



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Bill No. 6687**

LCO No. 10332



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. RITTER M., 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITHOUT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-261 of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (l) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (NEW) (l) On and after January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Social  
4 Services shall, within available appropriations, provide medical  
5 assistance to any child eight years of age and younger, regardless of  
6 immigration status, whose household income does not exceed two  
7 hundred one per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2022*) On or after April 1, 2022, the  
9 Commissioner of Social Services, shall, within available appropriations,  
10 provide medical assistance for postpartum care for twelve months after  
11 birth to a woman without legal immigration status whose household

12 income does not exceed two hundred sixty-three per cent of the federal  
13 poverty level.

14 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is  
15 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
16 *1, 2022*):

17 (a) A child who resides in a household with household income  
18 [which] that exceeds one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal  
19 poverty level [and] but does not exceed three hundred eighteen per cent  
20 of the federal poverty level may be eligible for benefits under HUSKY  
21 B. The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available  
22 appropriations, provide medical assistance to any child eight years of  
23 age and younger, regardless of immigration status, with a household  
24 income that exceeds two hundred one per cent of the federal poverty  
25 level but does not exceed three hundred twenty-three per cent of the  
26 federal poverty level.

27 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2022*) As used in this section,  
28 "unborn child option" means a state option available under the  
29 Children's Health Insurance Program pursuant to Title XXI of the Social  
30 Security Act, as amended from time to time, that allows states to  
31 consider an unborn child a low-income child eligible for coverage of  
32 prenatal care if other conditions of eligibility under the Children's  
33 Health Insurance Program are met. Not later than April 1, 2022, the  
34 Commissioner of Social Services shall provide medical assistance for  
35 prenatal care through the unborn child option under the medical  
36 assistance program established pursuant to section 17b-292 of the  
37 general statutes. The commissioner shall amend the state plan for the  
38 Children's Health Insurance Program to provide such medical  
39 assistance.

40 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social  
41 Services, in consultation with the Office of Health Strategy and the  
42 Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange established pursuant to section  
43 38a-1081 of the general statutes, shall develop four-year plans to phase

44 in medical assistance for (1) income-eligible children ages nine to  
45 eighteen, inclusive, regardless of immigration status, and (2) adults with  
46 household income not exceeding two hundred per cent of the federal  
47 poverty level who do not currently qualify for medical assistance due to  
48 household income.

49 (b) The plan to provide medical assistance to income-eligible children  
50 ages nine to eighteen, inclusive, shall include, but not be limited to: (1)  
51 The age groups that would be provided medical assistance in each fiscal  
52 year commencing on July 1, 2022, and appropriations necessary to  
53 provide such assistance, (2) income eligibility criteria and health care  
54 coverage consistent with the medical assistance programs established  
55 pursuant to sections 17b-261 and 17b-292 of the general statutes, and (3)  
56 recommendations for identifying and enrolling such children in a  
57 medical assistance program.

58 (c) The plan for expanding medical assistance coverage for adults  
59 with household income not exceeding two hundred per cent of the  
60 federal poverty level shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Household  
61 income caps for adults who would be provided medical assistance in  
62 each fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022, and appropriations  
63 necessary to provide such assistance, (2) health care coverage consistent  
64 with the medical assistance programs established pursuant to section  
65 17b-261 of the general statutes and the HUSKY D program as defined in  
66 section 17b-290 of the general statutes, and (3) recommendations for  
67 identifying and enrolling such adults in a medical assistance program.

68 (d) Not later than January 1, 2022, the commissioner shall report, in  
69 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
70 on provisions of the plans to the joint standing committees of the  
71 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
72 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and  
73 insurance and real estate.

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

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	17b-261
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	17b-292(a)
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section