



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 205**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT ELIMINATING INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS IN THE MED-CONNECT PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-597 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) The Department of Social Services shall establish and implement  
4 a working persons with disabilities program to provide medical  
5 assistance as authorized under 42 USC 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii), as amended  
6 from time to time, to persons who are disabled and regularly employed.

7 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid  
8 state plan to allow persons specified in subsection (a) of this section to  
9 qualify for medical assistance. The amendment shall include the  
10 following requirements: (1) That the person be engaged in a substantial  
11 and reasonable work effort as determined by the commissioner and as  
12 permitted by federal law and have an annual adjusted gross income, as  
13 defined in Section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any  
14 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,  
15 as amended from time to time, of [no] not more than [seventy-five]  
16 eighty-five thousand dollars [per year] for the fiscal year ending June  
17 30, 2025; (2) a disregard of all countable income up to two hundred per  
18 cent of the federal poverty level; (3) for an unmarried person, an asset

19 limit of [ten] twenty thousand dollars, and for a married couple, an asset  
20 limit of [fifteen] thirty thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June  
21 30, 2025; (4) a disregard of any retirement and medical savings accounts  
22 established pursuant to 26 USC 220 and held by either the person or the  
23 person's spouse; (5) a disregard of any moneys in accounts designated  
24 by the person or the person's spouse for the purpose of purchasing  
25 goods or services that will increase the employability of such person,  
26 subject to approval by the commissioner; (6) a disregard of spousal  
27 income solely for purposes of determination of eligibility; and (7) a  
28 contribution of any countable income of the person or the person's  
29 spouse which exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level,  
30 as adjusted for the appropriate family size, equal to ten per cent of the  
31 excess minus any premiums paid from income for health insurance by  
32 any family member, but which does not exceed the maximum  
33 contribution allowable under Section 201(a)(3) of Public Law 106-170, as  
34 amended from time to time.

35 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,  
36 on and after July 1, 2025, the commissioner shall phase in the elimination  
37 of income and asset limits for a participant in the program over four  
38 fiscal years by annually increasing (1) the income limit prescribed in  
39 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section by ten thousand dollars,  
40 and (2) the asset limit prescribed in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of  
41 this section by ten thousand dollars for an unmarried person and fifteen  
42 thousand dollars for a married couple. On and after July 1, 2028, there  
43 shall be no income or asset limit for eligibility for the program.

44 [(c)] (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement the  
45 policies and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
46 section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in  
47 regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is  
48 [published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after  
49 implementation] posted on the eRegulations System in accordance with  
50 section 17b-10. The commissioner shall define "countable income" for  
51 purposes of subsection (b) of this section which shall take into account

52 impairment-related work expenses as defined in the Social Security Act.  
53 Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final  
54 regulations are effective.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-597

**HS**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP