



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 300

LCO No. 1318

01318_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL STUDY FOSTER CARE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-114 of the general statutes, as amended by
2 section 7 of public act 03-243, is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

4 (a) As used in this section, "licensed" means a person holds a license
5 issued by the Department of Children and Families to provide foster
6 care, including foster care of a specific child, and "special study foster
7 parent" means a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and
8 who does not hold a license issued by the Department of Children and
9 Families to provide foster care.

10 [(a)] (b) (1) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children
11 and Families shall be placed with any person, unless such person is
12 licensed by the department. [for that purpose.] Any person licensed by
13 the department [to accept placement of a child is deemed to be
14 licensed to accept placement as a foster family or prospective adoptive
15 family] may be a prospective adoptive parent. The commissioner shall
16 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to

17 establish the licensing procedures and standards.

18 (2) The commissioner shall require each applicant for licensure
19 pursuant to this section and any person sixteen years of age or older
20 living in the household of such applicant to submit to state and
21 national criminal history records checks prior to issuing a license to
22 such applicant to accept placement of a child. Such criminal history
23 records checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.
24 The commissioner shall also check the state child abuse registry
25 established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such
26 applicant and for the name of any person sixteen years of age or older
27 living in the household of such applicant for perpetrator information.

28 [(b)] (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection [(a)] (b) of
29 this section, the commissioner may place a child with a relative who is
30 not licensed or, if the child is fourteen years of age or older, with a
31 special study foster parent for a period of up to ninety days when such
32 placement is in the best interests of the child, provided a satisfactory
33 home visit is conducted, a basic assessment of the family is completed
34 and such relative or special study foster parent attests that such
35 relative or special study foster parent and any adult living within the
36 household [have] has not been convicted of a crime or arrested for a
37 felony against a person, for injury or risk of injury to or impairing the
38 morals of a child, or for the possession, use or sale of a controlled
39 substance. Any such relative or special study foster parent who accepts
40 placement of a child in excess of such ninety-day period shall be
41 subject to licensure by the commissioner, except that any such relative
42 who, prior to July 1, 2001, had been certified by the commissioner to
43 provide care for a related child may continue to maintain such
44 certification if such relative continues to meet the regulatory
45 requirements and the child remains in such relative's care. The
46 commissioner may grant a waiver from such procedure or standard,
47 except any safety standard, for a child placed with a relative, [on a
48 case-by-case basis, from such procedure or standard, except any safety
49 standard,] based on the home of the relative and the needs and best

50 interests of such child. The reason for any waiver granted shall be
51 documented in writing. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in
52 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish certification
53 procedures and standards for a caretaker who is a relative of such
54 child.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To permit the Department of Children and Families to place a child fourteen years of age or older with a special study foster parent for up to ninety days prior to licensure.

[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.]