

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 933

January Session, 2019

LCO No. **3913**

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by: (ED)

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN FAMILIES IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17b-749 of the general
statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
(*Effective July 1, 2019*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and 5 operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services for families with a 6 7 parent or caretaker who (1) is working or attending high school, or (2) 8 receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance 9 program from the Department of Social Services and is participating in 10 an education, training or other job preparation activity approved 11 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-688i or subsection (b) of 12 section 17b-689d. Services available under the child care subsidy 13 program shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children 14 under the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with 15 special needs. The Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain 16 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer

17 such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The 18 office shall issue a notice on the office's Internet web site any time the 19 office closes the program to new applications, changes eligibility 20 requirements, changes program benefits or makes any other change to 21 the program's status or terms. [, except the office shall not be required 22 to issue such notice when the office expands program eligibility.] Any 23 change in the office's acceptance of new applications, eligibility 24 requirements, program benefits or any other change to the program's 25 status or terms for which the office is required to give notice pursuant 26 to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the office 27 issues such notice.

28 The commissioner shall establish income standards for (b)29 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross 30 income up to [fifty] seventy-five per cent of the state-wide median 31 income, except the commissioner (1) [may increase the income level to 32 up to seventy-five per cent of the state-wide median income, (2)] upon 33 the request of the Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive 34 the income standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on 35 or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families 36 are eligible for the child care subsidy program, and [(3)] (2) on and 37 after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to 38 fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and 39 recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary 40 family assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in 41 accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational 42 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

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

Section 1	July 1, 2019	17b-749(a) and (b)

Joint Favorable C/R

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APP