



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Substitute Bill No. 500



AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-FUNDED CAREGIVER PROGRAM TO ASSIST PARENTS OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ENROLLED IN A MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17a-215c of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2026*):

4 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services may seek approval of an
5 amendment to the Medicaid state plan or a waiver from federal law,
6 whichever is sufficient and most expeditious, to establish and
7 implement a Medicaid-financed home and community-based program
8 to provide community-based services and, if necessary, housing
9 assistance, to adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder but not
10 with intellectual disability. Within available appropriations, the
11 commissioner shall establish a caregiver respite program to assist
12 parents of persons enrolled in any Medicaid home and community-
13 based waiver program for adults diagnosed with autism spectrum
14 disorder by providing state-financed care of such persons.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2026	17a-215c(d)
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsection (d), "children" was changed to "persons" and "waiver program" was changed to "waiver program for adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder" for clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*