



Substitute Senate Bill No. 396

Public Act No. 24-99

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM.**

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

Section 1. Section 17a-851 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsections (e) and (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(NEW) (e) The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall disburse additional payments under the elderly nutrition program to any area agency on aging contracting with the department that has expended fifty per cent or more of the initial disbursement of funding under such contract. Within available appropriations, the department shall disburse additional payments not later than thirty days after the area agency on aging provides documentation prescribed by the department of such expenditures. The area agency on aging shall transfer additional payments not later than thirty days after receipt from the department to vendors that contract with the agency to participate in the elderly nutrition program. Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and human services on the feasibility of the department disbursing additional funds under an

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elderly nutrition program contract upon evidence that a contracting area agency on aging has expended twenty-five per cent or more of the initial disbursement of funding under the contract.

(NEW) (f) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall require each area agency on aging, in consultation with the chief elected officials of the municipalities and municipal agents for elderly persons appointed pursuant to section 7-127b within the area each agency serves, to develop a continuity of effort plan to minimize any disruption to benefits provided under the elderly nutrition program in such area when a provider leaves the program or there is a significant increase in service levels or demand for the program. Such plan shall include an area agency on aging applying for funding to support elderly nutrition program services through any available grant source. An area agency on aging shall, not later than January 1, 2025, submit such plan to the commissioner and notify, in writing, chief elected officials, municipal agents for the elderly and state and federal elected officials of the area such agency serves not later than ten business days after a significant increase in service levels or demand for the elderly nutrition program. The commissioner may withhold funding from an area agency on aging or take other remedial measures against such agency for violating any provision of this subsection.

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, in consultation with area agencies on aging, shall develop a plan to streamline the contracting process, related compliance reporting and eligibility and assessment forms used under the elderly nutrition program. The plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) providing a template or portal that elderly nutrition program providers can utilize to reduce redundancies in required reporting or applications, (2) the granting of automatic approval for services under the program based on a client eligibility assessment, and (3) modifications to client eligibility forms to require no more than the minimum information

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required under Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended from time to time.

(b) Not later than October 1, 2024, the commissioner shall file a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and human services.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 17b-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) No person shall, except for purposes directly connected with the administration of programs of the Department of Social Services and in accordance with the regulations of the commissioner, solicit, disclose, receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of, any list of the names of, or any information concerning, persons applying for or receiving assistance from the Department of Social Services or persons participating in a program administered by said department, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files or communications of the state or its subdivisions or agencies, or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties. The Commissioner of Social Services shall disclose (1) to any authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner such information directly related to unemployment compensation, administered pursuant to chapter 567 or information necessary for implementation of sections 17b-112l, 17b-688b, 17b-688c and 17b-688h and section 122 of public act 97-2 of the June 18 special session, (2) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services any information necessary for the implementation and operation of the basic needs supplement program, (3) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Administrative Services or the Commissioner of Emergency Services

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and Public Protection such information as the Commissioner of Social Services determines is directly related to and necessary for the Department of Administrative Services or the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for purposes of performing their functions of collecting social services recoveries and overpayments or amounts due as support in social services cases, investigating social services fraud or locating absent parents of public assistance recipients, (4) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Children and Families necessary information concerning a child or the immediate family of a child receiving services from the Department of Social Services, including safety net services, if (A) the Commissioner of Children and Families or the Commissioner of Social Services has determined that imminent danger to such child's health, safety or welfare exists to target the services of the family services programs administered by the Department of Children and Families, or (B) the Commissioner of Children and Families requires access to the federal Parent Locator Service established pursuant to 42 USC 653 in order to identify a parent or putative parent of a child, (5) to a town official or other contractor or authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner such information concerning an applicant for or a recipient of assistance under state-administered general assistance deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor Commissioner to carry out their respective responsibilities to serve such persons under the programs administered by the Labor Department that are designed to serve applicants for or recipients of state-administered general assistance, (6) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the purposes of the behavioral health managed care program established by section 17a-453, (7) to any authorized representative of the Commissioner of Early Childhood to carry out his or her respective responsibilities under the two-generational academic achievement and workforce readiness initiative established pursuant to section 17b-112l and programs that regulate child care services or youth camps, (8) to a

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health insurance provider, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information concerning a child and the custodial parent of such child that is necessary to enroll such child in a health insurance plan available through such provider when the noncustodial parent of such child is under court order to provide health insurance coverage but is unable to provide such information, provided the Commissioner of Social Services determines, after providing prior notice of the disclosure to such custodial parent and an opportunity for such parent to object, that such disclosure is in the best interests of the child, (9) to any authorized representative of the Department of Correction, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary to identify inmates or parolees with IV-D support cases who may benefit from Department of Correction educational, training, skill building, work or rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase an inmate's or parolee's ability to fulfill such inmate's support obligation, (10) to any authorized representative of the Judicial Branch, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary to: (A) Identify noncustodial parents with IV-D support cases who may benefit from educational, training, skill building, work or rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase such parent's ability to fulfill such parent's support obligation, (B) assist in the administration of the Title IV-D child support program, or (C) assist in the identification of cases involving family violence, (11) to any authorized representative of the State Treasurer, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information that is necessary to identify child support obligors who owe overdue child support prior to the Treasurer's payment of such obligors' claim for any property unclaimed or presumed abandoned under part III of chapter 32, [or] (12) to any authorized representative of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management any information necessary for the implementation

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and operation of the renters rebate program established by section 12-170d, or (13) to any authorized representative of the Department of Aging and Disability Services, or to an area agency on aging contracting with said department to provide services under the elderly nutrition program, information on persons enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program who have requested or been recommended to receive elderly nutrition program services. No such representative shall disclose any information obtained pursuant to this section, except as specified in this section. Any applicant for assistance provided through [said department] the Department of Social Services shall be notified that, if and when such applicant receives benefits, the department will be providing law enforcement officials with the address of such applicant upon the request of any such official pursuant to section 17b-16a.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, upon a request from the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or from an area agency on aging contracting with the Department of Aging and Disability Services to provide services under the elderly nutrition program, shall provide information on whether a person who is eligible to receive services under the elderly nutrition program is receiving benefits from the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, shall develop a plan to maximize supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to support the elderly nutrition program. The plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) outreach to persons who may be eligible for both the elderly nutrition program and the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and (2) federally permissible uses of supplemental nutrition assistance benefits to fund meals provided to persons age sixty and over, persons with disabilities and such persons' households.

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(c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, shall file a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and human services.