



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 492

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5701

House of Representatives, April 26, 2001

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AND REFUSALS OF THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS BY CHILDREN.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) Each local and regional board of education shall
2 adopt and implement policies (1) prohibiting any school personnel
3 from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child, and
4 (2) requiring that if school personnel perceive that a child may have a
5 behavioral or psychological problem, a letter shall be sent to the parent
6 or other person having control of the child recommending that an
7 appropriate medical or behavioral health evaluation be conducted by a
8 licensed physician.

9 Sec. 2. (NEW) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes
10 or the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, the refusal of a parent
11 or other person having control of a child to administer or consent to
12 the administration of any psychotropic drug to such child shall not, in
13 and of itself, constitute grounds for the Department of Children and

14 Families to take such child into custody or for any court of competent
15 jurisdiction to order that such child be taken into custody by the
16 department.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Department of Children and Families

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State and Municipal Impact:

Provisions in the bill will not materially alter the fiscal or programmatic operations of the Department of Children and Families or local and regional school districts. Therefore there is no fiscal impact associated with the bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5701

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AND REFUSALS OF THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS BY CHILDREN.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires each local and regional board of education to implement policies (1) prohibiting school personnel from recommending that a child use psychotropic drugs and (2) requiring that a letter be sent to the child's parent or other person in control recommending an appropriate medical or behavioral health evaluation by a physician if school personnel perceive a child has behavioral or psychological problems.

The bill also specifies that a parent's refusal to administer or consent to administration of psychotropic drugs to a child does not, by itself, constitute grounds for (1) the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to take the child into custody or (2) a court to order the child be taken into DCF custody.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0