



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 553

January Session, 2005

* SB00553PH__040405__ *

**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 in-patient 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 in-patient 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.*