



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 8476



Offered by:  
REP. CASE, 63<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1110

File No. 443

Cal. No. 558

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD-PARTY  
MEDICAID PAYMENT REIMBURSEMENTS, VENDOR PAYMENT  
STANDARDS IN THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM AND MEDICAID PAYMENTS FOR MATERNITY  
SERVICES."**

---

1 Strike section 4 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 4. Section 16a-41a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit to the joint  
5 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
6 energy planning and activities, appropriations, and human services the  
7 following on the implementation of the block grant program authorized  
8 under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as  
9 amended:

10 (1) Not later than August first, annually, a Connecticut energy

11 assistance program annual plan which establishes guidelines for the use  
12 of funds authorized under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance  
13 Act of 1981, as amended, and includes the following:

14 (A) Criteria for determining which households are to receive  
15 emergency assistance;

16 (B) A description of systems used to ensure referrals to other energy  
17 assistance programs and the taking of simultaneous applications, as  
18 required under section 16a-41;

19 (C) A description of outreach efforts;

20 (D) Estimates of the total number of households eligible for assistance  
21 under the program and the number of households in which one or more  
22 elderly or physically disabled individuals eligible for assistance reside;

23 (E) Design of a basic grant for eligible households that does not  
24 discriminate against such households based on the type of energy used  
25 for heating; and

26 (F) A payment plan for fuel deliveries beginning November 1, [2018]  
27 2023, that ensures a vendor of deliverable fuel who completes deliveries  
28 authorized by a community action agency that contracts with the  
29 commissioner to administer a fuel assistance program is [paid] provided  
30 the option to be paid electronically by the community action agency and  
31 is paid not later than [thirty business] ten days after the date the  
32 community action agency receives an authorized fuel slip or invoice for  
33 payment from the vendor;

34 (2) Not later than January thirtieth, annually, a report covering the  
35 preceding months of the program year, including:

36 (A) In each community action agency geographic area, the number of  
37 fuel assistance applications filed, approved and denied, and the number  
38 of emergency assistance requests made, approved and denied;

39 (B) In each such area, the total amount of fuel and emergency

40 assistance, itemized by such type of assistance, and total expenditures  
41 to date;

42 (C) For each state-wide office of each state agency administering the  
43 program and each community action agency, administrative expenses  
44 under the program, by line item, and an estimate of outreach  
45 expenditures; and

46 (D) A list of community action agencies that failed to make timely  
47 payments to vendors of deliverable fuel in the Connecticut energy  
48 assistance program and the steps taken by the commissioner to ensure  
49 future timely payments by such agencies; and

50 (3) Not later than November first, annually, a report covering the  
51 preceding twelve calendar months, including:

52 (A) In each community action agency geographic area, (i) seasonal  
53 totals for the categories of data submitted under subdivision (1) of this  
54 subsection, (ii) the number of households receiving fuel assistance in  
55 which elderly or physically disabled individuals reside, and (iii) the  
56 average combined benefit level of fuel, emergency and renter assistance;

57 (B) The number of homeowners and tenants whose heat or total  
58 energy costs are not included in their rent receiving fuel and emergency  
59 assistance under the program by benefit level;

60 (C) The number of homeowners and tenants whose heat is included  
61 in their rent and who are receiving assistance, by benefit level; and

62 (D) The number of households receiving assistance, by energy type  
63 and total expenditures for each energy type.

64 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement a program  
65 to purchase deliverable fuel for low-income households participating in  
66 the Connecticut energy assistance program and the state-appropriated  
67 fuel assistance program. The commissioner shall ensure an adequate  
68 supply of vendors for the program by (1) establishing county and  
69 regional pricing standards for deliverable fuel, (2) reimbursing fuel

70 providers based on the price of the fuel on the date of delivery, (3)  
71 establishing a discount on the vendor's retail price, and (4) allowing a  
72 vendor to electronically submit an authorized fuel slip or invoice for  
73 payment.

74 (c) The commissioner shall ensure that no fuel vendor discriminates  
75 against fuel assistance program recipients who are under the vendor's  
76 standard payment, delivery, service or other similar plans. The  
77 commissioner may take advantage of programs offered by fuel vendors  
78 that reduce the cost of the fuel purchased, including, but not limited to,  
79 fixed price, capped price, prepurchase or summer-fill programs that  
80 reduce program cost and that make the maximum use of program  
81 revenues. As funding allows, the commissioner shall ensure that all  
82 agencies administering the fuel assistance program shall make  
83 payments to program fuel vendors in advance of the delivery of energy  
84 where vendor provided price-management strategies require payments  
85 in advance.

86 [(c)] (d) Each community action agency administering a fuel  
87 assistance program shall submit reports, as requested by the  
88 Commissioner of Social Services, concerning pricing information from  
89 vendors of deliverable fuel participating in the program. Such  
90 information shall include, but not be limited to, the state-wide or  
91 regional retail price per unit of deliverable fuel, the reduced price per  
92 unit paid by the state for the deliverable fuel in utilizing price  
93 management strategies offered by program vendors for all consumers,  
94 the number of units delivered to the state under the program and the  
95 total savings under the program due to the purchase of deliverable fuel  
96 utilizing price-management strategies offered by program vendors for  
97 all consumers.

98 [(d)] (e) If funding allows, the Commissioner of Social Services, in  
99 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,  
100 shall require that, each community action agency administering a fuel  
101 assistance program begin accepting applications for the program not  
102 later than September first of each year.

103        [(e)] (f) Not later than November 1, [2018] 2023, the Commissioner of  
 104 Social Services shall require each community action agency  
 105 administering a fuel assistance program to make payment to a vendor  
 106 of deliverable fuel not later than [thirty] ten days after the community  
 107 action agency receives an authorized fuel slip or invoice for payment  
 108 from the vendor and to give the vendor the options of (1) being paid  
 109 electronically, and (2) submitting electronically an authorized fuel slip  
 110 or invoice for payment.

111        [(f)] (g) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit each plan  
 112 or report described in subsection (a) of this section to the Low-Income  
 113 Energy Advisory Board, established pursuant to section 16a-41b, not  
 114 later than seven days prior to submitting such plan or report to the joint  
 115 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 116 matters relating to energy and technology, appropriations and human  
 117 services."

118

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	16a-41a