



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 517**

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 980

*Senate, April 19, 2021*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MOORE of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ELIMINATING INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS FOR THE MED-CONNECT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-597 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) The Department of Social Services shall establish and implement  
4 a working persons with disabilities program to provide medical  
5 assistance as authorized under 42 USC 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii), as amended  
6 from time to time, to persons who are disabled and regularly employed.

7 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid  
8 state plan to allow persons specified in subsection (a) of this section to  
9 qualify for medical assistance. The amendment shall [include the  
10 following requirements: (1) That the person be engaged in a substantial  
11 and reasonable work effort as determined by the commissioner and as  
12 permitted by federal law and have an annual adjusted gross income, as  
13 defined in Section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any

14 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,  
15 as amended from time to time, of no more than seventy-five thousand  
16 dollars per year; (2) a disregard of all countable income up to two  
17 hundred per cent of the federal poverty level; (3) for an unmarried  
18 person, an asset limit of ten thousand dollars, and for a married couple,  
19 an asset limit of fifteen thousand dollars; (4) a disregard of any  
20 retirement and medical savings accounts established pursuant to 26  
21 USC 220 and held by either the person or the person's spouse; (5) a  
22 disregard of any moneys in accounts designated by the person or the  
23 person's spouse for the purpose of purchasing goods or services that  
24 will increase the employability of such person, subject to approval by  
25 the commissioner; (6) a disregard of spousal income solely for purposes  
26 of determination of eligibility; and (7)] require (1) that the person be  
27 engaged in a substantial and reasonable work effort as determined by  
28 the commissioner and as permitted by federal law; and (2) a  
29 contribution of any countable income of the person or the person's  
30 spouse which exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level,  
31 as adjusted for the appropriate family size, equal to ten per cent of the  
32 excess minus any premiums paid from income for health insurance by  
33 any family member, but which does not exceed the maximum  
34 contribution allowable under Section 201(a)(3) of Public Law 106-170, as  
35 amended from time to time.

36 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement the policies  
37 and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this section  
38 while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in  
39 regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is  
40 published [in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after  
41 implementation. The commissioner shall define "countable income" for  
42 purposes of subsection (b) of this section which shall take into account  
43 impairment-related work expenses as defined in the Social Security Act]  
44 on the eRegulations System in accordance with section 17b-10. Such  
45 policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final regulations are  
46 effective.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-597
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**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with eliminating the income and asset requirements for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (**MED-Connect**). While the number of individuals who would become eligible under the bill is unknown, the average cost per person is approximately \$575 per month. There are approximately 4,000 individuals currently enrolled in MED-Connect.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to program enrollment levels and associated costs.

Sources: Department of Social Services Caseload Information

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 980*****AN ACT ELIMINATING INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS FOR THE MED-CONNECT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill eliminates the income and asset limits for Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (**MED-Connect**). By law, unchanged by the bill, enrollees must (1) be engaged in substantial and reasonable work effort as determined by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and as permitted by federal law and (2) pay a premium based on their countable income over 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). (In 2021, 200% of the FPL is \$25,760 for an individual and \$34,840 for a family of two.)

Additionally, the bill requires DSS to post required notices of its intention to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system rather than in the Connecticut Law Journal. It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**BACKGROUND*****Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities***

**MED-Connect** provides full Medicaid coverage to employed individuals who have a medically certified disability or blindness and are working for taxable wages. (Self-employed individuals must pay self-employment taxes to the Internal Revenue Service in order to qualify.) The program's current income limit is \$75,000 per year, and the current asset limit is \$10,000 for an individual and \$15,000 for a married couple.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 2 (03/31/2021)