



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 341

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6461

House of Representatives, April 18, 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 ESTABLISHING A CAMP HARKNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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

1 (NEW) There shall be a Camp Harkness Advisory Committee,
2 appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Retardation, that shall
3 advise the commissioner with respect to issues concerning the health
4 and safety of persons with mental retardation at Camp Harkness. The
5 commissioner shall appoint committee members representing persons
6 with mental retardation who use the camp, family members or
7 guardians of such persons, providers of services to such persons,
8 advocates for such persons and self-advocates, provided, not less than
9 a majority of such members shall be persons with mental retardation
10 or members of the families or guardians of such persons. Not later
11 than October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the committee shall
12 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General
13 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health
14 concerning the status of Camp Harkness. Such report shall be

15 submitted in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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 Mental Retardation

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

This bill establishes a Camp Harkness Advisory Committee to be appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Retardation. The advisory committee shall advise the commissioner on matters relating to the camp. The department will incur no cost as a result of this bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6461

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMP HARKNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a Camp Harkness Advisory Committee, appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR). Committee members must represent persons with mental retardation using the camp, family members or guardians of such individuals, service providers, advocates, and self-advocates. A majority of the members must be individuals with mental retardation or family members or guardians. The advisory committee must advise the DMR commissioner on health and safety issues regarding camp users.

The committee must submit an annual report on the camp's status to the Public Health Committee, with the first report due by October 1, 2002.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Camp Harkness***

Camp Harkness is in Waterford, a 102-acre parcel originally part of the Harkness Family Estate. The property was willed to the state and donated for "public health." DMR has administrative responsibility for the camp.

Currently, the Association for Retarded Citizens of New London County, Southbury Training School, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, and the United Cerebral Palsy Association run summer programs at the camp. The camp is open year round to pass-holders (individuals and organizations serving people with disabilities) for day and overnight use.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0