



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 82

January Session, 2023



AN ACT ELIMINATING INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS FOR THE MED-CONNECT HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR WORKING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-597 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) The Department of Social Services shall establish and implement
4 a working persons with disabilities program to provide medical
5 assistance as authorized under 42 USC 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii), as amended
6 from time to time, to persons who are disabled and regularly
7 employed.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid
9 state plan to allow persons specified in subsection (a) of this section to
10 qualify for medical assistance. The amendment shall [include the
11 following requirements: (1) That the person be engaged in a
12 substantial and reasonable work effort as determined by the
13 commissioner and as permitted by federal law and have an annual
14 adjusted gross income, as defined in Section 62 of the Internal Revenue
15 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
16 of the United States, as amended from time to time, of no more than
17 seventy-five thousand dollars per year; (2) a disregard of all countable
18 income up to two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level; (3) for

19 an unmarried person, an asset limit of ten thousand dollars, and for a
20 married couple, an asset limit of fifteen thousand dollars; (4) a
21 disregard of any retirement and medical savings accounts established
22 pursuant to 26 USC 220 and held by either the person or the person's
23 spouse; (5) a disregard of any moneys in accounts designated by the
24 person or the person's spouse for the purpose of purchasing goods or
25 services that will increase the employability of such person, subject to
26 approval by the commissioner; (6) a disregard of spousal income solely
27 for purposes of determination of eligibility; and (7)] require (1) that the
28 person be engaged in a substantial and reasonable work effort, as
29 determined by the commissioner and as permitted by federal law; and
30 (2) a contribution of any countable income of the person or the person's
31 spouse which exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty
32 level, as adjusted for the appropriate family size, equal to ten per cent
33 of the excess minus any premiums paid from income for health
34 insurance by any family member, but which does not exceed the
35 maximum contribution allowable under Section 201(a)(3) of Public
36 Law 106-170, as amended from time to time.

37 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement the policies
38 and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this section
39 while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in
40 regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is
41 [published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after
42 implementation] posted on the eRegulations System in accordance
43 with section 17b-10. The commissioner shall define "countable income"
44 for purposes of subsection (b) of this section which shall take into
45 account impairment-related work expenses as defined in the Social
46 Security Act. Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time
47 final regulations are effective.

48 Sec. 2. Section 17b-598 of the general statutes is repealed and the
49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

50 The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek a waiver from
51 federal law to permit a person participating in the program established

52 under section 17b-597, as amended by this act, to remain eligible for
53 medical assistance under the Medicaid program in the event such
54 person is unable to maintain a work effort for involuntary reasons. No
55 such person shall be required to make another application to
56 determine continued eligibility for medical assistance under the
57 Medicaid program. In order to remain eligible for such medical
58 assistance, such person shall (1) request that such assistance be
59 continued for a period not to exceed twelve months from the date of
60 the involuntary loss of employment, and (2) maintain a connection to
61 the workforce as determined by the commissioner during such period.
62 At the end of the twelve-month period, such person shall meet the
63 eligibility criteria for the Medicaid program, except that the
64 commissioner shall disregard [any assets specified in subdivisions (4)
65 and (5) of subsection (b) of section 17b-597] (A) any retirement and
66 medical savings accounts established pursuant to 26 USC 220 and held
67 by either the person or the person's spouse, and (B) any moneys in
68 accounts designated by the person or the person's spouse for the
69 purpose of purchasing goods or services that will increase the
70 employability of such person, subject to approval by the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	17b-597
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	17b-598

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*