



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5447**

February Session, 2026



**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, within available

18 appropriations, one or more questions on the subject of eating disorder  
19 behaviors to be included on the Connecticut School Health Survey  
20 questionnaire, and (B) establish best practice guidelines for facilities in  
21 providing treatment for eating disorders.

22 (c) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a  
23 working group to develop a state-wide food education roadmap and a  
24 model school nutrition curriculum that includes, but is not limited to,  
25 developmentally appropriate evidence-based education programs on  
26 disordered eating behaviors, nutrition, culinary skills, growing food,  
27 food safety and food systems.

28 (d) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the  
29 executive director shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
30 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the chairpersons of the  
31 Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning  
32 Committee and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
33 having cognizance of matters relating to children, public health,  
34 education and human services concerning the results of the working  
35 groups' studies.

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

38 (NEW) (o) The committee shall annually review the progress of the  
39 working groups concerning eating disorders and food education and  
40 nutrition, established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

41 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Children and  
42 Families shall, in collaboration with the Commissioners of  
43 Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
44 study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide  
45 children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and twenty-  
46 one, inclusive, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities with  
47 psychiatric treatment services. Such study shall include: (1) The  
48 appropriate size of the facility and number of persons to be served at  
49 one time; (2) the best treatment practices for the population; (3) the

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

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

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

79 (g) On and after July 1, 2026, the monthly cash benefit for a family  
80 shall be not less than fifty-five per cent of the monthly federal poverty  
81 level for such family. Notwithstanding section 17b-104, commencing on  
82 July 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide an annual

83 cost-of-living adjustment in temporary family assistance benefits equal  
84 to the most recent percentage increase in the consumer price index for  
85 urban consumers whenever funds appropriated for temporary family  
86 assistance lapse at the close of any fiscal year and such adjustment has  
87 not otherwise been included in the budget for the assistance program,  
88 provided the increase would not create a budget deficiency in  
89 succeeding years. The commissioner shall provide a prorated benefit  
90 increase from such available lapsed funds in any fiscal year when such  
91 funds are not sufficient to cover a cost-of-living adjustment in  
92 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 Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2, "food insecurity and the benefits of providing a holistic diet" was changed to "food education and nutrition" for consistency with the provisions of Section 1.

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*