



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6520**

January Session, 2021



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY STATE SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-105a of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (NEW) (d) The Commissioner of Social Services, to the extent  
4 permissible under federal law, shall (1) expedite supplemental nutrition  
5 assistance program eligibility determinations for a victim of domestic  
6 violence, as defined in section 17b-112a, and (2) provide an eligible  
7 victim temporary supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits  
8 for not less than ninety days before redetermining eligibility for benefits.  
9 In conducting an expedited eligibility determination, the commissioner,  
10 to the extent permissible under federal law, shall subtract from such  
11 victim's household income the income of the victim's spouse, domestic  
12 partner or other household member credibly accused by such victim of  
13 domestic violence. For purposes of this subsection, allegations of  
14 domestic violence may be substantiated by the commissioner pursuant  
15 to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a.

16 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes  
17 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
18 *1, 2021*):

19 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants  
20 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty  
21 per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner: (1)  
22 [may] May increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed  
23 under federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children  
24 and Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so  
25 that children adopted [on or after October 1, 1999,] from the Department  
26 of Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program,  
27 [and (3) on and after March 1, 2003,] (3) shall, to the extent permissible  
28 under federal law and within available appropriations, waive the  
29 income standards for not less than ninety days from the date of  
30 application for a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-  
31 112a, at which time the commissioner shall redetermine eligibility based  
32 upon the income standards, and (4) shall reduce the income eligibility  
33 level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for  
34 applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility  
35 for temporary family assistance. For purposes of this subsection, the  
36 commissioner may substantiate allegations of domestic violence  
37 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a. The  
38 commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to  
39 establish income criteria and durational requirements for such waiver  
40 of income standards.

41 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
42 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards  
43 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system  
44 with preference given to serving (A) victims of domestic violence, as  
45 defined in section 17b-112a, to the extent permissible under federal law,  
46 (B) recipients of temporary family assistance who are employed or  
47 engaged in employment activities under the Department of Social  
48 Services' "Jobs First" program, [(B)] (C) working families whose  
49 temporary family assistance was discontinued not more than five years  
50 prior to the date of application for the child care subsidy program, [(C)]  
51 (D) teen parents, [(D)] (E) low-income working families, [(E)] (F)  
52 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department

53 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income  
54 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, and  
55 ~~[(F)]~~ (G) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2)  
56 health and safety standards for child care providers not required to be  
57 licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for child care services which  
58 account for differences in the age of the child, number of children in the  
59 family, the geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and  
60 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by licensed  
61 and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen hours of  
62 annual in-service training or credentialing of child care directors and  
63 administrators, and program accreditation; (4) supplemental payment  
64 for special needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an  
65 annual rate review process for providers which assures that  
66 reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal access  
67 to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for  
68 participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an  
69 administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and  
70 abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments; (9) an  
71 extended period of program and payment eligibility when a parent who  
72 is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary interruption  
73 in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the  
74 child care subsidy program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise  
75 discretion in prioritizing within and between existing priority groups,  
76 including, but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as  
77 amended from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler,  
78 and (B) reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision  
79 (1) of this subsection, [which is reviewed periodically,] with the  
80 inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be issued  
81 [annually] by the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in  
82 accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be  
83 limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and length of time  
84 on such waiting list.

85 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 17b-191 of the general statutes is  
86 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

87 2021):

88 (c) To be eligible for cash assistance under the program, a person shall  
89 (1) be (A) eighteen years of age or older; (B) a minor found by a court to  
90 be emancipated pursuant to section 46b-150; or (C) under eighteen years  
91 of age and the commissioner determines good cause for such person's  
92 eligibility, and (2) not have assets exceeding two hundred fifty dollars  
93 or, if such person is married, such person and his or her spouse shall not  
94 have assets exceeding five hundred dollars. In determining eligibility,  
95 the commissioner shall not consider as income (A) Aid and Attendance  
96 pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the  
97 surviving spouse of such veteran, or (B) within available appropriations,  
98 the income of an applicant's spouse, domestic partner or other  
99 household member credibly accused of domestic violence by the  
100 applicant when such applicant is a victim of domestic violence, as  
101 defined in section 17b-112a. The commissioner shall not include the  
102 income of such spouse, domestic partner or other household member in  
103 the household income of such applicant for a period of not less than  
104 ninety days after the applicant applies for assistance. The commissioner  
105 may redetermine the applicant's eligibility for assistance after ninety  
106 days. For purposes of this subsection, allegations of domestic violence  
107 may be substantiated by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions  
108 of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a. No person who is a substance  
109 abuser and refuses or fails to enter available, appropriate treatment shall  
110 be eligible for cash assistance under the program until such person  
111 enters treatment. No person whose benefits from the temporary family  
112 assistance program have terminated as a result of time-limited benefits  
113 or for failure to comply with a program requirement shall be eligible for  
114 cash assistance under the program.

115 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 17b-112a of the general statutes is  
116 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
117 *2021*):

118 (c) [The Commissioner of Social Services] Notwithstanding the  
119 provisions of section 17b-112, the Commissioner of Social Services shall

120 expedite an eligibility determination for an applicant for temporary  
121 family assistance who is a victim of domestic violence. To the extent  
122 permissible under federal law, the commissioner shall not include the  
123 income of the applicant's spouse, domestic partner or other household  
124 member credibly accused of domestic violence by such applicant for a  
125 period of not less than ninety days after the applicant applies for  
126 temporary family assistance. The commissioner may redetermine such  
127 applicant's eligibility for temporary family assistance after ninety days.  
128 The commissioner shall notify applicants and recipients of temporary  
129 family assistance, who are past or present victims of domestic violence  
130 or at risk of further domestic violence, of the following:

131 (1) Referrals available to counseling and supportive services,  
132 including, but not limited to, shelter services, medical services, domestic  
133 abuse hotlines, legal counseling and advocacy, mental health care and  
134 financial assistance; and

135 (2) Procedures to voluntarily and confidentially identify eligibility for  
136 referrals to such counseling and supportive services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	17b-105a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2021	17b-749(b) and (c)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2021	17b-191(c)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2021	17b-112a(c)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3(c)(2)(B) and Section 4(c), "count" was changed to "include" for clarity.

**HS** Joint Favorable Subst.