



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 192

LCO No. 1461



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS AND SANCTIONS FOR TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BENEFICIARIES WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17b-688c of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2022*):

4 (b) In no event shall temporary family assistance be granted to an
5 applicant for such assistance, who is not exempt from participation in
6 the employment services program, prior to the applicant's attendance at
7 an initial scheduled employment services assessment interview and
8 participation in the development of an employment services plan. The
9 Department of Social Services shall [not delay temporary family
10 assistance to an applicant in cases where the department schedules]
11 promptly conduct an application interview with an applicant for
12 temporary family assistance to determine whether such applicant is
13 exempt from participation in the employment services program. If the
14 department determines that such applicant is not exempt, the

15 department shall schedule the initial employment services assessment
16 interview not later than ten business days after the date of the
17 application interview. In cases where the department does not schedule
18 the initial employment services assessment interview [more than]
19 within ten business days [after] of the date on which the application [for
20 assistance is made, or in cases where] interview was completed, or
21 where the Labor Department does not complete an employment
22 services plan for the benefit of the applicant within ten business days of
23 the date on which the applicant attends an employment services
24 assessment interview, the Department of Social Services shall not delay
25 granting temporary family assistance to an applicant who is otherwise
26 eligible for such assistance. The Commissioner of Social Services shall
27 refer any applicant denied temporary family assistance, who may be in
28 need of emergency benefits, to other services offered by the Department
29 of Social Services or community services that may be available to such
30 applicant. The Department of Social Services shall reduce the benefits
31 awarded to a family under the temporary family assistance program
32 when a member of the family who is required to participate in the
33 employment services program fails to comply with an employment
34 services requirement without good cause. [The first instance of
35 noncompliance with an employment services requirement shall result
36 in a twenty-five per cent reduction of such benefits for three consecutive
37 months. The second instance of noncompliance with such requirement
38 shall result in a thirty-five per cent reduction of such benefits for three
39 consecutive months. A third or subsequent instance of noncompliance
40 with such requirement shall result in the termination of such benefits
41 for three consecutive months.] The Department of Social Services shall
42 impose this reduction by excluding the noncompliant family member
43 from the household when calculating the family's monthly benefit. Such
44 exclusion shall continue until the noncompliant family member (1)
45 begins to comply with employment services requirements, (2) becomes
46 exempt from such requirements, or (3) demonstrates good cause for his
47 or her failure to comply with such requirements. If only one member of
48 a family is eligible for temporary family assistance and such member
49 fails without good cause to comply with an employment services

50 requirement, the department shall [terminate all benefits of such family
51 for three consecutive months Notwithstanding the provisions of this
52 subsection, the department shall terminate the benefits awarded to a
53 family under the temporary family assistance program if a member of
54 the family who is not exempt from the twenty-one-month time limit
55 specified in subsection (a) of section 17b-112 fails, without good cause,
56 to: (1) Attend any scheduled assessment appointment or interview
57 relating to the establishment of an employment services plan, except
58 that such individual's benefits shall be reinstated if the individual
59 attends a subsequently scheduled appointment or interview within
60 thirty days of the date on which the department has issued notification
61 to the individual that benefits have been terminated, or (2) comply with
62 an employment services requirement during a six-month extension of
63 benefits. Any individual who fails to comply with the provisions of
64 subdivision (1) of this subsection may submit a new application for such
65 benefits at any time after termination of benefits] reduce such family's
66 benefit by twenty-five per cent for each month such member fails to
67 comply.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2022	17b-688c(b)
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Social Services to assess temporary family assistance applicants for employment within ten business days of the date of an application interview and make changes in sanctions against temporary family assistance beneficiaries who fail to comply with employment services requirements.

[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.]