



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

**Raised Bill No. 87**

LCO No. 1213



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD'S CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2020*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section and section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
3 act:

4 (1) "Victim of domestic violence" means a person who has been  
5 abused or subjected to extreme cruelty by: (A) Physical acts that resulted  
6 in or were threatened to result in physical injury; (B) sexual abuse; (C)  
7 sexual activity involving a child in the home; (D) being forced to  
8 participate in nonconsensual sexual acts or activities; (E) threats of or  
9 attempts at physical or sexual abuse; (F) mental abuse; or (G) neglect or  
10 deprivation of medical care; and

11 (2) "Alleged abuser" means the current or former spouse of a victim  
12 of domestic violence or the person with whom a victim of domestic  
13 violence has a dependent child or children.

14 (b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish an  
15 expedited approval process for applications to the child care subsidy  
16 program established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes,  
17 as amended by this act, for an applicant who is a parent of a child and  
18 alleging to be a victim of domestic violence. For the purpose of  
19 determining the eligibility of such applicant, the commissioner shall not  
20 consider the income or require documentation of the income of the  
21 alleged abuser of such applicant, provided the applicant does not reside  
22 with alleged abuser. The commissioner may require such applicant to  
23 provide a sworn statement attesting to such domestic violence or to  
24 submit to the commissioner any evidence of such domestic violence  
25 which may include, but is not limited to: (1) Police, government agency  
26 or court records; (2) documentation from a shelter worker, legal,  
27 medical, clerical or other professional from whom the applicant has  
28 sought assistance in dealing with such domestic violence; or (3) a  
29 statement from an individual with knowledge of the circumstances  
30 which provide the basis for the claim of domestic violence.

31 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the  
32 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to carry out the  
33 provisions of this section.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749 of the 2020 supplement to the  
35 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
36 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

37 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
38 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards  
39 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system  
40 with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary family  
41 assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities  
42 under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First" program, (B)  
43 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued  
44 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care  
45 subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income working families,  
46 (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted from the

47 Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of  
48 income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,  
49 [and] (F) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency, and  
50 (G) a parent alleging to be a victim of domestic violence in accordance  
51 with the provisions of section 1 of this act; (2) health and safety  
52 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a  
53 reimbursement system for child care services which account for  
54 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the  
55 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and unlicensed  
56 caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by licensed and  
57 unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen hours of annual  
58 in-service training or credentialing of child care directors and  
59 administrators, and program accreditation; (4) supplemental payment  
60 for special needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an  
61 annual rate review process for providers which assures that  
62 reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal access  
63 to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for  
64 participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an  
65 administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and  
66 abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments; (9) an  
67 extended period of program and payment eligibility when a parent who  
68 is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary interruption  
69 in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the  
70 child care subsidy program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise  
71 discretion in prioritizing within and between existing priority groups,  
72 including, but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as  
73 amended from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler,  
74 and (B) reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision  
75 (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion  
76 of this information in the annual report required to be issued annually  
77 by the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance  
78 with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to,  
79 family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such  
80 waiting list.

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

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	17b-749(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow a victim of domestic violence to access the child care subsidy program established by the Office of Early Childhood.

*[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.]*