



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 49**

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 286

*Senate, March 17, 2026*

The Committee on Aging reported through SEN. HOCHADEL of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CERTAIN CHILDREN.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112 of the 2026 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (a) (1) The Department of Social Services shall administer a  
5 temporary family assistance program under which cash assistance shall  
6 be provided to eligible families in accordance with the temporary  
7 assistance for needy families program, established pursuant to the  
8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
9 1996. The Commissioner of Social Services may operate portions of the  
10 temporary family assistance program as a solely state-funded program,  
11 separate from the federal temporary assistance for needy families  
12 program, if the commissioner determines that doing so will enable the  
13 state to avoid fiscal penalties under the temporary assistance for needy

14 families program. Families receiving assistance under the solely state-  
15 funded portion of the temporary family assistance program shall be  
16 subject to the same conditions of eligibility as those receiving assistance  
17 under the federal temporary assistance for needy families program.  
18 Under the temporary family assistance program, benefits shall be  
19 provided to a family for not longer than thirty-six months, except as  
20 provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. For the purpose of  
21 calculating said thirty-six-month time limit, months of assistance  
22 received on and after January 1, 1996, pursuant to time limits under the  
23 aid to families with dependent children program, shall be included. For  
24 purposes of this section, "family" means one or more individuals who  
25 apply for or receive assistance together under the temporary family  
26 assistance program. If the commissioner determines that federal law  
27 allows individuals not otherwise in an eligible covered group for the  
28 temporary family assistance program to become covered, such family  
29 may also, at the discretion of the commissioner, be composed of [(1)] (A)  
30 a pregnant woman, or [(2)] (B) a parent, both parents or other caretaker  
31 relative and at least one child who is under the age of eighteen, or who  
32 is under the age of nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary  
33 school or its equivalent. A caretaker relative shall be related to the child  
34 or children by blood, marriage or adoption or shall be the legal guardian  
35 of such a child or pursuing legal proceedings necessary to achieve  
36 guardianship. If the commissioner elects to allow state eligibility  
37 consistent with any change in federal law, the commissioner may  
38 administratively transfer any qualifying family cases under the cash  
39 assistance portion of the state-administered general assistance program  
40 to the temporary family assistance program without regard to usual  
41 eligibility and enrollment procedures. If such families become an  
42 ineligible coverage group under the federal law, the commissioner shall  
43 administratively transfer such families back to the cash assistance  
44 portion of the state-administered general assistance program without  
45 regard to usual eligibility and enrollment procedures to the degree that  
46 such families are eligible for the state program.

47 (2) To the extent permissible under federal law, the payment  
48 standard for a family that receives benefits under the temporary family

49 assistance program, and in which the head of the household is a  
50 nonparent caretaker relative and the legal guardian of a child, shall be  
51 equal to the prevailing monthly foster care rate per child, based on the  
52 child's age and medical condition, paid by the Department of Children  
53 and Families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	17b-112(a)

**AGE**      *Joint Favorable*

*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 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	At least 6.6 million	At least 7.1 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill will result in a cost of at least \$6.6 million in FY 27 and \$7.1 million in FY 28 to the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program.

The bill increases the payment standard for households headed by a nonparent caretaker relative with legal guardianship to match prevailing monthly foster care rates, based on the child's age and medical condition.

The bill does not specify which foster care reimbursement category will be used to set the TFA payment standard. Based on projected average monthly foster care rates of \$877 for FY 27 and \$903 for FY 28, the bill is expected to increase DSS annual costs by at least \$6.6 million and \$7.1 million, respectively.

Current average monthly TFA rates for family units range from \$525 for a family with one child to an average of \$893 for a family with three or more children. The cost to the state will be more for children with higher needs and associated services. For context, the average monthly foster care rate for a child with medically complex needs is

approximately \$1,657.

The actual cost will depend on: (1) the number of individuals impacted and (2) the foster care rate used as the basis for the TFA payment.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to: (1) the number of individuals impacted and (2) the foster care rate used as the basis for the TFA payment.

*Sources: Department of Children and Families Foster Care Rates  
Department of Social Services Caseload Data*

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**SB 286**

***AN ACT INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CERTAIN CHILDREN.***

**SUMMARY**

To the extent allowed by federal law, this bill increases the temporary family assistance (TFA) payment to families with a head of household who is (1) a nonparent caretaker relative (e.g., grandparent) and (2) the legal guardian of a child. It does this by making the TFA payment equal to the prevailing monthly foster care rate for families based on the child’s age and medical condition.

Generally, nonparent caretaker relatives may qualify for financial assistance through the departments of children and families (DCF) or social services (DSS). Those who become guardians of foster children through DCF (i.e. Subsidized Guardianship Program) receive a larger payment than those who become guardians of children not involved in the child welfare system and receive a TFA payment for the child from DSS.

DCF payments equal the prevailing monthly foster care rate, which varies based on the child’s age and medical condition. TFA payments vary by family size.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)