



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 5019

LCO No. 552

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

An Act Concerning Healthy Families.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish the
4 structure for a state-wide system for Healthy Families Connecticut,
5 which is based on the national Healthy Families model, and which is
6 intended to demonstrate the benefits of preventive services by
7 significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and by
8 enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-based
9 assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their families
10 within families identified as high risk.

11 (b) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Children
12 and Families shall establish healthy families pilot programs in
13 geographic areas which are not currently served by prevention
14 outreach services and which have a high rate of confirmed child abuse
15 and neglect, a high rate of infant mortality and low birthweight
16 infants, or a high rate of teen pregnancy. On and after July 1, 1997, the

17 commissioner shall establish three additional pilot sites. Services shall
18 be provided on a voluntary basis to families identified through the
19 assessment process as having a high risk of child abuse or neglect.

20 (c) The healthy families pilot programs shall: (1) Provide a
21 comprehensive risk assessment of all newborn children and their
22 families; (2) identify families that would benefit most from the
23 program; (3) provide and coordinate support services including, but
24 not limited to, community-based home visiting intervention services,
25 counseling, child care and primary health care services; and (4)
26 provide follow-up and support services until the child attains the age
27 of five.

28 (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall: (1) Develop
29 the comprehensive risk assessment to be used by the pilot programs;
30 (2) develop the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot
31 programs; and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals
32 to procure the services required by this section. In evaluating the
33 proposals, the commissioner shall take into consideration the most
34 effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the
35 continuation of current public and private programs.

36 (e) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a
37 data system to enable the pilot programs to document the following
38 information in a standard manner: (1) The level of screening and
39 assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family demographics; (3) the
40 incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of child development;
41 and (5) any other information the commissioner deems appropriate.

42 (f) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall report to the
43 General Assembly on the establishment, implementation and progress
44 of Healthy Families Connecticut, on January first and July first, of each
45 year. The first report shall be due on January 1, 1996.

46 (g) On and after July 1, 1999, the healthy families pilot programs
47 shall be state-wide and shall include voluntary screening of all

48 newborns.

49 Sec. 2. The sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars is
50 appropriated to the Department of Children and Families from the
51 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, for a grant to the
52 town and city of Norwalk for a Healthy Families program.

53 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Statement of Purpose:

To make the healthy families pilot programs and to provide funds to Norwalk for healthy families.

[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.]