



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 5447**

LCO No. 2696



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:  
(APP)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND  
PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY  
ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The executive director of  
2 the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity  
3 shall convene two working groups. Each working group shall include  
4 one or more members of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health  
5 Policy and Planning Committee and such other members as selected by  
6 the executive director.

7 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a  
8 working group concerning the treatment of eating disorders. The  
9 working group shall, in consultation with the Commissioners of Public  
10 Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services, compile information  
11 to be made available to the public concerning (1) providers of eating  
12 disorder treatment services in the state, including, but not limited to,  
13 facilities that provide such treatment, (2) details concerning the types of  
14 services each such provider offers and the ages of persons typically

15 served by such providers, and (3) other resources available in the state  
16 for persons with eating disorders. The working group shall also consult  
17 with the Commissioner of Public Health to (A) develop one or more  
18 questions on the subject of eating disorder behaviors to be included on  
19 the Connecticut School Health Survey questionnaire, and (B) establish  
20 best practice guidelines for facilities in providing treatment for eating  
21 disorders.

22 (c) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a  
23 working group to study food insecurity and the benefits of providing a  
24 holistic diet. For purposes of this section, "holistic diet" means whole  
25 and unprocessed foods that benefit the whole person.

26 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
27 executive director shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
28 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the chairpersons of the  
29 Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning  
30 Committee and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
31 having cognizance of matters relating to children, public health and  
32 human services concerning the results of the working groups' studies.

33 Sec. 2. Section 2-137 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is  
34 amended by adding subsection (o) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

35 (NEW) (o) The committee shall annually review the progress of the  
36 working groups concerning eating disorders and food insecurity and  
37 the benefits of providing a holistic diet, established pursuant to section  
38 1 of this act.

39 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Children and  
40 Families shall, in collaboration with the Commissioners of  
41 Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
42 study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide  
43 children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and twenty-  
44 one, inclusive, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities with  
45 psychiatric treatment services. Such study shall include: (1) The

46 appropriate size of the facility and number of persons to be served at  
47 one time; (2) the best treatment practices for the population; (3) the  
48 operational costs of establishing such a facility and the feasibility of  
49 operating the facility within available agency appropriations; (4)  
50 appropriate sites, which may include state-owned property, on which  
51 the facility may be built; and (5) billing options for payment of inpatient  
52 psychiatric services for the population served, including Medicaid  
53 billing options. Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of  
54 Children and Families shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
55 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
56 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
57 human services, public health and appropriations and the budgets of  
58 state agencies on the results of the study.

59 (b) Not later than February 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Children  
60 and Families shall request information from one or more providers of  
61 mental health services in the state concerning the establishment of an  
62 inpatient facility in the state, as described in subsection (a) of this  
63 section. The request for information shall contain provisions inquiring  
64 about the ability of such provider to: (1) Establish such facility; and (2)  
65 implement best practices for psychiatric treatment services to meet the  
66 needs of the population described in subsection (a) of this section. On or  
67 before July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall  
68 submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, a  
69 summary of the responses to the request for information, along with any  
70 recommendations, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of  
71 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
72 human services, public health and appropriations and the budgets of  
73 state agencies.

74 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 17b-112 of the 2026 supplement to the  
75 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
76 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

77 (g) On and after July 1, 2026, the monthly cash benefit for a family

78 shall be not less than fifty-five per cent of the monthly federal poverty  
79 level for such family. Notwithstanding section 17b-104, commencing on  
80 July 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide an annual  
81 cost-of-living adjustment in temporary family assistance benefits equal  
82 to the most recent percentage increase in the consumer price index for  
83 urban consumers whenever funds appropriated for temporary family  
84 assistance lapse at the close of any fiscal year and such adjustment has  
85 not otherwise been included in the budget for the assistance program,  
86 provided the increase would not create a budget deficiency in  
87 succeeding years. The commissioner shall provide a prorated benefit  
88 increase from such available lapsed funds in any fiscal year when such  
89 funds are not sufficient to cover a cost-of-living adjustment in  
90 accordance with this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	2-137(o)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17b-112(g)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement the recommendations of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee and to provide increased temporary family assistance benefits.

*[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.]*