



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 401***

LCO No. 2582



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:  
(APP)

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

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "vulnerable persons" means veterans, homeless persons or persons at  
3 risk of homelessness, adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder,  
4 young adults aging out of the foster care system and persons age fifty-  
5 five to sixty-four who are at risk of losing benefits under the Medicaid  
6 and supplemental nutrition assistance programs and permanent  
7 supportive housing assistance due to changes in work requirements  
8 pursuant to P.L. 119-21 and proposed changes to United States  
9 Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

10 (b) Not later than October 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social  
11 Services, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Aging and  
12 Disability Services, Children and Families, Housing and Mental Health  
13 and Addiction Services and the Labor Commissioner, shall develop a  
14 plan for a bridge program to provide state-funded medical assistance,  
15 nutrition assistance, supportive housing and employment assistance

16 programs to vulnerable persons. The program shall:

17 (1) Supplement (A) current job support programs administered by  
18 the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services within the Department of Aging  
19 and Disability Services, (B) the Jobs First Employment Services program  
20 for recipients of temporary family assistance, and (C) other employment  
21 services offered by the state Labor Department for veterans and other  
22 vulnerable persons to help such persons meet federal work  
23 requirements and transition from permanent supportive housing  
24 programs;

25 (2) Provide transitional state-funded medical assistance, nutrition  
26 assistance and housing assistance equivalent to such assistance  
27 vulnerable persons would have received until changes in federal law  
28 and proposed changes in federal regulations;

29 (3) Recommend long-term housing solutions for vulnerable persons,  
30 including, but not limited to, an inventory of state-owned property that  
31 may be suitable for renovation and repurposing to provide housing  
32 assistance; and

33 (4) Require uniform documentation of employability of vulnerable  
34 persons after they receive employment assistance for purposes of  
35 submission to the federal government for potential federal waivers of  
36 work requirements.

37 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services  
38 shall submit the plan for the bridge program, together with a calculation  
39 of the amount of state appropriations needed to implement the bridge  
40 program and a timeline for implementation, to the joint standing  
41 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
42 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human  
43 services, housing and labor.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**APP**      *Joint Favorable*