



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 7306



Offered by:

REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.

REP. CASE, 63rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6520

File No. 343

Cal. No. 259

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112g of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
5 *2021*):

6 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall offer immediate
7 diversion assistance designed to prevent certain families who are
8 applying for monthly temporary family assistance from needing such
9 assistance. Diversion assistance shall be offered to families that (1) upon
10 initial assessment are determined eligible for temporary family
11 assistance, (2) demonstrate a short-term need that cannot be met with
12 current or anticipated family resources, and (3) with the provision of a
13 service or short-term benefit, would be prevented from needing
14 monthly temporary family assistance. Within resources available to the

15 Department of Social Services, a person who requests diversion
16 assistance on the basis of being a victim of domestic violence, as defined
17 in section 17b-112a, shall be deemed to satisfy subdivision (2) of this
18 subsection and shall not be subject to the requirements of subdivision
19 (3) of this subsection. In determining whether the family of such a victim
20 of domestic violence satisfies the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
21 subsection and the appropriate amount of diversion assistance to
22 provide, the commissioner shall not include as a member of the family
23 the spouse, domestic partner or other household member credibly
24 accused of domestic violence by such victim, nor shall the commissioner
25 count the income or assets of such a spouse, domestic partner or other
26 household member. For purposes of this subsection, allegations of
27 domestic violence may be substantiated by the commissioner pursuant
28 to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a.

29 Sec. 2. Section 17b-191 of the general statutes is repealed and the
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

31 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 17b-190, 17b-195 and
32 17b-196, the Commissioner of Social Services shall operate a state-
33 administered general assistance program in accordance with this section
34 and sections 17b-131, 17b-193, 17b-194, 17b-197 and 17b-198.
35 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, on and after
36 October 1, 2003, no town shall be reimbursed by the state for any general
37 assistance medical benefits incurred after September 30, 2003, and on
38 and after March 1, 2004, no town shall be reimbursed by the state for
39 any general assistance cash benefits or general assistance program
40 administrative costs incurred after February 29, 2004.

41 (b) The state-administered general assistance program shall provide
42 cash assistance of (1) two hundred dollars per month for an
43 unemployable person upon determination of such person's
44 unemployability; (2) two hundred dollars per month for a transitional
45 person who is required to pay for shelter; and (3) fifty dollars per month
46 for a transitional person who is not required to pay for shelter. The
47 standard of assistance paid for individuals residing in rated boarding

48 facilities shall remain at the level in effect on August 31, 2003. No person
49 shall be eligible for cash assistance under the program if eligible for cash
50 assistance under any other state or federal cash assistance program. The
51 standards of assistance set forth in this subsection shall be subject to
52 annual increases, as described in subsection (b) of section 17b-104.

53 (c) To be eligible for cash assistance under the program, a person shall
54 (1) be (A) eighteen years of age or older; (B) a minor found by a court to
55 be emancipated pursuant to section 46b-150; or (C) under eighteen years
56 of age and the commissioner determines good cause for such person's
57 eligibility, and (2) not have assets exceeding two hundred fifty dollars
58 or, if such person is married, such person and his or her spouse shall not
59 have assets exceeding five hundred dollars. In determining eligibility,
60 the commissioner shall not consider as income Aid and Attendance
61 pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the
62 surviving spouse of such veteran. No person who is a substance abuser
63 and refuses or fails to enter available, appropriate treatment shall be
64 eligible for cash assistance under the program until such person enters
65 treatment. No person whose benefits from the temporary family
66 assistance program have terminated as a result of time-limited benefits
67 or for failure to comply with a program requirement shall be eligible for
68 cash assistance under the program.

69 (d) Prior to or upon discontinuance of assistance, a person previously
70 determined to be a transitional person may petition the commissioner
71 to review the determination of his or her status. In such review, the
72 commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to: (1)
73 Age; (2) education; (3) vocational training; (4) mental and physical
74 health; and (5) employment history and shall make a determination of
75 such person's ability to obtain gainful employment.

76 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section
77 17b-194, a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-112a,
78 who is not eligible for diversion assistance under the provisions of
79 section 17b-112g, as amended by this act, shall be eligible for a one-time
80 assistance payment under the state-administered general assistance

81 program within resources available to the Department of Social
 82 Services. Such payment shall be equivalent to that which such victim
 83 would be entitled to receive as diversion assistance if such victim and
 84 his or her family, if any, were eligible for diversion assistance. In
 85 determining whether and in what amount a victim of domestic violence
 86 and his or her family are eligible for a one-time assistance payment
 87 pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall not include as a
 88 member of such victim's family the spouse, domestic partner or other
 89 household member credibly accused of domestic violence by such
 90 victim, nor shall the commissioner count the income or assets of such a
 91 spouse, domestic partner or other household member. For purposes of
 92 this subsection, allegations of domestic violence may be substantiated
 93 by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of
 94 section 17b-112a, and "family" has the same meaning as used in section
 95 17b-112, except as otherwise provided in this subsection."

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