental Assistance Program (RAP). (RAP helps eligible low-income families afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. RAP certificate recipients may choose any private rental housing that meets program requirements.)

The bill specifically requires DOH's RAP regulations to exempt from the gross income calculation for determining program eligibility up to \$100,000 in annual income earned by any child who is under age 24 and lives with the applicant. Under current regulations, gross income includes the income of all adults residing in the home (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 17b-812-1(1)). Under the bill, DOH is prohibited from including income earned by 18- to 23-year-olds, as described above, in the program income eligibility guidelines. (Presumably, the bill's exemption also applies to the income eligibility reexaminations the department must conduct annually for participating families. However, it is unclear whether the exemption applies to the calculation of the "tenant contribution" (i.e. an eligible family's share of the rent).)

Existing law requires DOH to adopt regulations establishing maximum income eligibility guidelines for program participation. Under these regulations, to be income eligible for RAP, a household's gross income cannot exceed 50% of the median family income for the area where the family lives, as determined by the DOH commissioner (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 17b-812-1(10)). (In practice, the department uses median income limits the federal Department of Housing and

Urban Development annually publishes.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sSB 12 (§§ 9 & 10), reported favorably by the Housing Committee, appropriates to DOH from the General Fund for FY 26 (1) \$4.2 million for at least 425 additional rental assistance certificates for the Elderly Rental Assistance Program and (2) \$4.5 million for at least 275 additional RAP certificates for families participating in the Head Start program.

sHB 6890, reported favorably by the Housing Committee, makes various changes to RAP, such as establishing in statute the amount of time initially given to a RAP participant to find qualifying housing.

sHB 7112 (§§ 15 & 18), reported favorably by the Housing Committee, requires DOH to establish a pilot program to give direct cash rental assistance to recipients who are eligible for a RAP certificate and are currently on the waiting list for the federal Housing Choice Voucher program (instead of a housing choice voucher). It appropriates \$2.23 million to DOH from the General Fund for FY 26 in support of the pilot program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 6 (03/06/2025)