



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 707

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5935

House of Representatives, May 9, 2001

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. The Council to Administer the Children's Trust Fund shall
2 expand the Healthy Families Connecticut Program established under
3 section 17a-56 of the general statutes to four birthing hospitals that do
4 not currently offer healthy families coverage as follows: Two, effective
5 January 1, 2002, and two, effective October 1, 2002.

6 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 17a-56 of the general statutes is
7 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

8 (f) The [Commissioner of Children and Families] Council to
9 Administer the Children's Trust Fund shall report to the General
10 Assembly on the establishment, implementation and progress of
11 Healthy Families Connecticut, on January first and July first, of each
12 year. The [first report shall be due on January 1, 1996] report shall
13 include the percentage of eligible children that are actually served.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *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:** Implements a Provision in the Budget
- Affected Agencies:** Council to Administer the Children’s Trust Fund, Department of Children and Families
- Municipal Impact:** None

Explanation

State Impact:

FY 02 funding of \$250,000 has been included within sHB 6668 (the FY 02 - FY 03 Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee) under the budget of the Council to Administer the Children’s Trust Fund, to support the establishment of two new Healthy Families/First Steps programs as of January 1, 2002. Each program will receive six-month funding of \$100,000. Also included is \$50,000 to provide necessary training, technical assistance and administrative support for the Healthy Families/First Steps initiative.

FY 03 funding of \$750,000 has been included within sHB 6668 to support the annualized cost of the two programs discussed above, and the establishment of two new Healthy Families/First Steps programs as of October 1, 2002 (each program will receive nine-month funding of \$150,000) and continued support for the first year’s training, technical assistance and administrative support enhancement.

The bill also makes statute consistent with current practice, in that the Healthy Families initiative is overseen by the Council to Administer the Children's Trust Fund, not the Department of Children and Families.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5935

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM.**SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the Healthy Families Connecticut program to four new maternity hospital sites, two beginning January 1, 2002 and the other two beginning October 1, 2002. It requires the Children's Trust Fund Council to fund the expansion.

It shifts from the children and families commissioner to the council the responsibility for reporting annually to the legislature on the program's implementation and progress. And it requires the report to include the percentage of eligible children who are served. The commissioner continues to be statutorily responsible for some aspects of program administration such as developing, issuing, and evaluating requests for proposals to operate program sites and establishing a data system to help sites document information on screening and assessment levels, risk and family demographic profiles, and child abuse and neglect incidence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Healthy Families Connecticut***

The Children's Trust Fund Council currently funds Healthy Families Connecticut programs in 16 of the state's 29 maternity hospitals. The programs identify first-time parents whose demographic characteristics (e.g., mother's young age, low income, history of abuse or neglect) place their children at risk of poor childhood outcomes, including maltreatment. They offer high-risk mothers voluntary home visits services and low-risk mothers six months of parenting information, support, and referral to community resources.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 51 Nay 0