



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 259

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 303

Senate, March 25, 2004

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 substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING ON CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 15,
2 2004, and annually thereafter, the Department of Children and
3 Families shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
4 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
5 having cognizance of matters relating to human services, the select
6 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
7 relating to children and to the Office of the Child Advocate on: (1) The
8 number of children the Department of Children and Families and the
9 Transition Task Force approved by the United States District Court for
10 the district of Connecticut have reviewed for placement in residential
11 treatment facilities located out of the state, (2) the number of children
12 the department and task force have approved for such placement, (3) a
13 summary of reasons why such children were not placed in residential
14 treatment facilities in this state, and (4) the number of children referred

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The Department of Children and Families will be able to compile the data specified in the bill, submit the same to the Human Services Committee, the Select Committee on Children and the Office of the Child Advocate by July 15, 2004, and annually thereafter, and report on its plans to enhance in-state services by January 15, 2005, without requiring additional resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 303

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING ON CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to report annually on:

1. the number of children it and the U.S. District Court-ordered transition task force reviewed and placed in out-of-state residential treatment centers,
2. the number of children referred for out-of-state placement who were not approved by DCF and the task force, and
3. a summary of the reasons why children approved for out-of-state placement were not placed in in-state residential treatment facilities.

DCF must submit this report, beginning July 15, 2004, to the Human Services and Children's committees and the child advocate.

The bill also requires DCF to report to the Children's and Human Services committees on the status of any plans to reduce out-of-state placements by improving in-state residential and community-based services. This report is due January 15, 2005.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Transition Task Force***

The transition task force was established by an October 7, 2003 stipulated agreement to the 1992 *Juan F.* U.S. District Court decree. That stipulation transfers to it the DCF commissioner's authority to make decisions concerning abused and neglected children. A December 23, 2003 court-ordered exit plan requires the task force to

approve the placement out of state of any children after that date. The task force is composed of the court monitor, DCF commissioner, and Office of Policy and Management secretary.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 13 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 4