



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.

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

JUD *Joint Favorable*