



An Act Requiring The Evaluation Of The Costs And Benefits Of Programs Serving Juvenile Offenders.

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

1 (NEW) (a) The Connecticut Policy and Economic Council shall
2 evaluate the costs and benefits of programs serving juvenile offenders,
3 whether offered by private providers or state or municipal agencies, to
4 determine the cost-effectiveness of such programs in reducing
5 recidivism.

6 (b) There is established an advisory board to be composed of the
7 Commissioner of Children and Families, the Commissioner of
8 Correction and the Chief Court Administrator, or their designees, and
9 the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee
10 of the General Assembly on judiciary. The advisory board shall assist
11 the council in obtaining from private providers and state or municipal
12 agencies information necessary for the council to perform its
13 evaluation.

14 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes
15 concerning the confidentiality of records and information, the council
16 shall have access to, including the right to inspect and copy, any
17 records of private providers offering programs serving juvenile
18 offenders pursuant to a contract with a state agency or the Judicial
19 Department and records of state or municipal agencies as necessary to

20 carry out its responsibilities as provided in this act. Such records shall
21 not be further disclosed by the council.

22 (d) The council shall identify the types of programs that are effective
23 and not effective in reducing criminal offending in a cost-beneficial
24 way. The council shall use uniform data collection and a common
25 methodological approach to compare programs serving juvenile
26 offenders. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, a
27 determination of the extent to which each program:

28 (1) Targets diverted and adjudicated juvenile offenders;

29 (2) Includes assessment methods to determine services, programs,
30 and intervention strategies most likely to change behaviors and norms
31 of juvenile offenders;

32 (3) Provides maximum structured supervision in the community
33 using natural surveillance and community guardians such as
34 employers, relatives, teachers, clergy and community mentors to the
35 greatest extent possible;

36 (4) Promotes good work ethic values and educational skills and
37 competencies necessary for the juvenile offender to function effectively
38 and positively in the community;

39 (5) Maximizes the efficient delivery of treatment services aimed at
40 reducing risk factors associated with the commission of juvenile
41 offenses;

42 (6) Maximizes the reintegration of the juvenile offender into the
43 community upon release from confinement;

44 (7) Maximizes the juvenile offender's opportunities to make full
45 restitution to the victims and amends to the community;

46 (8) Supports and encourages increased court discretion in imposing
47 community-based intervention strategies;

48 (9) Is compatible with research that shows which prevention and
49 early intervention strategies work with juvenile offenders;

50 (10) Is outcome-based in that it describes what outcomes will be
51 achieved or what outcomes have already been achieved;

52 (11) Includes an evaluation component; and

53 (12) Recognizes the diversity of local needs.

54 (e) Not later than January 1, 2001, the council shall submit a
55 preliminary report on its activities to the joint standing committee of
56 the General Assembly on judiciary.

JUD Committee Vote: Yea 39 Nay 0 JFS