



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 660

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 401

Senate, April 16, 2026

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A BRIDGE PROGRAM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO FOOD, HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "vulnerable persons" means veterans, homeless persons or persons at
3 risk of homelessness, adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder,
4 young adults aging out of the foster care system and persons age fifty-
5 five to sixty-four who are at risk of losing benefits under the Medicaid
6 and supplemental nutrition assistance programs and permanent
7 supportive housing assistance due to changes in work requirements
8 pursuant to P.L. 119-21 and proposed changes to United States
9 Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

10 (b) Not later than October 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social
11 Services, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Aging and
12 Disability Services, Children and Families, Housing and Mental Health
13 and Addiction Services and the Labor Commissioner, shall develop a
14 plan for a bridge program to provide state-funded medical assistance,

15 nutrition assistance, supportive housing and employment assistance
16 programs to vulnerable persons. The program shall:

17 (1) Supplement (A) current job support programs administered by
18 the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services within the Department of Aging
19 and Disability Services, (B) the Jobs First Employment Services program
20 for recipients of temporary family assistance, and (C) other employment
21 services offered by the state Labor Department for veterans and other
22 vulnerable persons to help such persons meet federal work
23 requirements and transition from permanent supportive housing
24 programs;

25 (2) Provide transitional state-funded medical assistance, nutrition
26 assistance and housing assistance equivalent to such assistance
27 vulnerable persons would have received until changes in federal law
28 and proposed changes in federal regulations;

29 (3) Recommend long-term housing solutions for vulnerable persons,
30 including, but not limited to, an inventory of state-owned property that
31 may be suitable for renovation and repurposing to provide housing
32 assistance; and

33 (4) Require uniform documentation of employability of vulnerable
34 persons after they receive employment assistance for purposes of
35 submission to the federal government for potential federal waivers of
36 work requirements.

37 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services
38 shall submit the plan for the bridge program, together with a calculation
39 of the amount of state appropriations needed to implement the bridge
40 program and a timeline for implementation, to the joint standing
41 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
42 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human
43 services, housing and labor.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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APP *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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which requires the Department of Social Services to collaborate with various agencies to develop a plan for a bridge program to provide state-funded medical, nutrition, and employment assistance as well as supportive housing to vulnerable persons and report to relevant committees by 1/1/27, has no fiscal impact as the agency has the necessary expertise to do so.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OFA Bill Analysis**SB 401*****AN ACT CONCERNING A BRIDGE PROGRAM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO FOOD, HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with the Departments of Aging and Disability Services, Children and Families, Housing, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Labor, to develop a plan for a bridge program to provide state-funded medical assistance, nutrition assistance, supportive housing and employment assistance programs to vulnerable persons. DSS must submit the plan, a calculation of state appropriations necessary for implementation and the associated timeline for such, to the Appropriations, Human Services, Housing and Labor committees by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: from passage

State-Funded Bridge Program

The bill requires that the bridge program serve vulnerable persons and do the following:

1. Supplement job training and employment services offered by the state to assist with meeting federal work requirements and transitions from permanent supportive housing programs;
2. Provide transitional state-funded medical assistance, nutrition assistance and housing assistance at the same level as prior to changes in federal law and proposed changes in federal regulations;
3. Recommend long-term housing solutions, including an inventory

of state-owned property that may be suitable for renovation and repurposing to provide housing assistance; and

4. Require uniform documentation of employability after receiving employment assistance, for purposes of submission to the federal government for potential federal waivers of work requirements.

Vulnerable Persons

Under the bill, “vulnerable persons” include veterans, homeless persons or persons at risk of homelessness, adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, young adults aging out of the foster care system and persons age fifty-five to sixty-four who are at risk of losing benefits under the Medicaid and supplemental nutrition assistance programs and permanent supportive housing assistance due to changes in work requirements pursuant to P.L. 119-21 and proposed changes to United States Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 43 Nay 8 (04/01/2026)