



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Substitute Bill No. 6576**



**AN ACT STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) (1) The Department of Social Services shall administer a  
5 temporary family assistance program under which cash assistance  
6 shall be provided to eligible families in accordance with the temporary  
7 assistance for needy families program, established pursuant to the  
8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
9 1996. The Commissioner of Social Services may operate portions of the  
10 temporary family assistance program as a solely state-funded  
11 program, separate from the federal temporary assistance for needy  
12 families program, if the commissioner determines that doing so will  
13 enable the state to avoid fiscal penalties under the temporary  
14 assistance for needy families program. Families receiving assistance  
15 under the solely state-funded portion of the temporary family  
16 assistance program shall be subject to the same conditions of eligibility  
17 as those receiving assistance under the federal temporary assistance for  
18 needy families program. Under the temporary family assistance  
19 program, benefits shall be provided to a family for not longer than  
20 twenty-one months, except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of

21 this section. For the purpose of calculating said twenty-one-month  
22 time limit, months of assistance received on and after January 1, 1996,  
23 pursuant to time limits under the aid to families with dependent  
24 children program, shall be included. For purposes of this section,  
25 "family" means one or more individuals who apply for or receive  
26 assistance together under the temporary family assistance program. If  
27 the commissioner determines that federal law allows individuals not  
28 otherwise in an eligible covered group for the temporary family  
29 assistance program to become covered, such family may also, at the  
30 discretion of the commissioner, be composed of [(1)] (A) a pregnant  
31 woman, or [(2)] (B) a parent, both parents or other caretaker relative  
32 and at least one child who is under the age of eighteen, or who is  
33 under the age of nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary school  
34 or its equivalent. A caretaker relative shall be related to the child or  
35 children by blood, marriage or adoption or shall be the legal guardian  
36 of such a child or pursuing legal proceedings necessary to achieve  
37 guardianship. If the commissioner elects to allow state eligibility  
38 consistent with any change in federal law, the commissioner may  
39 administratively transfer any qualifying family cases under the cash  
40 assistance portion of the state-administered general assistance  
41 program to the temporary family assistance program without regard  
42 to usual eligibility and enrollment procedures. If such families become  
43 an ineligible coverage group under the federal law, the commissioner  
44 shall administratively transfer such families back to the cash assistance  
45 portion of the state-administered general assistance program without  
46 regard to usual eligibility and enrollment procedures to the degree that  
47 such families are eligible for the state program.

48 (2) To the extent permissible under federal law, the payment  
49 standard for a family that receives benefits under the temporary family  
50 assistance program, and in which the head of the household is a  
51 nonparent caretaker relative and the legal guardian of a child, shall be  
52 equal to the prevailing monthly foster care rate per child, based on the  
53 child's age and medical condition, paid by the Department of Children  
54 and Families.

55 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-4o of the general statutes is  
56 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
57 *October 1, 2023*):

58 (a) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the  
59 Department of Social Services, shall coordinate a family resource  
60 center program to provide comprehensive child care services, remedial  
61 educational and literacy services, families-in-training programs and  
62 supportive services to parents who are recipients of temporary family  
63 assistance and other parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal  
64 guardians in need of such services. The family resource centers shall be  
65 located in or associated with public schools, and any family resource  
66 center established on or after July 1, 2000, shall be located in a public  
67 elementary school unless the Commissioner of Education waives such  
68 requirement. The commissioner shall determine the manner in which  
69 the grant recipients of such program, such as municipalities, boards of  
70 education and child care providers, shall be selected. The family  
71 resource center shall provide: (1) Quality full-day child care and school  
72 readiness programs for children age three and older who are not  
73 enrolled in school and child care for children enrolled in school up to  
74 the age of twelve for before and after regular school hours and on a  
75 full-day basis during school holidays and school vacation, in  
76 compliance with all state statutes and regulations governing child care  
77 services, as described in section 19a-77, and, in the case of the school  
78 readiness programs, in compliance with the standards set for such  
79 programs pursuant to section 10-16p; (2) support services to parents,  
80 nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians of newborn infants  
81 to ascertain their needs and provide them with referrals to other  
82 services and organizations and, if necessary, education in parenting  
83 skills; (3) support and educational services to parents, nonparent  
84 caretaker relatives and legal guardians whose children are participants  
85 of the child care services of the program and who are interested in  
86 obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent. Parents and their  
87 preschool age children and nonparent caretaker relatives, legal  
88 guardians and preschool age children in their care may attend classes

89 in parenting and child learning skills together so as to promote the  
90 mutual pursuit of education and enhance parent-child interaction; (4)  
91 training, technical assistance and other support by the staff of the  
92 center to operators and staff of family child care homes, as described in  
93 section 19a-77, in the community and serve as an information and  
94 referral system for other child care needs in the community or  
95 coordinate with such systems as may already exist in the community;  
96 (5) a families-in-training program to provide, within available  
97 appropriations, community support services to expectant parents and  
98 parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians of children  
99 under the age of three. Such services shall include, but not be limited  
100 to, providing information and advice to parents, nonparent caretaker  
101 relatives and legal guardians on their children's language, cognitive,  
102 social and motor development, visiting a participant's home on a  
103 regular basis, organizing group meetings at the center for  
104 neighborhood parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal  
105 guardians of young children and providing a reference center for  
106 parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians who need  
107 special assistance or services. The program shall provide for the  
108 recruitment of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal  
109 guardians to participate in such program; [and] (6) a sliding scale of  
110 payment, as developed in consultation with the Department of Social  
111 Services, for child care services at the center; and (7) referrals of  
112 parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to  
113 community programs concerning childhood development and positive  
114 parenting practices. The center shall also provide a teen pregnancy  
115 prevention program for adolescents emphasizing responsible decision-  
116 making and communication skills.

117 Sec. 3. Section 17a-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

119 The Department of Children and Families shall establish, within  
120 available appropriations, community-based, multiservice parent  
121 education and support centers. The goal of each center shall be to

122 improve parenting and enhance family functioning in order to provide  
123 children and youths increased opportunities for positive development.  
124 Each center shall provide: (1) Parent, nonparent caretaker relative and  
125 legal guardian education and training services; (2) parent, nonparent  
126 caretaker relative and legal guardian support services; (3) information  
127 about and coordination of other community services; (4) consultation  
128 services; [and] (5) coordination of child care and transportation  
129 services to facilitate participation in the center's programs; and (6)  
130 referrals of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians  
131 to community programs concerning childhood development and  
132 positive parenting practices. Each center shall conduct outreach  
133 programs and shall be accessible with respect to schedule and location.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	17b-112(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	10-4o(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	17a-54

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3, ", and referrals of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to community programs concerning childhood development and positive parenting practices." was changed to "; and (6) referrals of parents, nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians to community programs concerning childhood development and positive parenting practices." for consistency.

**AGE** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO