



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7104

LCO No. 5440



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE THE BENEFITS
CLIFF.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2025*):

4 (d) (1) Under said program, no family shall be eligible that has total
5 gross earnings exceeding the federal poverty level, however, in the
6 calculation of the benefit amount for eligible families and previously
7 eligible families that become ineligible temporarily because of receipt of
8 workers' compensation benefits by a family member who subsequently
9 returns to work immediately after the period of receipt of such benefits,
10 earned income shall be disregarded up to the federal poverty level. On
11 and after October 1, 2023, the commissioner shall not deny a family
12 assistance under said program on the basis of such family's assets unless
13 such assets exceed six thousand dollars. Except when determining
14 eligibility for a six-month extension of benefits pursuant to subsection
15 (c) of this section, the commissioner shall disregard the first fifty dollars

16 per month of income attributable to current child support that a family
17 receives in determining eligibility and benefit levels for temporary
18 family assistance. Any current child support in excess of fifty dollars per
19 month collected by the department on behalf of an eligible child shall be
20 considered in determining eligibility but shall not be considered when
21 calculating benefits and shall be taken as reimbursement for assistance
22 paid under this section, except that when the current child support
23 collected exceeds the family's monthly award of temporary family
24 assistance benefits plus fifty dollars, the current child support shall be
25 paid to the family and shall be considered when calculating benefits.

26 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
27 subsection, on and after January 1, 2024, in the first month in which a
28 family's total gross earnings exceed one hundred per cent of the federal
29 poverty level and for a period not to exceed six consecutive months, the
30 department shall disregard, for purposes of eligibility, a family's total
31 gross earnings in an amount not to exceed two hundred thirty per cent
32 of the federal poverty level. If a family's total gross earnings are an
33 amount between one hundred seventy-one per cent and two hundred
34 thirty per cent of the federal poverty level, the department shall reduce
35 the household's benefit by twenty per cent for the months in which
36 earnings are between one hundred seventy-one per cent and two
37 hundred thirty per cent of the federal poverty level.

38 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
39 subsection, the commissioner shall disregard any financial assistance
40 received by a family member to the extent the commissioner determines
41 that such financial assistance was provided to the family member as part
42 of such family member's participation in a pilot program that has
43 developed a plan to study and evaluate the impact and potential
44 benefits of direct cash transfers. Such disregard shall be applied for the
45 length of time the family member participates in such program, not to
46 exceed sixty cumulative months. Any pilot program subject to the
47 provisions of this section shall have received approval from the
48 Department of Social Services to conduct such pilot program based on

49 the department's ability to receive required waivers for such income
50 disregards in applicable federal and state benefits programs. The
51 department shall maintain a listing of approved pilot programs for use
52 by the public and for use by department staff when determining
53 continuing eligibility of participants in existing benefits programs. The
54 department shall require an approved pilot program to (A) inform
55 potential participants, in writing in advance of participation in the pilot
56 program, of the potential impact of their participation on their current
57 and future eligibility for federal and state benefits, and (B) include
58 contact information in such written document to allow such participants
59 to obtain additional information or guidance on the impact of pilot
60 program participation on their eligibility for such benefits.

61 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
62 subsection, the commissioner shall disregard from an income eligibility
63 determination any stipend received by a family member as part of such
64 family member's participation in a job training program approved by
65 the commissioner, including, but not limited to, payments from
66 programs offered by or through the Office of Workforce Strategy
67 established pursuant to section 4-124w, the Bureau of Rehabilitation
68 Services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services or a
69 private not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation under
70 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
71 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
72 as amended from time to time. Such disregard shall be applied for the
73 length of time the family member participates in such program, not to
74 exceed thirty-six cumulative months.

75 *Sec. 2. (Effective from passage) (a) For purposes of this section, "benefits*
76 *cliff" means the loss or decrease of public assistance program benefits*
77 *when a beneficiary's income exceeds eligibility thresholds. The*
78 *Department of Social Services and the Office of Early Childhood, in*
79 *consultation with the Departments of Housing and Labor, the Office of*
80 *Workforce Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124w of the*
81 *general statutes, and the two-generational initiative, established*

82 pursuant to section 17b-112~~l~~ of the general statutes, may establish a pilot
83 program to implement the recommendations of the report concerning
84 benefits cliffs that was produced in accordance with special act 24-8.

85 (b) To the extent permissible under federal law, the Commissioner of
86 Social Services shall disregard any income received from such pilot
87 program in determining income eligibility for certain state and federal
88 assistance programs, including, but not limited to, temporary family
89 assistance. The Department of Social Services and Office of Early
90 Childhood may seek any waiver from federal law deemed necessary to
91 implement said recommendations and may pursue funding for such
92 pilot program from any governmental or nongovernmental source.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-112(d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage participation among public assistance beneficiaries in job training and pilot cash assistance programs by mitigating the effects of such programs on eligibility for public assistance.

[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.]