



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 211

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 333

Senate, March 28, 2002

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) There is established a
2 Children's Cabinet consisting of: The Commissioner of Children and
3 Families, who shall serve as chairperson; a pediatrician, appointed by
4 the majority leader of the House of Representatives, with the advice of
5 the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; a state
6 child welfare social worker, appointed by the minority leader of the
7 House of Representatives, with the advice of the Connecticut chapter
8 of the National Association of Social Workers; a representative of
9 private children's agencies, appointed by the president pro tempore of
10 the Senate, with the advice of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofit
11 Providers; a representative of regional workforce development board,
12 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; a representative of
13 education, appointed by the Governor; a psychologist, appointed by
14 the Connecticut Psychological Association; an attorney, appointed by
15 the Connecticut Bar Association; a judge of the Family Division of the

16 Superior Court, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; a
17 representative of a children's advocacy organization, appointed by the
18 Commission on Children; and a representative of a children's health
19 organization, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health. Each
20 member of the Children's Cabinet shall serve a five-year term. The
21 Department of Children and Families shall provide support staff for
22 the Children's Cabinet.

23 (b) On or before July 1, 2004, and biennially thereafter, the
24 Children's Cabinet shall prepare a biennial state-wide policy plan for
25 promoting the well-being of children through preventive services and
26 submit the plan to the State Prevention Council established pursuant
27 to section 2 of public act 01-121. The plan shall include, but need not be
28 limited to:

29 (1) Services to children, including welfare and protection, education,
30 physical and mental health, housing and employment and training;

31 (2) Outcome-based benchmarks for each service to measure the
32 well-being of children and families in this state and the effectiveness of
33 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 on research-tested prevention strategies to
37 implement the plan.

38 (c) The Children's Cabinet shall meet at least once a month and
39 shall:

40 (1) Review the prevention plan that the State Prevention Council
41 submits to the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 3
42 of public act 01-121;

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

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	50,300	60,404
General Fund - Cost	Judicial Department	Minimal	Minimal

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes an eleven member Children’s Cabinet and requires the Department of Children to provide support staff. The state will incur an FY 03 cost of approximately \$68,189 to reflect the hiring of one Children Services Consultant needed to assist the Cabinet in its work. Included in this sum is \$42,300 to support the three-quarter year salary of this position, \$4,000 in other expenses, \$4,000 in equipment and \$17,889 in fringe benefits costs. In FY 04 and subsequent fiscal years an annualized cost of approximately \$84,257 will occur (\$60,404 in costs to the department and \$23,853 in associated fringe benefits costs).

It is anticipated that the Judicial Department can accommodate the participation of a Family Division judge as a member of the Cabinet within its anticipated budgetary resources.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 333

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE**SUMMARY:**

This bill creates an 11-member Children's Cabinet to develop a biennial statewide policy plan for preventive services that address children's well-being and benchmarks for measuring the effectiveness of the state's prevention programs. The cabinet must submit its plan to the Prevention Council created by PA 01-121, which is composed of executive and judicial branch agency heads; review the prevention plan that council submits to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); and assess state prevention programs' effectiveness. The cabinet is composed of professionals in child-related fields.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

CHILDREN'S CABINET***Responsibilities***

The cabinet's first plan must be completed by July 1, 2004 and submitted to the Prevention Council. It must include:

1. services to children, including welfare and child protection, education, physical and mental health, housing, and employment and training;
2. outcome-based benchmarks for each element that measure children's well-being and the effectiveness of state prevention programs;
3. best ways to deliver integrated preventive services based on children and families' individual needs; and
4. recommendations for "research-based prevention" strategies to implement its policy plan.

The cabinet must meet monthly and:

1. review the council's prevention plan;

2. assess the effectiveness of state prevention programs against the benchmarks it establishes, and recommend to the council programs that should be expanded, revised, or ended;
3. meet at least twice a year with the council;
4. identify risk indicators for children, including those involving education, physical and mental health, child welfare and protection, juvenile justice, and housing;
5. recommend prevention training and education initiatives for professional development, health systems, and community services and;
6. encourage the public, consumers, parents, business, and government to become partners with state government to promote prevention.
7. Finally, the cabinet must recommend prevention policies for the Department of Children and Families.

Cabinet Composition and Procedure

The cabinet consists of the Department of Children and Families commissioner, who serves as its chairperson, and 10 members appointed as follows.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Advice by</i>
Pediatrician	House majority leader	CT chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
State child welfare social worker	House minority leader	CT chapter of National Assoc. Social Workers
Psychologist	CT Psychological Association	
Attorney	CT Bar Association	
Judge of Superior Court Family Div.	Chief Justice	
Private children's agency rep.	Senate president pro tempore	CT Association of Nonprofit Providers

Education rep.	Governor	
Children's advocacy organization rep.	Commission on Children	
Children's health organization rep.	Public health commissioner	
Regional workforce development board rep.	Senate minority leader	

Cabinet members serve five-year terms. (The Department of Children and Families provides the cabinet with staff support.)

BACKGROUND

State Prevention Council

PA 01-121 created the State Prevention Council. It is composed of eight state agency heads and other agency representatives that the council decides to include. It must

1. submit a report to OPM secretary and the Appropriations Committee by July 1, 2002, identifying appropriations for prevention services in each involved agency's budget for the previous fiscal year;
2. recommend a comprehensive statewide prevention plan to the OPM secretary and the legislature by December 1, 2002; and
3. submit its recommendations on expanding the council (including the use of potential benchmarks) or terminating it to the OPM secretary and Appropriations Committee by July 1, 2004.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
 Yea 11 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 12 Nay 6