



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 301

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 553

Senate, April 13, 2005

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. MURPHY of the 16th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING INPATIENT ADMISSIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Children
2 and Families shall establish a committee to: (1) Examine whether
3 licensed hospital psychiatric inpatient bed capacity for children in this
4 state is sufficient and what steps, if any, are necessary for its
5 expansion, and (2) develop a system, in cooperation with the
6 Commissioner of Social Services and the Connecticut Hospital
7 Association, to expedite placements of children awaiting discharge
8 from emergency rooms to inpatient beds or community-based
9 treatment facilities or services in a manner that results in an equitable
10 distribution of placements. Such system shall include, but not be
11 limited to, a centralized data base of available nonemergency
12 residential treatment placements that will be made available to all
13 institutions, state agencies and families seeking residential treatment
14 placements for children.

15 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

16 (1) The Commissioners of Social Services and Health Care Access, or
17 the commissioners' designees;

18 (2) The state Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee; and

19 (3) Representatives of private children's hospitals and mental health
20 advocacy groups for children.

21 (c) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Children
22 and Families shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
23 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the committee's findings and
24 recommendations to the General Assembly.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PH *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 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential
Health Care Access, Off.	GF - None	None	None
Social Services, Dept.	GF - None	None	None
Child Advocate, Off.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be able to establish the required committee and submit findings and recommendations by January 1, 2006, within the agency's anticipated budgetary resources.

The bill requires the committee to develop a system to expedite placements of children awaiting discharge from emergency rooms. This must include a centralized database of available placement options for children. It is uncertain whether the bill would be interpreted to mandate the production of this database prior to January 1, 2006, or only require planning for a system with implementation at a later date.

The DCF will incur one-time programming costs of approximately \$17,000 to design a computerized tracking database. Ongoing annual costs of \$57,333 would be incurred to support one Research Analyst needed to maintain the system. These costs would be supplemented by fringe benefits costs of \$12,986 in the first year of employment and

\$30,908 in subsequent years.¹

It is anticipated that the Department of Social Services, as well as the Offices of the Child Advocate and Health Care Access, can participate in the activities of the committee within each agency's anticipated budgetary resources.

¹ The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated fringe benefit reimbursement rate as a percentage of payroll is 53.91%, effective July 1, 2004. However, first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs lowering the rate to 22.65%. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State Employees Retirement System.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB-553

AN ACT CONCERNING INPATIENT ADMISSIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0