



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Committee Bill No. 6359

LCO No. 4270

04270HB06359KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GIRLS SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 46b-121k of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

3 (a) The Court Support Services Division shall be charged with the
4 duty of developing constructive programs for the prevention and
5 reduction of delinquency and crime among juvenile offenders. To that
6 end, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division shall
7 cooperate with other agencies to encourage the establishment of new
8 programs and to provide a continuum of services for juvenile
9 offenders who do not require secure placement. The programs shall be
10 tailored to the type of juvenile including the juvenile's offense history,
11 age, gender, mental health and chemical dependency problem, and
12 other characteristics. (1) The Court Support Services Division shall
13 develop programs that provide: [(1)] (A) Intensive general educational
14 programs, with an individual educational plan for each juvenile; [(2)]
15 (B) specific educational components in the management of anger and
16 nonviolent conflict resolution; [(3)] (C) treatment for chemical

17 dependency; [(4)] (D) mental health screening, assessment and
18 treatment; and [(5)] (E) sexual offender treatment. (2) The Court
19 Support Services Division shall create community-based programs for
20 females, especially status offenders, that have the components
21 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection and are trauma-based in
22 philosophy.

23 (b) The Judicial Department may contract to establish regional
24 secure residential facilities and regional highly supervised residential
25 and nonresidential facilities for juveniles referred by the court. Such
26 facilities shall operate within contracted-for capacity limits. Such
27 facilities shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of section
28 17a-145.

29 (c) The Court Support Services Division shall collaborate with
30 private residential facilities providing residential programs and with
31 community-based nonresidential postrelease programs.

32 (d) Any program developed by the Court Support Services Division
33 that is designed to prevent or reduce delinquency and crime among
34 juvenile offenders shall be gender specific [, as necessary, and shall]
35 and all services contracted for by the Court Support Services Division
36 for female adolescents shall be gender specific. For purposes of this
37 subsection, "gender specific" programs and services are ones that (1)
38 are community-based and family-centered and have policies and
39 practices that acknowledge the relationship of the juvenile offender
40 with his or her family and others, (2) comprehensively address the
41 unique needs of a targeted gender group and provide staff training on
42 such needs, (3) incorporate the following basic principles: (A) Gender,
43 culture, race and ethnicity make a difference in successful treatment,
44 and (B) the environment where treatment or services occur needs to be
45 based on safety, respect and dignity.

46 Sec. 2. Section 46b-121l of the general statutes is repealed and the
47 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

48 (a) The Court Support Services Division shall fund projects for a
49 program of early intervention initiatives designed for juvenile
50 offenders. The projects may include, but not be limited to, the
51 following initiatives:

52 (1) A peer tutoring project designed for juvenile offenders required
53 to perform community services;

54 (2) Specialized residential services for juvenile offenders on
55 probation who have been expelled from school;

56 (3) Social services, [and] counseling and mentoring for female
57 juvenile offenders;

58 (4) Training in cognitive skill building;

59 (5) A self-supporting entrepreneurship program; and

60 (6) A mentoring program designed to match juveniles with positive
61 adult role models.

62 (b) The primary purpose of these projects shall be to provide a
63 network of community services for juvenile offenders. The Court
64 Support Services Division shall develop evaluation protocols designed
65 to assess the impact of components of these projects on deterring
66 juvenile crime in the communities where the projects operate.

67 Sec. 3. Section 17a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
68 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

69 The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall:

70 (a) Establish or contract for the use of a variety of facilities and
71 services for identification, evaluation, discipline, rehabilitation,
72 aftercare, treatment and care of children and youth in need of the
73 department's services;

74 (b) Administer in a coordinated and integrated manner all

75 institutions and facilities which are or may come under the jurisdiction
76 of the department and may appoint advisory groups for any such
77 institution or facility;

78 (c) Encourage the development of programs and the establishment
79 of facilities for children and youth by public or private agencies and
80 groups;

81 (d) Enter into cooperative arrangements with public or private
82 agencies outside the state;

83 (e) Insure that all children under the commissioner's supervision
84 have adequate food, clothing, shelter and adequate medical, dental,
85 psychiatric, psychological, social, religious and other services;

86 (f) Provide, in the commissioner's discretion, needed service to any
87 municipality, agency, or person, whether or not such person is
88 committed to the commissioner;

89 (g) Adopt and enforce regulations and establish rules for the
90 internal operation and administration of the department in accordance
91 with chapter 54;

92 (h) Undertake, contract for or otherwise stimulate research
93 concerning children and youth;

94 (i) Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint such professional,
95 technical and other personnel as may be necessary for the efficient
96 operation of the department;

97 (j) Coordinate the activities of the department with those of other
98 state departments, municipalities and private agencies concerned with
99 providing services for children and youth and their families;

100 (k) Act as administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles
101 established by section 46b-151a, when so designated by the Governor
102 in accordance with section 46b-151c;

103 (l) Provide or arrange for the provision of suitable education for
104 every child under the commissioner's supervision, either in public
105 schools, special educational programs, private schools, educational
106 programs within the institutions or facilities under the commissioner's
107 jurisdiction, or work and training programs otherwise provided by
108 law. The suitability of educational programs provided by the
109 commissioner shall be subject to review by the Department of
110 Education;

111 (m) Submit to the state advisory council for its comment proposals
112 for new policies or programs and the proposed budget for the
113 department;

114 (n) Have any and all other powers and duties as are necessary to
115 administer the department and implement the purposes of sections
116 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, and 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive;

117 (o) Conduct and render a final decision in administrative hearings;
118 [and]

119 (p) Provide programs for juvenile offenders that are gender specific
120 [in that they] and only contract for services for female adolescents that
121 are gender specific. For purposes of this subsection, "gender specific"
122 programs and services are ones that (1) are community-based and
123 family-centered and have policies and practices that acknowledge the
124 relationship of the juvenile offender with his or her family and others,
125 (2) comprehensively address the unique needs of a targeted gender
126 group and provide staff training on such needs, (3) incorporate the
127 following basic principles: (A) Gender, culture, race and ethnicity
128 make a difference in successful treatment, and (B) the environment
129 where treatment or services occur needs to be based on safety, respect
130 and dignity;

131 (q) Create community-based programs for females involved in the
132 juvenile justice system, especially status offenders, that are trauma-
133 based in philosophy and provide appropriate substance abuse and

134 behavioral health services; and

135 (r) Develop a continuum of services and interventions to prevent
136 females from being referred to the juvenile court system, including
137 establishment of mentoring programs and expansion of community
138 advocates to coordinate existing community resources.

139 Sec. 4. (Effective October 1, 2005) (a) The Department of Children and
140 Families shall not open any additional residential facilities for females
141 in order to give priority to family-based, community-based care.

142 (b) The department shall open eight six-bed group homes and
143 emergency respite beds for short-term shelter for runaways that
144 incorporate wrap-around community services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	46b-121k
Sec. 2	October 1, 2005	46b-121l
Sec. 3	July 1, 2005	17a-6
Sec. 4	October 1, 2005	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish and fund a plan and continuum of services for adolescent girls involved in the juvenile justice system.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. HAMM, 34th Dist.

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