



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

***Raised Bill No. 6688***

LCO No. 4490

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT JUVENILE TRAINING SCHOOL.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study the operation of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.  
3 Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:
- 4 (1) The costs associated with the operation of the training school,  
5 including the amount of overtime costs on a monthly basis;
- 6 (2) The general nature and characteristics of the residents of the  
7 training school;
- 8 (3) The educational and vocational training programs available to  
9 such residents;
- 10 (4) The average length of placement for such residents;
- 11 (5) Delinquency recidivism rates for such residents;
- 12 (6) Options to require or otherwise ensure: (A) The development

13 and implementation of protocols for assessment of the risk of suicide  
14 and suicide prevention at the training school; (B) that training school  
15 policies and practices regarding the use of restraint and seclusion are  
16 brought into compliance with the requirements of state law; (C) that  
17 staff at all levels of the training school receive adequate training in  
18 their obligations as mandatory reporters under state law; (D) the  
19 articulation by the Department of Children and Families of a clear  
20 vision and mission for the training school and the enforcement by the  
21 department of expectations and rules with respect to such vision and  
22 mission; (E) that the training school meets the individualized needs of  
23 residents and provides appropriate treatment and education to such  
24 residents; (F) that training school management (i) is on-site and  
25 accessible to staff at all times, and (ii) fully understands all aspects of  
26 training school facilities and programs; (G) the development and  
27 implementation of protocols for defining, responding to and tracking  
28 critical incidents at the training school; (H) that the process of  
29 imposing and reviewing sanctions on residents at the training school is  
30 improved; (I) that the actions of officials and employees of the  
31 Department of Children and Families with respect to the training  
32 school are reviewed in order to determine whether disciplinary action  
33 is warranted; (J) that oversight of the training school is independent of  
34 functions of the Department of Children and Families associated with  
35 program development and administration in order to provide for  
36 objective decision-making; (K) the development and implementation  
37 of an effective internal quality assurance program at the training  
38 school; (L) that the management structure and protocols for internal  
39 communication at the Department of Children and Families are  
40 revised in order to provide timely and accurate information to  
41 responsible managers; and (M) the development of a long-term  
42 planning unit at the Department of Children and Families that  
43 operates separately from divisions of the department responsible for  
44 program administration; and

45 (7) Whether the training school should be devoted to alternative  
46 purposes, including a determination of whether the training school is

47 suitable for use as a correctional center for adults.

48 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

49 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

50 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

51 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
52 Representatives;

53 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

54 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
55 Representatives;

56 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

57 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
59 relating to the judiciary, or their designees;

60 (8) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
61 commissioner's designee;

62 (9) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee; and

63 (10) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee.

64 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
65 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
66 of the General Assembly.

67 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
68 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
69 filled by the appointing authority.

70 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
71 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task

72 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons  
73 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, to be held no later  
74 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

75 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
76 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
77 judiciary shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

78 (g) Not later than February 4, 2004, the task force shall submit a  
79 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
80 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
81 relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section  
82 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
83 that it submits such report or February 4, 2004, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a task force to study the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

*[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.]*