



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF DISPROPORTIONATE  
MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this  
2 section, "cultural competency plan" means a plan that (1) identifies  
3 target racial and ethnic minority groups, (2) assesses cultural, linguistic  
4 and social factors creating barriers between such target groups and  
5 their receipt of state services or participation in state programs, and (3)  
6 implements measures designed to reduce the impact of such barriers.

7 (b) The Judicial Department shall develop a cultural competency  
8 plan for each of its courts, divisions and offices in the juvenile justice  
9 system. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions to  
10 address any barriers to family involvement in alternative incarceration  
11 programs identified pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of  
12 section 3 of this act. The Chief Court Administrator shall appoint a  
13 cultural competency coordinator to oversee the implementation of and  
14 progress made pursuant to such plan.

15 (c) The Chief Court Administrator shall:

16 (1) Establish guidelines to ensure that staff in key positions in state-  
17 administered or contracted juvenile justice programs, facilities and  
18 services (A) are culturally competent and possess the skills necessary  
19 to provide services to a diverse client population, and (B) may have

20 bilingual abilities;

21 (2) Provide on-going training to all such staff in cultural sensitivity,  
22 cultural competency and understanding the dynamics of  
23 disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system;  
24 and

25 (3) Conduct a biannual inventory of juvenile justice caseloads and  
26 clients to determine cultural and language profiles.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) The Judicial Department  
28 and the Department of Children and Families shall jointly establish  
29 and implement a community mapping system that shall track, on an  
30 annual basis and by race, ethnicity, neighborhood and type of crime,  
31 the occurrences of arrests, detentions and placements of children who  
32 come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Such community  
33 mapping system shall (1) determine the geographic relationship  
34 between the arrest of a child and the quality of and access to services in  
35 the juvenile justice system, and (2) be implemented in accordance with  
36 nationally accepted practices that may include, but need not be limited  
37 to, practices promulgated by the Haywood Burns Institute.

38 (b) The Judicial Department and the Department of Children and  
39 Families shall jointly develop and monitor the implementation of  
40 objective criteria for decisions made at each stage in the juvenile justice  
41 system, including, but not limited to, detention, release and placement  
42 decisions. Any assessment or decision-making instruments used to  
43 determine whether a child should be released or detained, or to  
44 determine if and where a child should be placed, shall be free of  
45 criteria that may create an unintended racial and ethnic bias.

46 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) The Judicial Department  
47 and the Department of Children and Families shall:

48 (1) Jointly develop programs of alternatives to incarceration for  
49 children that (A) provide crisis response, intensive family support and  
50 respite services, (B) directly involve the child's family, (C) focus on the

51 strengths and positive qualities of the child, and (D) replicate existing  
52 programs for which evidence of successful outcomes can be shown;

53 (2) Ensure that minority children involved, or at risk of  
54 involvement, with the juvenile justice system have equal access to such  
55 programs at each stage of the juvenile justice system;

56 (3) Jointly develop a system to track, by race and ethnicity, the  
57 utilization of such programs;

58 (4) Jointly conduct an appropriate survey to determine whether any  
59 barriers exist to family involvement in such programs; and

60 (5) Encourage family conferencing and parental involvement at each  
61 stage of the juvenile justice system and incorporate such conferencing  
62 and involvement into treatment programs for children.

63 (b) The evaluation of Connecticut Community KidCare conducted  
64 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-22c of the general statutes  
65 shall include a review of the programs developed pursuant to  
66 subsection (a) of this section for a determination of the cultural  
67 competency of such programs and whether such programs are  
68 effective in reducing disproportionate minority representation in the  
69 juvenile justice system.

70 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) The Judicial Department  
71 shall develop a continuum of court-approved administrative sanctions  
72 for youths under the supervision of a juvenile probation officer,  
73 including, but not limited to, community service, mentoring, respite  
74 home, truancy reduction and mediation programs. Such sanctions  
75 shall be imposed by the probation officer prior to seeking an arrest  
76 warrant, notice to appear or other court order with respect to a  
77 violation by the youth of any of the conditions of probation or  
78 suspended commitment or of any valid court order that regulates the  
79 future conduct of such youth.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*

**HS**        *Joint Favorable*