



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 500**

LCO No. 2358



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-FUNDED CAREGIVER PROGRAM  
TO ASSIST PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM  
DISORDER.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17a-215c of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2026*):

4 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services may seek approval of an  
5 amendment to the Medicaid state plan or a waiver from federal law,  
6 whichever is sufficient and most expeditious, to establish and  
7 implement a Medicaid-financed home and community-based program  
8 to provide community-based services and, if necessary, housing  
9 assistance, to adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder but not  
10 with intellectual disability. Within available appropriations, the  
11 commissioner shall establish a caregiver respite program to assist  
12 parents of children enrolled in the Medicaid home and community-  
13 based waiver program by providing state-financed care of such  
14 children.

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-215c(d)
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide a state-funded caregiver program for parents of children enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program.

*[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.]*