



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5462

January Session, 2001

AN ACT CONCERNING A CHILDREN'S CABINET.

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

1 (NEW) (a) There is established a Children's Cabinet consisting of:
2 The Secretary of Children, who shall serve as chairperson; a
3 pediatrician, appointed by the majority leader of the House of
4 Representatives, with the advice of the Connecticut chapter of the
5 American Academy of Pediatrics; a public child welfare social worker,
6 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, with
7 the advice of the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of
8 Social Workers; a psychologist, appointed by the Connecticut
9 Psychological Association; an attorney, appointed by the Connecticut
10 Bar Association; a judge of the Family Division of the Superior Court,
11 appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; a representative
12 of private children's agencies, appointed by the president pro tempore
13 of the Senate, with the advice of the Connecticut Association of
14 Nonprofit Providers; a representative of education, appointed by the
15 Governor; a representative of a children's advocacy organization,
16 appointed by the Commission on Children; a representative of a
17 children's health organization, appointed by the Commissioner of
18 Public Health and a representative of workforce development,
19 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. Each member of the
20 advisory committee shall serve a five-year term. The Department of
21 Children shall provide support staff for the Children's Cabinet.

22 (b) On or before July 1, 2003, and biennially thereafter, the
23 Children's Cabinet shall prepare a biennial state-wide policy plan for
24 promoting the well-being of children through preventive services and
25 submit the plan to the State Prevention Council established under
26 substitute senate bill 1287 of the current session. The plan shall
27 include, but need not be limited to:

28 (1) Elements addressing various areas of services to children,
29 including welfare and protection, education, physical and mental
30 health, housing and employment and training;

31 (2) Outcome-based benchmarks for each element to measure the
32 well-being of Connecticut children and families and the effectiveness
33 of state prevention programs;

34 (3) Ways to best deliver integrated preventive services to children
35 and their families based on their individual needs; and

36 (4) Recommendations of research-tested prevention strategies that
37 implement its prevention policy plan.

38 (c) The Children's Cabinet shall meet not less often than once per
39 month and shall:

40 (1) Review the biennial prevention budget that the State Prevention
41 Council established under substitute senate bill 1287 of the current
42 session submits to the Office of Policy and Management;

43 (2) Identify indicators of risk for children including the areas of
44 education, physical and mental health, child welfare and protection,
45 juvenile justice and housing;

46 (3) Assess the effectiveness of state preventive programs against the
47 benchmarks it establishes and recommend to the State Prevention
48 Council programs that should be expanded, revised or terminated;

49 (4) Meet at least twice a year with the State Prevention Council;

50 (5) Recommend training and education initiatives on prevention for
51 professional development training programs, health systems and
52 community services;

53 (6) Encourage the direct involvement of the public, consumers,
54 parents, the business community and local government in partnership
55 with state government to promote prevention; and

56 (7) Recommend prevention policies for the Department of Children.

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JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R

GAE