



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 931***

LCO No. 3450



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:  
(AGE)

***AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-860 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide  
5 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an individual  
6 with Alzheimer's disease.

7 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who has the responsibility for the care  
8 of an individual with Alzheimer's disease or has assumed the  
9 responsibility for such individual voluntarily, by contract or by order of  
10 a court of competent jurisdiction.

11 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an  
12 individual with Alzheimer's disease for respite care services.

13 (4) "Individual with Alzheimer's disease" means an individual with

14 Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall operate  
16 a program [ within available appropriations,] to provide respite care  
17 services for caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease,  
18 provided such individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the  
19 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite care  
20 services may include, but need not be limited to: (1) [homemaker]  
21 Homemaker services; (2) adult day care; (3) temporary care in a licensed  
22 medical facility; (4) home-health care; (5) companion services; or (6)  
23 personal care assistant services. Such respite care services may be  
24 administered directly by the Department of Aging and Disability  
25 Services, or through contracts for services with providers of such  
26 services, or by means of direct subsidy to caretakers of individuals with  
27 Alzheimer's disease to purchase such services.

28 (c) (1) No individual with Alzheimer's disease may participate in the  
29 program if such individual (A) has an annual income of more than  
30 [forty-one] seventy thousand dollars or liquid assets of more than one  
31 hundred [nine] seventy-nine thousand dollars, or (B) is receiving  
32 services under the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. [On  
33 July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the] The commissioner shall  
34 increase such income and asset eligibility criteria over that of the  
35 previous fiscal year to reflect the annual cost of living adjustment in  
36 Social Security income, if any.

37 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the  
38 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars for  
39 services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than thirty  
40 days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day care  
41 services under the program in any fiscal year, except that the  
42 commissioner shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
43 section to provide up to seven thousand five hundred dollars for  
44 services to a participant in the program who demonstrates a need for  
45 additional services.

46 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's  
47 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite  
48 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive  
49 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such  
50 individual.

51 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the  
52 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section.  
53 Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) [standards]  
54 Standards for eligibility for respite care services; (2) the basis for priority  
55 in receiving services; (3) qualifications and requirements of providers,  
56 which shall include specialized training in Alzheimer's disease,  
57 dementia and related disorders; (4) a requirement that providers  
58 accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare  
59 Organizations, when available, receive preference in contracting for  
60 services; (5) provider reimbursement levels; (6) limits on services and  
61 cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule for copayments.

62 (e) The commissioner may allocate any funds appropriated in excess  
63 of five hundred thousand dollars for the program among the five area  
64 agencies on aging according to need, as determined by the  
65 commissioner.

66 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 17a-780 of the general statutes is  
67 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
68 *2023*):

69 (g) The Department of Aging and Disability Services is designated as  
70 the State Unit on Aging to administer, manage, design and advocate for  
71 benefits, programs and services for older persons and their families  
72 pursuant to the Older Americans Act. The department shall study  
73 continuously the conditions and needs of older persons in this state in  
74 relation to nutrition, transportation, home care, housing, income,  
75 employment, health, recreation and other matters. The department shall  
76 be responsible, in cooperation with federal, state, local and area  
77 planning agencies on aging, for the overall planning, development and

78 administration of a comprehensive and integrated social service  
79 delivery system for older persons. The Department of Aging and  
80 Disability Services is designated as the state agency for the  
81 administration of nutritional programs for elderly persons described in  
82 section 17a-852, the fall prevention program described in section 17a-  
83 859, the CHOICES program described in section 17a-857, the Aging and  
84 Disability Resource Center Program described in section 17a-858 and  
85 the Alzheimer's [respite] disease respite care program described in  
86 section [17b-860] 17a-860, as amended by this act.

87       Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The sum of one million dollars is  
88 appropriated to the Department of Aging and Disability Services from  
89 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to expand  
90 access to the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

91       (b) The sum of one million dollars is appropriated to the Department  
92 of Aging and Disability Services from the General Fund, for the fiscal  
93 year ending June 30, 2025, to expand access to the Alzheimer's disease  
94 respite care program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-860
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-780(g)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase the number of persons eligible for the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*