



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Amendment**

LCO No. 4748

\*HB0557204748HDO\*

Offered by:

REP. MUSHINSKY, 85<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. THOMPSON, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. BELDEN, 113<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5572

File No. 562

Cal. No. 378

**"AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD POVERTY."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There shall be a Child  
4 Poverty Council consisting of the following members or their  
5 designees: The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the  
6 president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of  
7 Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate and the minority  
8 leader of the House of Representatives, the Commissioners of Children  
9 and Families, Social Services, Correction, Mental Retardation, Mental  
10 Health and Addiction Services, Transportation, Public Health,  
11 Education, Economic and Community Development and Health Care  
12 Access, the Labor Commissioner, the Chairman of the Board of  
13 Governors for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, the chairperson  
14 of the State Prevention Council, the chairperson of the Children's Trust

15 Fund and the executive director of the Commission on Children. The  
16 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the secretary's  
17 designee shall be the chairperson. The council shall develop a ten-year  
18 plan, to begin upon the effective date of this section, to reduce the  
19 number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty per cent.

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

43 (c) In developing the plan, the council shall consult with experts and  
44 providers of services to children living in poverty and parents of such  
45 children. The council shall hold at least one public hearing on the plan.  
46 After the public hearing, the council may make any modifications that  
47 the members deem necessary based on testimony given at the public  
48 hearing.

49 (d) Funds from private and public sources may be accepted and  
50 utilized by the council to develop and implement the plan and  
51 provisions of this section.

52 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the council shall submit the plan,  
53 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
54 standing committees having cognizance of matters relating to  
55 appropriations and human services and to the select committee having  
56 cognizance of matters relating to children, along with any  
57 recommendations for legislation and funding necessary to implement  
58 the plan.

59 (f) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, until  
60 January 1, 2015, the council shall report, in accordance with section 11-  
61 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the  
62 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
63 appropriations and human services and to the select committee having  
64 cognizance of matters relating to children on the implementation of the  
65 plan and the extent to which state actions are in conformity with the  
66 plan.

67 (g) For purposes of this section, the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
68 and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be responsible for  
69 coordinating all necessary activities, including, but not limited to,  
70 scheduling and presiding over meetings and public hearings.

71 (h) The council shall terminate on June 30, 2015."

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