



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 562**

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5572

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2004*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD POVERTY.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Secretary of the  
2 Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the  
3 Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority  
4 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of  
5 Representatives, after consultation with the Commissioners of  
6 Children and Families, Social Services, Correction, Mental Retardation,  
7 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Transportation, Public Health,  
8 Education, Economic and Community Development and Health Care  
9 Access, the Labor Commissioner, the Chairman of the Board of  
10 Governors for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, the chairperson  
11 of the State Prevention Council, the chairperson of the Children's Trust  
12 Fund and the executive director of the Commission on Children, shall  
13 jointly develop a ten-year plan, to begin upon the effective date of this  
14 section, to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state  
15 by fifty per cent.

16 (b) The plan shall contain: (1) An identification and analysis of the  
17 root causes of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis of the long-  
18 term effects of child poverty on children, their families and their  
19 communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to municipalities  
20 and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and private  
21 programs that address each of the root causes identified pursuant to  
22 subdivision (1) of this subsection, (5) the percentage of the target  
23 population served by such programs and the current state funding  
24 levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and analysis of  
25 any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs in addressing such  
26 root causes of child poverty, and (7) procedures and priorities for  
27 implementing strategies to achieve a fifty per cent reduction in child  
28 poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such procedures and priorities  
29 shall include, but not be limited to, (A) vocational training and  
30 placement to promote career progression, for parents of children living  
31 in poverty, (B) educational opportunities, including higher education  
32 opportunities, and advancement for such parents and children  
33 including, but not limited to, preliteracy, literacy and family literacy  
34 programs, (C) housing for such parents and children, (D) day care and  
35 after-school programs and mentoring programs for such children and  
36 for single parents, (E) health care access for such parents and children  
37 including access to mental health services and family planning, (F)  
38 direct and early intervention programs, including substance abuse  
39 treatment programs and services, for such parents and children, and  
40 (G) accessible childhood nutrition programs.

41 (c) In developing the plan, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
42 Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of  
43 the House of Representatives and the minority leaders of the Senate  
44 and House of Representatives shall consult with experts and providers  
45 of services to children living in poverty and parents of such children.  
46 The secretary, president pro tempore and speaker of the House of  
47 Representatives shall jointly hold a public hearing on the plan. After  
48 the public hearing, the secretary, president pro tempore of the Senate  
49 and speaker of the House of Representatives may make any  
50 modifications that the secretary deems necessary based on testimony

51 given at the public hearing.

52 (d) Funds from private and public sources may be accepted and  
53 utilized to develop and implement the plan and provisions of this  
54 section.

55 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Secretary of the Office of  
56 Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the  
57 speaker of the House of Representatives and the minority leaders of  
58 the Senate and House of Representatives shall jointly submit the plan,  
59 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the General  
60 Assembly, along with any recommendations for legislation and  
61 funding necessary to implement the plan. The General Assembly shall  
62 vote on the plan not later than April 1, 2005. (1) If the General  
63 Assembly approves the plan, it shall be implemented. (2) If the General  
64 Assembly disapproves the plan, in whole or in part, the plan shall be  
65 deemed to be rejected and shall be returned to the secretary with  
66 recommendations for revisions. The secretary, the president pro  
67 tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives and  
68 the minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives shall  
69 jointly make the recommended revisions to the plan and submit the  
70 revised plan to the General Assembly not later than May 15, 2005. Such  
71 revised plan shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

72 (f) On or before February 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, the  
73 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in  
74 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
75 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
76 matters relating to appropriations on the implementation of the plan  
77 and the extent to which state actions are in conformity with the plan.

78 (g) Not later than February 15, 2006, and February 15, 2008, the  
79 Governor shall submit budget adjustments for the second year of the  
80 biennium needed for purposes of the plan.

This act shall take effect as follows:

Section 1	July 1, 2004
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**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*                      APP

**APP**      *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:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	Minimal	None
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal	None
Various State Agencies	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the president pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the minority leaders of the House and Senate to jointly develop a ten year plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty percent. Legislative Management may incur minimal costs for legislator mileage reimbursement for the legislative leaders participation.

