



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

**Raised Bill No. 5096**

LCO No. 759



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:  
(AGE)

***AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
RESPITE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-349e of the 2020 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide  
6 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an individual  
7 with Alzheimer's disease.

8 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who has the responsibility for the care  
9 of an individual with Alzheimer's disease or has assumed the  
10 responsibility for such individual voluntarily, by contract or by order of  
11 a court of competent jurisdiction.

12 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an  
13 individual with Alzheimer's disease for respite care services.

14 (4) "Individual with Alzheimer's disease" means an individual with  
15 Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

16 (b) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall operate  
17 a program [, within available appropriations,] to provide respite care  
18 services for caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease,  
19 provided such individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the  
20 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite care  
21 services may include, but need not be limited to: (1) [homemaker]  
22 Homemaker services; (2) adult day care; (3) temporary care in a licensed  
23 medical facility; (4) home-health care; (5) companion services; or (6)  
24 personal care assistant services. Such respite care services may be  
25 administered directly by the Department of Aging and Disability  
26 Services, or through contracts for services with providers of such  
27 services, or by means of direct subsidy to caretakers of individuals with  
28 Alzheimer's disease to purchase such services.

29 (c) (1) No individual with Alzheimer's disease may participate in the  
30 program if such individual (A) has an annual income of more than  
31 [forty-one] fifty thousand dollars or liquid assets of more than one  
32 hundred [nine] twenty-seven thousand dollars, or (B) is receiving  
33 services under the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. [On  
34 July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall] The  
35 commissioner shall annually increase such income and asset eligibility  
36 criteria over that of the previous fiscal year to reflect the annual cost of  
37 living adjustment in Social Security income, if any.

38 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the  
39 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars for  
40 services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than thirty  
41 days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day care  
42 services under the program in any fiscal year, except that the  
43 commissioner shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
44 section to provide up to seven thousand five hundred dollars for  
45 services to a participant in the program who demonstrates a need for  
46 additional services.

47 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's  
48 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite  
49 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive  
50 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such  
51 individual.

52 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the  
53 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section.  
54 Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to (1) standards  
55 for eligibility for respite care services; (2) the basis for priority in  
56 receiving services; (3) qualifications and requirements of providers,  
57 which shall include specialized training in Alzheimer's disease,  
58 dementia and related disorders; (4) a requirement that providers  
59 accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare  
60 Organizations, when available, receive preference in contracting for  
61 services; (5) provider reimbursement levels; (6) limits on services and  
62 cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule for copayments.

63 (e) The commissioner may allocate any funds appropriated in excess  
64 of five hundred thousand dollars for the program among the five area  
65 agencies on aging according to need, as determined by the  
66 commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2020	17b-349e

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase access to the Alzheimer's disease respite program.

*[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.]*