
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 283

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

SUMMARY

This bill expands eligibility for certain Medicaid programs by (1) eliminating the income and asset limits for Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect, see BACKGROUND) and (2) increasing these limits for HUSKY C, which provides Medicaid coverage for people who are at least age 65, blind, or living with a disability.

Specifically, the bill eliminates the MED-Connect program's current annual income limit of \$75,000 and its asset limit of \$10,000 for individuals and \$15,000 for married couples. 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).

Additionally, the bill raises the income limit to 138% of FPL for HUSKY C (for 2022, 138% FPL is \$18,754 for an individual and \$25,268 for a couple). It authorizes the DSS Commissioner to seek federal approval for a Medicaid waiver or a Medicaid state plan amendment to implement this provision. Under current law, HUSKY C income limits are 143% of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefit levels, which vary by region, with certain types of income excluded when determining eligibility, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: HUSKY C Annual Net Income Limits After Deductions
Under Current Law**

	Region A (Southwestern CT)	Regions B & C (Northern, Eastern, & Western CT)
--	---------------------------------------	--

Single Person	\$11,814	\$10,493
Married Couple	\$18,085	\$16,781

The bill also generally increases HUSKY C asset limits from \$1,600 to \$5,000 for individuals and from \$2,400 to \$7,500 for married couples. Under federal law, certain assets are not counted when calculating the applicant's assets (e.g., one car per household, certain burial expenses, home property, and certain life insurance policies) and long-term care enrollees are subject to separate financial requirements.

The bill conforms to practice by requiring DSS to post required notices of its intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system rather than in the Connecticut Law Journal. It also makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

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 to qualify.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)