



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 5369**

LCO No. 1964



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING A BENEFITS CLIFF PILOT PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioners of Social  
2 Services, Housing and Early Childhood shall establish a benefits cliff  
3 mitigation pilot program to support the economic self-sufficiency of  
4 certain assistance program beneficiaries by gradually reducing, instead  
5 of automatically eliminating, assistance program benefits when income  
6 from employment causes such beneficiaries to exceed income eligibility  
7 thresholds for the assistance programs.

8 (b) The commissioners shall select pilot program participants on a  
9 randomized, controlled basis from beneficiaries of programs including,  
10 but not limited to: (1) The temporary family assistance program  
11 authorized pursuant to section 17b-112 of the general statutes, (2) the  
12 supplemental nutrition assistance program authorized pursuant to  
13 section 17b-105a of the general statutes, (3) the child care subsidy  
14 program authorized pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes,  
15 and (4) the rental assistance programs authorized pursuant to chapter  
16 138a of the general statutes. The commissioners shall design the pilot

17 program to ensure compliance with federal law regarding federal  
18 financial participation in the assistance programs.

19 (c) The pilot program shall last not more than one year from the date  
20 of its establishment. The commissioners may gradually step down  
21 benefits for assistance program beneficiaries whose income from  
22 employment causes such beneficiaries to lose eligibility for such  
23 benefits, with reductions in benefits for the months their income exceeds  
24 eligibility thresholds for the assistance programs.

25 (d) Not later than September 1, 2025, the commissioners shall file a  
26 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
27 statutes, on the pilot program with the joint standing committees of the  
28 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
29 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education, housing  
30 and human services. The report shall include the number of participants  
31 in the pilot program and the impact of the program on the economic  
32 self-sufficiency of such participants.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a pilot program to prevent immediate loss of benefits in certain public assistance programs for persons who exceed income thresholds due to employment.

*[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.]*