



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 420

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5757

House of Representatives, April 9, 2002

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

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF PARTIES UPON THE REPORTED ABUSE OF A CHILD COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) Upon a report of
2 suspected abuse of any child committed as delinquent to the
3 Department of Children and Families, the department shall
4 immediately provide written notification of such reported abuse to the
5 child's legal guardian and the child's attorney in the delinquency
6 proceeding that resulted in the commitment. If, after investigation, the
7 department substantiates such reported abuse, the department shall
8 immediately provide written notification of the results of such
9 investigation to the judge of the Superior Court who ordered the child
10 committed to the department, the child's legal guardian and the child's
11 attorney in the delinquency proceeding that resulted in the
12 commitment.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

JUD *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:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
General Fund - Cost	Department of Children and Families	Minimal	Minimal

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is anticipated that the Department of Children and Families will incur minimal additional postage costs, which can be accommodated within the agency’s anticipated budgetary resources, to provide written notification of reported and/or substantiated abuse of an adjudicated delinquent as specified in the bill. There are currently 449 committed delinquents under the agency’s oversight.

It should be noted that the required notifications are to be made “immediately.” The ability of the agency to comply with this time frame is uncertain.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5757

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF PARTIES UPON THE REPORTED ABUSE OF A CHILD COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to notify a delinquent child's legal guardian and delinquency attorney immediately when it receives a report that the child may have been abused while in its custody. If an investigation substantiates the report, DCF must immediately notify the same people of this as well as the juvenile court judge who committed the child to the agency. Both notifications must be in writing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

BACKGROUND***Notice to Parents of Guardians of Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect***

By law, DCF must notify parents or guardians when it substantiates an abuse or neglect report. Its written notice must include the (1) circumstances of the complaint, including the name of the person who caused the abuse; (2) availability of DCF's services, including child care subsidies and emergency shelter; and (3) programs of the Office of Victim Services and information on obtaining a restraining order. DCF must provide the notice in English or the principal language of the parent or guardian, if known. It must use all reasonable efforts to do so within 10 days of substantiating the report.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 40 Nay 0

