



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 252

January Session, 2003

Senate Bill No. 955

Senate, April 9, 2003

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 bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE FACILITIES.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) Residential child care
- 2 facilities operated by the state, including facilities operated by the
- 3 Department of Children and Families and the Court Support Services
- 4 Division, shall meet the standards set forth for the licensing of facilities
- 5 under part II of chapter 319a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:

Section 1	October 1, 2003
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KID *Joint Favorable C/R* HS

HS *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Department of Children and Families	General Fund - Cost	\$155,100	\$203,500
Judicial Department	General Fund - Cost	\$1,063,813	\$1,446,786
Comptroller's Miscellaneous Accounts (Fringe Benefits)	General Fund - Cost	\$209,668	\$628,957

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Passage of this bill will result in an FY 04 cost to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) of approximately \$155,100. This reflects the three-quarter year salaries of three full-time equivalent positions as well as associated other expenses. The positions are necessary to inspect and perform other duties associated with determining whether sixteen residential facilities operated by the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch as well as up to four DCF-operated facilities meet licensure standards. These costs would be supplemented by an estimated \$27,300 in fringe benefit costs, which are budgeted centrally in miscellaneous accounts administered by the Comptroller¹. In FY 05 the annualized cost for the three positions would be \$281,300 (\$203,500 DCF; \$77,800 fringe benefits).

¹ The total fringe benefit reimbursement rate as a percentage of payroll is 40.21 percent, effective July 1, 2002. However, first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs, lowering the rate to 18.81 percent in FY 04.

It should be noted that it is uncertain whether Riverview Hospital for Children and Youth and Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) would be subject to the bill's provisions. Riverview currently meets accreditation standards which are more stringent than those for residential child care facilities. However, it cannot be determined at this time whether CJTS would meet the proposed standards.

The bill would require the Judicial Department's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to increase staffing at its three detention centers in order to meet client/staff ratios for licensure by the DCF. The Judicial Department currently maintains a ratio of eight clients for every staff member. Under the bill, they would be required to reduce the ratio to four clients per staff member. The agency would need twenty nine additional juvenile detention officers at an annual cost of approximately \$2 million to comply with the bill. The other thirteen residential facilities available through the CSSD presently comply with DCF licensure requirements and, thus, there would be no cost related to these facilities as a result of the bill.

It is uncertain whether the regional centers operated by the Department of Mental Retardation would be considered a "residential child care facility" in cases when a child is placed therein. Such placement of children in the DMR's regional centers is infrequent. However, it should be noted that the department's eight multi-unit regional centers currently operate under federal ICF/MR standards (intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded).

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 955

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE FACILITIES**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires Department of Children and Families (DCF), Judicial Department, and other state-operated residential child care facilities to meet statutory licensing standards for the private child-care facilities DCF licenses. The statutes define "residential child care facility" as a congregate residential setting for the out-of-home placement of children and youth. The bill potentially applies to DCF's High Meadows, Connecticut Juvenile Training School, High Meadows, and Riverview Hospital; the Judicial Department's juvenile detention centers; and any Department of Mental Retardation-operated residential facilities where children are placed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

DCF LICENSING STANDARDS

The statutes permit the DCF commissioner to set the maximum number of children that a licensee can care for. They require the commissioner to determine whether facilities meet health, safety, and other conditions she prescribes and to inspect them periodically. They require licensees to report annually on their functions, services, and operations; the number of children admitted and discharged; the number of deaths in a facility and their cause; the average per capita cost of care; and other data the commissioner prescribes. The statutes also require the commissioner to adopt licensing regulations. These govern physical plant, medical care and sanitation, recreational facilities, security, visitors, and confidentiality, among other topics (*Conn. Agency Regs.* 17a-145-48 to -98).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 13 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 18 Nay 0