



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 515

January Session, 2005

Substitute House Bill No. 6960

House of Representatives, April 25, 2005

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER SPECIFIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of the general statutes or any regulation of Connecticut state
3 agencies, all behavioral health services and substance abuse services
4 provided by the state, or by a private service provider under contract
5 with the state, shall be gender specific, as appropriate, to
6 comprehensively address the unique needs of a targeted gender group.
7 Such services shall include, but not be limited to, services that address
8 the psychological consequences of domestic violence, sexual assault
9 and similar trauma.

10 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) The Department of Mental
11 Health and Addiction Services, in collaboration with the Department
12 of Correction, the Department of Children and Families and the Court
13 Support Services Division, shall establish a competitive grant program

14 to encourage best practices in the delivery of gender specific treatment
15 programs and services. In the development of such grant program, the
16 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall also
17 collaborate with a nonprofit consortium representing women's issues
18 in this state, which shall advise said department concerning the
19 establishment of grant criteria and application procedures, the
20 selection of treatment programs and service providers to receive grants
21 to encourage best practices and the evaluation of the success of such
22 treatment programs and service providers.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2005</i> | New section |

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 06 \$ | FY 07 \$ |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services | GF - Cost | Significant | Significant |
| Judicial Department | GF - Cost | Greater than \$6.75 million | Greater than \$9 million |
| Children & Families, Dept. | GF - Cost | Significant | Significant |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires that all behavioral health and substance abuse services delivered to clients of various state agencies must be gender specific to comprehensively address the unique needs of a targeted gender group. The bill also specifies some types of services that would qualify.

These requirements will lead to significant increased costs at the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Currently, some but not all, DMHAS programs are gender specific. It is anticipated that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will require a one-time expenditure of \$200,000 to perform an evaluation of DCF behavioral services to determine which are conducive to gender specific programming and provide recommendations how to modify such programs. These departments would also incur significant costs to examine all behavioral health programs, redesign as necessary those programs that do not meet the requirements of the bill, and provide the training and resources necessary to implement the redesigned programs.

The bill also requires DMHAS to establish a competitive grant

program to encourage best practices in the delivery of gender specific treatment programs and services. The impact of this requirement is uncertain, as the bill does not specify the size nor the source of funding for the grant.

A majority of adult services that the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department (CSSD) presently provides are not single-gender programs; should the bill be interpreted as requiring them, the CSSD would need to substantially expand its programming at an annual estimated cost of \$8 million. The CSSD would also incur significant costs, estimated to be greater than \$1 million annually, to: (1) expand its service options to comply with the bill; and (2) increase staffing levels to oversee the gender-specific program network provided for under the bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6960

AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER SPECIFIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires all behavioral health and substance abuse services contracted for or provided by the state to be gender-specific, as appropriate, to comprehensively meet the unique needs of the targeted gender. Services must include the psychological consequences of domestic violence, sexual assault, and similar trauma.

It also establishes a competitive grant program to encourage best practices in gender-specific treatment programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), in collaboration with the departments of Correction and Children and Families and the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division, must establish the best practices grant program. DMHAS must also collaborate with a nonprofit consortium representing women's issues in the state. The consortium must advise the agency on (1) grant criteria and application procedures, (2) selecting grantees, and (3) evaluating the programs' success.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0