General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6841

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **3852**

Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PILOT PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Commissioner of Social Services shall develop and administer a one-year pilot program to provide a universal basic income to certain residents in five municipalities in the state and demonstrate the economic impacts of providing such income at the individual, family, community and state level.

(b) In developing the pilot program, the commissioner shall solicit input from professionals with expertise in the fields of universal basic income, economics, housing, child welfare, labor, workforce development and social services administration. The commissioner shall develop: (1) Criteria for selecting five municipalities in geographically, demographically and economically diverse regions of the state for implementation of the pilot program; (2) eligibility criteria for the selection of residents to participate in the pilot program, including, but not limited to, requirements that each participant (A) be

eighteen years of age or older, (B) be an expectant parent or the parent or guardian of at least one child who lives in the participant's household, and (C) have a household income below the federal poverty level for such participant's family size; (3) a process for the selection of such participants; (4) a formula to determine the amount of each monthly payment distributed to each participant, that is based on financial need and family size; (5) a system for administering the pilot program, including, but not limited to, the timing of and process for distributing monthly payments to participants; and (6) a methodology for the collection of data relating to participants and the implementation of the pilot program, including, but not limited to, the age, race, ethnicity, education level, family composition, housing costs, additional income and state-provided or state-funded financial assistance received by each participant and the economic and public health impacts of the pilot program on each participant and such participant's household.

(c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall select twenty individuals from each selected municipality to participate in the pilot program. Each participant shall receive a monthly payment for the duration of the pilot program based on the formula developed by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section. As a condition of participating in the pilot program, each participant shall cooperate with the Department of Social Services in the provision and collection of data related to the administration of the pilot program.

(d) The commissioner may solicit and accept private funds to implement such pilot program.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) Under said program, no family shall be eligible that has total gross earnings exceeding the federal poverty level, however, in the

calculation of the benefit amount for eligible families and previously eligible families that become ineligible temporarily because of receipt of workers' compensation benefits by a family member who subsequently returns to work immediately after the period of receipt of such benefits, earned income shall be disregarded up to the federal poverty level. On and after October 1, 2023, the commissioner shall not deny a family assistance under said program on the basis of such family's assets unless such assets exceed six thousand dollars. Except when determining eligibility for a six-month extension of benefits pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner shall disregard the first fifty dollars per month of income attributable to current child support that a family receives in determining eligibility and benefit levels for temporary family assistance. Any current child support in excess of fifty dollars per month collected by the department on behalf of an eligible child shall be considered in determining eligibility but shall not be considered when calculating benefits and shall be taken as reimbursement for assistance paid under this section, except that when the current child support collected exceeds the family's monthly award of temporary family assistance benefits plus fifty dollars, the current child support shall be paid to the family and shall be considered when calculating benefits. The commissioner shall disregard any financial assistance received by a family member as part of such family member's participation in the pilot program described in section 1 of this act.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene and serve as chairperson of a working group to study and provide recommendations for the implementation of a state-wide universal basic income program. Such working group shall consist of professionals with demonstrated expertise in the fields of universal basic income, economics, housing, child welfare, labor, workforce development and social services administration.

(b) The working group shall (1) analyze the data obtained during the implementation of the universal basic income pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of this act; (2) conduct a cost-benefit analysis

concerning the provision of universal basic income during the implementation of the pilot program; (3) make recommendations for implementation of a state-wide universal basic income program, including monthly payment formulas and amounts, strategies to maximize cost savings and the provision of other public benefits; and (4) make recommendations for any legislation required to implement a universal basic income program on a state-wide basis.

(c) Not later than June 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services shall submit a report on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date the commissioner submits such report or June 1, 2027, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 2	*from passage*	17b-112(d)(1)
Sec. 3	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a universal basic income pilot program and require the Commissioner of Social Services to convene a working group to study the state-wide implementation of a universal basic income 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.]