



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Bill No. 6707

LCO No. 3486

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

REP. WARD, 86th Dist.

SEN. DELUCA, 32nd Dist.

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*