



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**Raised Bill No. 336**

LCO No. 1323

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING STAFF SHORTAGES FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section and section 3 of this act, "children with special health care  
3 needs" means children who have or are at a high risk for chronic  
4 physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions.

5 (b) The Department of Public Health shall develop and maintain,  
6 within available appropriations, a children's home health care staffing  
7 pool that includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified  
8 nurse's aides, respiratory therapists and other health care workers that  
9 are available to provide shift care in the home for children with special  
10 health care needs. The department shall develop referral procedures  
11 for purposes of the pool.

12 (c) The department shall require all licensed home health care  
13 agencies to report on a regular basis on staff availability and  
14 uncovered home health care shifts for children with special health care  
15 needs. The department shall also request private duty placement

16 agencies to report such information on a regular basis.

17 (d) The department, in conjunction with home health care agencies,  
18 shall develop a basic pediatric staff credentialing process that may  
19 include preparedness to manage different levels of care required by  
20 children with special health care needs.

21 (e) The department shall work with the special needs hospitals in  
22 the state, including Yale New Haven Hospital, Connecticut Children's  
23 Hospital, New Britain Hospital for Special Needs and John Dempsey  
24 Hospital, to develop hospital-based in service training for staff  
25 involved in the care of children with special health care needs.

26 *Sec. 2. (Effective from passage)* (a) On or before January 1, 2003, the  
27 Commissioners of Public Health, Social Services, Children and  
28 Families and Mental Retardation shall jointly report, in accordance  
29 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
30 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
31 relating to public health and human services and the select committee  
32 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
33 children on the coordination and delivery of care for children with  
34 special health care needs.

35 (b) The report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The number of  
36 children with special health care needs who remain in institutional  
37 settings due to placement difficulties related to inadequate community  
38 based services; (2) information on the ease of access by families to  
39 programs across agencies; (3) interagency-pooled funding options to  
40 provide services to children with complex, multiple health care needs;  
41 (4) coordination of state-based services with private insurers; (5) web-  
42 based linkages for state programs for physical health, behavioral  
43 health, developmental services and respite services; (6) identification  
44 of a lead case management entity and uniform case management  
45 standards for services for such children; (7) evaluation of programs  
46 that deliver care to such children; and (8) models used in other states  
47 to meet the service and care management needs of such children.

48       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Social  
 49 Services shall establish, within available appropriations, a limited  
 50 personal care attendant pilot program for children with special health  
 51 care needs. The pilot program shall operate in three geographic areas  
 52 of the state.

53       Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The sum of one hundred twenty  
 54 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health,  
 55 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, for the  
 56 children's home health care staffing pool pursuant to subsection (b) of  
 57 section 1 of this act.

58       Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 59 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health, from the  
 60 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, for the research  
 61 necessary for the report pursuant to section 2 of this act.

62       Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 63 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the  
 64 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, for the pilot  
 65 program pursuant to section 3 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve the delivery of care to children with special health care needs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*