



House of Representatives

File No. 941

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File Nos. 467 and 913)

Substitute House Bill No. 7103
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 21, 2025

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available
4 appropriations, administer a Medicaid waiver program pursuant to
5 Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act to provide home and
6 community-based services for persons who are institutionalized or at
7 risk of institutionalization and who (1) are [twenty-one] eighteen years
8 of age or younger; (2) have a physical disability and may also have a co-
9 occurring developmental disability; and (3) meet the financial eligibility
10 criteria established in the waiver.

11 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section
12 and section 3 of this act, the "Katie Beckett Waiver Program" means the

13 Medicaid waiver program established pursuant to section 17b-283 of the
14 general statutes, as amended by this act. Not later than January 1, 2026,
15 the Commissioner of Social Services shall make available on the Internet
16 web site of the Department of Social Services:

17 (1) Information on eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett Waiver
18 Program, including any income or asset thresholds;

19 (2) A summary of services available under the program;

20 (3) A listing with contact information for family support groups and
21 advocacy groups for children and young adults with severe debilitating
22 diseases or conditions;

23 (4) A listing of other Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state
24 plan services that offer services for such children and young adults,
25 including eligibility criteria for such programs; and

26 (5) A listing of private organizations and state programs that may
27 offer funding for home modification or adaptive equipment for persons
28 with disabilities, including a link to the Internet web site of the
29 Department of Aging and Disability Services for information on
30 adaptive equipment purchases pursuant to section 17a-788 of the
31 general statutes or assistive technology loans pursuant to section 17a-
32 795 of the general statutes.

33 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall include information on
34 eligibility criteria and provider reimbursement rates for the Katie
35 Beckett Waiver Program in Medicaid provider bulletins.

36 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall annually administer a
37 survey via electronic mail or mail to applicants who are on the waiting
38 list for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program. The survey shall be designed
39 to allow applicants to confirm or update demographic information and
40 choose to remain on the waiting list or be removed. Applicants who do
41 not respond shall remain on the waiting list.

42 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services

43 shall develop a five-year plan to eliminate the waiting list for the Katie
44 Beckett Waiver Program and add home modification coverage for
45 waiver participants with disabilities through the program.

46 (b) Not later than October 1, 2026, the commissioner shall file a report,
47 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
48 on the plan with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
49 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets
50 of state agencies and human services. The report shall include
51 recommendations concerning state appropriations needed to
52 implement the plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-283
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill changes the maximum age for individuals on the Katie Beckett waiver from 21 to 18 years of age. As participants on the waiver are eligible for Medicaid services under HUSKY C after turning age 18, this creates a shift in program costs. To the extent the shift to HUSKY C creates an opening for individuals to be served on the waiver from the wait list earlier than they otherwise would have, the Department of Social Services (DSS) will incur related costs. For context, the average state cost per client is approximately \$25,500 annually.

House "A", which also requires DSS to make certain information available on the agency web site and annually administer a survey to individuals on the waiver wait list, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7103 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to (1) develop a five-year plan to eliminate the waiting list for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program and add home modification coverage as a service offered through the program and (2) report by October 1, 2026, to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on recommended state appropriations needed to implement the plan. The Katie Beckett program is a Medicaid waiver that allows children with severe physical disabilities to be eligible for Medicaid home- and community-based care. According to DSS, 331 people are currently on the waitlist.

The bill also lowers the maximum age for Katie Beckett participants from 21 to 18. (At age 18, people in this group become eligible for coverage under a different Medicaid program.)

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to include information on eligibility criteria and provider reimbursement rates for the waiver program in its Medicaid provider bulletins. It also requires DSS to post certain program information on its website.

Lastly, the bill requires DSS to annually administer a survey, via mail or e-mail, to applicants on the program's waiting list. The survey must let applicants confirm or update demographic information and choose to remain on the waiting list or be removed. Under the bill, applicants who do not respond to the survey must remain on the waiting list.

*House Amendment “A” (1) extends the deadline for DSS’s report on its five-year plan by one year, (2) adds requirements for DSS’s website and annual survey of applicants on the waitlist, and (3) removes a provision in the underlying bill requiring DSS to create a brochure on the program and distribute it to Medicaid providers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the change to the maximum participant age is effective July 1, 2025.

DSS WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to publish the following information on the department’s website by January 1, 2026:

1. eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett Waiver program, including any income or asset thresholds;
2. a summary of available services under the program;
3. a list of contact information for family support groups and advocacy groups for children and young adults with severe debilitating diseases or conditions;
4. a list of other Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state plan services that offer services for children and young adults described above and eligibility criteria for these programs;
5. a list of private organizations and state programs that may offer funding for home modification or adaptive equipment for people with disabilities; and
6. a link to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) website for information on adaptive equipment purchases or assistive technology loans.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 467) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported out a substitute that eliminated provisions

in the underlying bill that would have required DSS to establish a website for the Katie Beckett program with a portal that could provide initial eligibility screening and waitlist updates.

Related Bill

sSB 1158 (File 153), favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, renames ADS as the Department of Disability Services and creates a new Department on Aging.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/13/2025)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (05/05/2025)