



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 521

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 6707

House of Representatives, April 30, 2001

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENHANCEMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

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

- 1 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
- 2 commissioner's designee, the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief
- 3 Court Administrator's designee, and the Secretary of the Office of
- 4 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall develop a
- 5 financial model and implementation plan for the establishment of a
- 6 new state agency to be known as the Department of Children. The
- 7 governance structure for such agency shall provide for autonomous
- 8 offices which shall include the Offices of Child Protection, Behavioral
- 9 Health, Prevention Services and Juvenile Justice. Budgetary and
- 10 administrative accountability for all programs in each office shall be
- 11 the responsibility of the office head and final budgetary approval and
- 12 overall policy coordination shall be the responsibility of the agency
- 13 head.

14 (b) The Office of Child Protection shall be responsible for abused
15 and neglected children, foster care, adoption and regional offices. The
16 Office of Behavioral Health shall be responsible for mental health
17 services, substance abuse services and families with service needs. The
18 Office of Prevention Services shall be responsible for prevention, the
19 Children's Trust Fund and community outreach. The Office of Juvenile
20 Justice shall be responsible for Long Lane School and the Connecticut
21 Juvenile Training School, detention centers, community services for
22 juvenile justice and alternative sanctions.

23 (c) Not later than January 1, 2002, the commissioner shall submit to
24 the Governor, the financial model, the implementation plan and a
25 proposal for any legislation necessary to implement the new structure
26 by July 1, 2003.

JUD *Joint Favorable*

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: Departments of Children and Families, Judicial Department, Office of Policy and Management

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

It is anticipated that the Department of Children and Families, the Judicial Department and the Office of Policy and Management will be able to develop the financial model and implementation plan for a new Department of Children and submit these along with proposed legislation to implement the new structure to the Governor by January 1, 2002, within their respective budgetary resources. It is anticipated that future appropriations acts would incorporate needed budgetary adjustments required to create the new agency.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 6707

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENHANCEMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 31 Nay 4