The bill requires this group to consult with a variety of state agencies, which is not anticipated, to result in a cost to these agencies. OPM and Legislative Management may incur costs to perform the analysis required in the bill to develop the plan, the extent of these costs is unknown. The bill requires OPM and the legislative leaders to consult with experts, which may result in unknown costs to OPM and Legislative Management. It is anticipated that OPM and the legislative leaders can hold a joint public hearing on the plan within normal budgetary resources of each agency.

The bill permits funds to be accepted from private and public sources to implement the plan. It is unknown whether these funds would be sufficient to develop the plan. Once the plan is submitted and if it is approved by the General Assembly the bill requires OPM to

report on the state's action to conform to the plan beginning in 2006, which may result in a minimal cost. Finally, the bill requires that the Governor submit budget adjustments for the second year of the biennium needed for the purposes of the plan, which can be accomplished within normal budgetary resources.

**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

sHB 5572

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD POVERTY*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires legislative leaders and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to develop a plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Connecticut by 50% by July 1, 2014. They must submit the plan by January 1, 2005 for General Assembly approval after consulting with various state officials, experts in the field, service providers, and parents. In February 2006 and 2008, the bill requires the governor to submit budget adjustments needed for the plan's purposes in the second year of each biennium.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN**

The bill requires the House speaker and minority leader, the Senate president pro tempore and minority leader, and the OPM secretary to develop the plan.

***Plan Contents***

The plan must:

1. identify and analyze the root causes of child poverty in the state;
2. analyze the long-term effects of child poverty on children, their families, and their communities and its costs to the state and towns;
3. inventory statewide public and private programs that address each of the identified root causes of child poverty, their deficiencies or inefficiencies in addressing these causes, the percentage of the target populations they serve (presumably children living in poverty), and their current state funding levels; and
4. contain procedures and priorities for implementing strategies to

achieve the 50% reduction.

The procedures and priorities for child poverty reduction strategies must include, at a minimum:

1. vocational training and placement to promote career progress for parents of children living in poverty;
2. education, including higher education, preliteracy, literacy, and family literacy;
3. housing for parents and children;
4. day care, after-school, and mentoring programs for children and single parents;
5. access to health care, including mental health and family planning;
6. direct and early intervention programs for children and parents, including substance abuse treatment and services; and
7. accessible child nutrition programs.

### ***Consulting Parties***

In developing the plan, the legislative leaders and OPM secretary must consult with experts, service providers, and parents of children living in poverty. They must also consult with the following state officials:

1. the commissioner of children and families, social services, correction, public health, mental retardation, mental health and addiction services, health care access, economic and community development, transportation, education, and labor;
2. the chairmen of the Board of Governors of Higher Education, Children's Trust Fund, and State Prevention Council chairmen;
3. the child advocate; and
4. the Children's Commission executive director.

The bill requires the speaker, president pro tempore, and secretary to

hold a public hearing on the plan and, based on the hearing testimony, make any modifications to it that the secretary deems needed.

***Plan Approval***

The bill requires the leaders and secretary to submit the plan to the General Assembly by January 1, 2005 along with their recommendations for legislation and funding needed to implement it. The legislature must vote on the plan by April 15. If it approves the plan, it must be implemented. If the legislature totally or partially disapproves, the plan is rejected and must be returned to the secretary with recommendations for revisions. The leaders and secretary must make these revisions and resubmit the plan by May 15 for approval.

***Reporting***

Beginning February 15, 2006, the bill requires the OPM secretary to report annually to the Appropriations Committee on the plan's implementation and the extent to which state actions conform to it.

The bill requires the governor, by February 15, 2006 and 2008, to submit budget adjustments for the second year of the biennium that are needed to accomplish the plan.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference  
Yea 12    Nay 1

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 49    Nay 0