



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 957**

**Public Act No. 09-73**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR STATE SUPPLEMENT ASSISTANCE.**

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

Section 1. Section 17b-600 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer a program of optional state supplementation as provided for by Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended, and shall administer the program in accordance with the requirements provided therein. In accordance with the requirements of Title XVI of said Social Security Act, optional state supplementation may be provided to aged, blind and disabled individuals who receive supplemental security income benefits or who would be eligible to receive such benefits except for income, provided that any applicant or recipient of optional state supplementation shall be ineligible for such supplementary assistance if such person has made, within twenty-four months prior to the date of application for such aid, an assignment or transfer or other disposition of property for less than fair market value, for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits or assistance under this section, provided ineligibility because of such disposition shall continue only for either (1) twenty-four months after the date of disposition, or (2) that period of time from date of disposition over which the fair market value of such property, less any consideration received in exchange for its disposition, together with all other income and resources, would furnish support on a reasonable standard of health and decency, whichever period is shorter, except that in any case where the uncompensated value of disposed of resources exceeds twelve thousand dollars, the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide for a period of ineligibility based on the uncompensated value which exceeds twenty-four months. Any disposition shall be presumed to have been made for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits or assistance unless the individual furnishes convincing evidence to establish that the transaction was exclusively for some other purpose or the disposition was made to a trust that complies with Section 1917(d)(4) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(d)(4), as from time to time amended, and (A) the individual resides in a residential care home, as defined in subdivision (17) of subsection (a) of section 19-13-D6 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies or resides in the facility established by New Horizons, Inc. pursuant to section 19a-507; (B) the individual's available income, as defined in section 5000.01 of the department's uniform policy manual (i) exceeds three hundred per cent of the maximum Supplemental Security Income program benefit for an individual, and (ii) is below the private rate for the residential care home in which the individual resides or for the facility established by New Horizons, Inc., as applicable; (C) the trust is funded solely with the excess income described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision; and (D) the trust provides that the state will receive, after

repayment of Medicaid assistance paid to or on behalf of the individual as set forth in Section 1917(d)(4) of the Social Security Act, all amounts remaining in the trust upon the death of such individual up to an amount equal to the total state supplemental assistance paid on behalf of the individual under this section. The commissioner shall disregard all excess income used to fund such a trust in determining eligibility for the program of optional state supplementation. Property which is exempted from consideration in determining the financial eligibility of an individual for benefits or assistance, such as a house in which the individual resides, shall not be subject to the provisions of this section regarding transfers of property if such property is disposed of while an individual is receiving benefits or assistance under this section. The program of optional state supplementation shall be administered in accordance with regulations to be adopted by the Department of Social Services, which regulations shall be consistent with the requirements of Title XVI of the Social Security Act pertaining to programs of optional state supplementation. Until such time as regulations are adopted by the department governing the program of optional state supplementation, the department is authorized to administer said program in accordance with the regulations and departmental policy manual provisions applicable to the aid to the elderly, aid to the blind and aid to the disabled programs, which regulations and policy manual provisions shall be fully applicable to the program of optional state supplementation, except that in no event shall optional state supplementation be given to persons who either are not recipients of federal supplemental security income benefits or are not persons who, except for income, would be eligible for supplemental security income benefits.

Approved May 27, 2009