



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**Amendment**

LCO No. 4518

\*HB0575704518HR0\*

Offered by:  
REP. DANDROW, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5757

File No. 420

Cal. No. 261

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

1 After line 12, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) It is the intent of the General  
3 Assembly that the Department of Children and Families initiate a  
4 differential response system. On or before July 1, 2003, the Department  
5 of Children and Families may establish a differential response pilot  
6 program in up to two of the department's regional offices, one in an  
7 urban area and one in a rural area. For purposes of the pilot program,  
8 the department shall develop and use an assessment standard to  
9 determine which reports of abuse and neglect pursuant to section 17a-  
10 101g of the general statutes, require a full investigation and which  
11 reports may be referred to community-based agencies for services. The  
12 standard shall take into account the nature of the report and the level  
13 of risk to the child. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 319a of  
14 the general statutes, under the pilot program, department staff shall

15 refer low risk reports to community-based agencies for services.

16 (b) Community-based agencies utilized by the department shall  
17 include mental health professionals, police departments, substance  
18 abuse counselors, violence prevention counselors, domestic violence  
19 counselors and local health departments. The department shall enter  
20 into a contractual relationship with any community-based agency  
21 selected to deliver services to be provided under the pilot program.  
22 The department shall insure that any community-based agency  
23 selected to deliver services under the pilot program shall have the  
24 ability to accept referred reports of abuse on a twenty-four hour per  
25 day, seven days a week basis. The department shall require periodic  
26 progress reports from any community-based agency utilized in the  
27 pilot program. Progress reports provided to the department by any  
28 community-based agency shall include: A risk assessment concerning  
29 the children who are the subject of the referral, the present status of the  
30 referral, and an overview of the services provided as a result of the  
31 referral. Community-based agencies selected to deliver services under  
32 the pilot program shall immediately notify the department, when such  
33 agency determines that, notwithstanding the delivery of services in  
34 connection with a referral of reported abuse, the risk of harm to the  
35 children who are the subject of the referral has increased. On or before  
36 January 1, 2003, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall  
37 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the  
38 progress of the pilot program to the select committee of the General  
39 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children."