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## **OFA Bill Analysis**

### **SB 401**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A BRIDGE PROGRAM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO FOOD, HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with the Departments of Aging and Disability Services, Children and Families, Housing, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Labor, to develop a plan for a bridge program to provide state-funded medical assistance, nutrition assistance, supportive housing and employment assistance programs to vulnerable persons. DSS must submit the plan, a calculation of state appropriations necessary for implementation and the associated timeline for such, to the Appropriations, Human Services, Housing and Labor committees by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: from passage

#### **State-Funded Bridge Program**

The bill requires that the bridge program serve vulnerable persons and do the following:

1. Supplement job training and employment services offered by the state to assist with meeting federal work requirements and transitions from permanent supportive housing programs;
2. Provide transitional state-funded medical assistance, nutrition assistance and housing assistance at the same level as prior to changes in federal law and proposed changes in federal regulations;
3. Recommend long-term housing solutions, including an inventory of state-owned property that may be suitable for renovation and

repurposing to provide housing assistance; and

4. Require uniform documentation of employability after receiving employment assistance, for purposes of submission to the federal government for potential federal waivers of work requirements.

***Vulnerable Persons***

Under the bill, “vulnerable persons” include veterans, homeless persons or persons at risk of homelessness, adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, young adults aging out of the foster care system and persons age fifty-five to sixty-four who are at risk of losing benefits under the Medicaid and supplemental nutrition assistance programs and permanent supportive housing assistance due to changes in work requirements pursuant to P.L. 119-21 and proposed changes to United States Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 43    Nay 8    (04/01/2026)