



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5557

LCO No. 2808



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 1-1g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) Except as otherwise provided by statute, "intellectual disability"
4 [means a significant limitation in intellectual functioning existing
5 concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior that originated during
6 the developmental period before eighteen years of age] has the same
7 meaning as provided in the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric
8 Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

9 (b) [As used in subsection (a) of this section, "significant limitation in
10 intellectual functioning" means an intelligence quotient more than two
11 standard deviations below the mean as measured by tests of general
12 intellectual functioning that are individualized, standardized and
13 clinically and culturally appropriate to the individual; and "adaptive
14 behavior" means the effectiveness or degree with which an individual
15 meets the standards of personal independence and social responsibility

16 expected for the individual's age and cultural group as measured by
17 tests that are individualized, standardized and clinically and culturally
18 appropriate to the individual.] No person eligible for or receiving
19 services on and after July 1, 2026, under this section or any other
20 provision of the general statutes that adopts the definition of intellectual
21 disability in this section shall be deprived of services or experience a
22 reduction in benefits as a result of any change in eligibility criteria and
23 accompanying agency guidelines and protocols relating to such
24 definition.

25 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 19a-290 of the general statutes is
26 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
27 *2026*):

28 (a) As used in this section:

29 (1) "Anatomical gift" means a donation of all or part of a human body
30 to take effect after the donor's death for the purpose of transplantation;

31 (2) "Intellectual disability" [means a significant limitation in
32 intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive
33 behavior that originated during the developmental period before
34 eighteen years of age] has the same meaning as provided in section 1-
35 1g, as amended by this act;

36 (3) "Mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as
37 defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric
38 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

39 (4) "Organ" means all or part of a human liver, pancreas, kidney,
40 intestine or lung; and

41 (5) "Physical disability" means any chronic physical handicap,
42 infirmity or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily
43 injury, organic processes or changes or from illness, including, but not
44 limited to, blindness, epilepsy, deafness or being hard of hearing or

45 reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device.

46 Sec. 3. (Effective July 1, 2026) (a) The Commissioner of Developmental
47 Services, in collaboration with the Council on Developmental Services,
48 shall review and amend, if necessary, eligibility criteria for persons with
49 an intellectual disability, as defined in section 1-1g of the general
50 statutes, as amended by this act, to receive state-administered services.

51 (b) In conducting such review, the Commissioner of Developmental
52 Services shall solicit input from stakeholders, including, but not limited
53 to, persons with intellectual disability, their parents or other advocates.
54 The commissioner shall also study service models in other states for best
55 practices.

56 (c) Not later than December 1, 2026, the commissioner shall file a
57 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
58 statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
59 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets
60 of state agencies, human services and public health. The report shall
61 include, but need not be limited to:

- 62 (1) Recommendations for changes in eligibility criteria;
- 63 (2) Expected impact on the number of persons eligible for state-
64 administered services resulting from any changes in eligibility criteria;
- 65 (3) State costs associated with changes in eligibility criteria; and
- 66 (4) Best practices in other states to serve persons with intellectual
67 disability or developmental disabilities, or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	1-1g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	19a-290(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To modify eligibility criteria for assistance programs administered by the Department of Developmental Services.

[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.]