



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 978***

LCO No. 3841



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE COVERED CONNECTICUT PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-312 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek, in accordance  
4 with the provisions of section 17b-8 and in consultation with the  
5 Insurance Commissioner and the Office of Health Strategy established  
6 under section 19a-754a, a waiver under Section 1115 of the Social  
7 Security Act, as amended from time to time, to [seek] obtain federal  
8 funds to support the Covered Connecticut program established under  
9 section 19a-754c. Upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and  
10 Medicaid Services, the Commissioner of Social Services shall implement  
11 the waiver.

12 (b) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section,  
13 the commissioner shall amend the waiver submitted in accordance with  
14 subsection (a) of this section, to the extent permissible under federal law  
15 and in accordance with section 17b-8, to provide coverage through the

16 Covered Connecticut program to persons otherwise qualified for the  
17 program whose income does not exceed two hundred per cent of the  
18 federal poverty level. The commissioner shall consult with the  
19 Insurance Commissioner and the executive director of the Office of  
20 Health Strategy in submitting the waiver amendment.

21       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than sixty days after  
22 the effective date of this section, the Commissioner of Social Services, in  
23 consultation with the Insurance Commissioner and the executive  
24 director of the Office of Health Strategy established under section 19a-  
25 754a of the general statutes, shall develop a plan for a second tier of the  
26 Covered Connecticut program established pursuant to section 19a-574c  
27 of the general statutes. The plan shall provide state-assisted health care  
28 coverage for persons otherwise qualified for the program whose income  
29 exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level but does not  
30 exceed three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.

31       (b) The plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may  
32 include (1) reduced benefits from the Covered Connecticut program,  
33 provided such benefits are in accordance with the requirements of the  
34 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended  
35 by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, P.L. 111-152, as  
36 both may be amended from time to time, and regulations adopted  
37 thereunder, and (2) income-based copayments by enrollees.

38       (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit the plan  
39 developed in accordance with this section to the joint standing  
40 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
41 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human  
42 services and insurance. Not later than thirty days after the date of their  
43 receipt of such plan, the joint standing committees shall hold a public  
44 hearing on the plan. At the conclusion of a public hearing held in  
45 accordance with the provisions of this section, the joint standing  
46 committees shall advise the commissioner of their approval, denial or  
47 modifications, if any, of the commissioner's plan. If the joint standing  
48 committees advise the commissioner of their denial of approval, the

49 commissioner shall not implement the plan. If such committees do not  
 50 concur, the committee chairpersons shall appoint a committee of  
 51 conference which shall be composed of three members from each joint  
 52 standing committee. At least one member appointed from each joint  
 53 standing committee shall be a member of the minority party. The report  
 54 of the committee of conference shall be made to each joint standing  
 55 committee, which shall vote to accept or reject the report. The report of  
 56 the committee of conference may not be amended. If a joint standing  
 57 committee rejects the report of the committee of conference, that joint  
 58 standing committee shall notify the commissioner of the rejection and  
 59 the commissioner's plan shall be deemed approved. If the joint standing  
 60 committees accept the report, the committee having cognizance of  
 61 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies  
 62 shall advise the commissioner of their approval, denial or modifications,  
 63 if any, of the commissioner's plan. If the joint standing committees do  
 64 not so advise the commissioner during the thirty-day period, the plan  
 65 shall be deemed denied. Any implementation of the plan developed  
 66 pursuant to this section shall be in accordance with the approval or  
 67 modifications, if any, of the joint standing committees of the General  
 68 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and  
 69 the budgets of state agencies, human services and insurance.

70 (d) To the extent permissible under federal law, the commissioner  
 71 may seek approval of a Medicaid waiver in accordance with section 17b-  
 72 8 of the general statutes to obtain federal financial participation for the  
 73 plan developed pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-312
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Social Services to (1) amend a federal Medicaid waiver program to expand health care coverage to persons whose earnings do not exceed two hundred per cent of the federal

poverty level, and (2) develop a second tier of such program to cover persons whose earnings are between two hundred per cent and three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.

*[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.]*