



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Substitute Bill No. 5254

* HB05254GAE 042606 *

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE INVESTMENT IN PREVENTION AND CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-67v of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 For the biennial budget for the fiscal years commencing July 1,
4 [2003, and ending June 30, 2005] 2007, and July 1, 2008, and each
5 biennium thereafter, the Governor's budget document shall include a
6 prevention report [presenting] that corresponds with the prevention
7 goals identified in section 4-67x, as amended by this act. The budget
8 document shall:

9 (1) Present in detail for each fiscal year of [such] the biennium the
10 Governor's recommendation for appropriations for prevention services
11 classified by those budgeted agencies [involved in the State Prevention
12 Council and showing,] that provide prevention services to children,
13 youth and families;

14 (2) Indicate the Governor's progress toward meeting the goal that,
15 by the year 2020, at least ten per cent of total recommended
16 appropriations for each such budgeted agency be allocated for
17 prevention services; and

18 (3) Include, for each applicable budgeted agency and its
19 subdivisions, (A) a list of agency programs that provide prevention
20 services, (B) the actual prevention services expenditures for the fiscal
21 year [ending June 30, 2003] preceding of the biennium, by program,
22 (C) the estimated prevention services expenditures for the first fiscal
23 year [commencing July 1, 2003, and] of the biennium, (D) an
24 identification of research-based prevention services programs, [The
25 Governor's budget shall also include] and (E) a summary of all
26 prevention services by each applicable budgeted agency [,] identifying
27 the total for prevention services included in the budget.

28 Sec. 2. Section 4-67s of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

30 As used in sections 4-67s to [4-67v] 4-67x, inclusive, as amended by
31 this act:

32 (1) "Prevention" means policies and programs that promote healthy,
33 safe and productive lives and reduce the likelihood of crime, violence,
34 substance abuse, illness, academic failure and other socially
35 destructive behaviors.

36 (2) "Research-based prevention" means those prevention programs
37 as defined in this section that have been rigorously evaluated and are
38 found to be effective or represent best practices.

39 Sec. 3. Section 4-67x of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes is
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
41 *October 1, 2006*):

42 (a) (1) There shall be a Child Poverty and Prevention Council
43 consisting of the following members or their designees: The Secretary
44 of the Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of
45 the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority
46 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of
47 Representatives, the Commissioners of Children and Families, Social
48 Services, Correction, Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Addiction

49 Services, Transportation, Public Health, Education, Economic and
50 Community Development and Health Care Access, the Labor
51 Commissioner, the Chief Court Administrator, the Chairman of the
52 Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, [the
53 chairperson of the State Prevention Council,] the chairperson of the
54 Children's Trust Fund and the executive directors of the Commission
55 on Children and the Commission on Human Rights and
56 Opportunities. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
57 or the secretary's designee, shall be the chairperson of the council.

58 (2) The council shall:

59 (A) [develop] Develop a ten-year plan, to begin June 8, 2004, to
60 reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty per
61 cent;

62 (B) Promote the health, education, safety and economic security of
63 children from birth to twenty-one years of age, and provide related
64 prenatal services, in order to implement the ten-year plan; and

65 (C) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on realignment
66 of the state budget and other resources in order to implement the ten-
67 year plan.

68 (b) The ten-year plan shall contain: (1) An identification and
69 analysis of the occurrence of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis
70 of the long-term effects of child poverty on children, their families and
71 their communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to
72 municipalities and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and
73 private programs that address child poverty, (5) the percentage of the
74 target population served by such programs and the current state
75 funding levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and
76 analysis of any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs, and (7)
77 procedures and priorities for implementing strategies to achieve a fifty
78 per cent reduction in child poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such
79 procedures and priorities shall include, but not be limited to, (A)
80 vocational training and placement to promote career progression for

81 parents of children living in poverty, (B) educational opportunities,
82 including higher education opportunities, and advancement for such
83 parents and children, including, but not limited to, preliteracy, literacy
84 and family literacy programs, (C) housing for such parents and
85 children, (D) day care and after-school programs and mentoring
86 programs for such children and for single parents, (E) health care
87 access for such parents and children, including access to mental health
88 services and family planning, (F) treatment programs and services,
89 including substance abuse programs and services, for such parents and
90 children, and (G) accessible childhood nutrition programs.

91 (c) In developing the plan, the council shall consult with experts and
92 providers of services to children living in poverty and parents of such
93 children. The council shall hold at least one public hearing on the plan.
94 After the public hearing, the council may make any modifications that
95 the members deem necessary based on testimony given at the public
96 hearing.

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

100 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the council shall submit the plan,
101 in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
102 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
103 appropriations and human services and to the select committee of the
104 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
105 along with any recommendations for legislation and funding
106 necessary to implement the plan.

107 (f) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, until
108 January 1, 2015, the council shall report, in accordance with section 11-
109 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
110 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and human services
111 and to the select committee of the General Assembly having
112 cognizance of matters relating to children on the implementation of the

113 plan, progress made toward meeting the child poverty reduction goal
114 specified in subsection (a) of this section and the extent to which state
115 actions are in conformity with the plan. The council shall meet at least
116 two times annually to (1) review and coordinate state agency efforts to
117 meet the child poverty reduction goal specified in subsection (a) of this
118 section, and (2) report on prevention investment pursuant to
119 subsection (i) of this section.

120 (g) Not later than July 1, 2006, the Office of Policy and Management
121 shall, within available appropriations, develop a protocol requiring
122 state contracts for programs aimed at reducing poverty for children
123 and families to include performance-based standards and outcome
124 measures related to the child poverty reduction goal specified in
125 subsection (a) of this section. Not later than July 1, 2007, the Office of
126 Policy and Management shall, within available appropriations, require
127 such state contracts to include such performance-based standards and
128 outcomes. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may
129 consult with the Commission on Children to identify academic, private
130 and other available funding sources and may accept and utilize funds
131 from private and public sources to implement the provisions of this
132 section.

133 (h) For purposes of this section, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
134 and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be responsible for
135 coordinating all necessary activities, including, but not limited to,
136 scheduling and presiding over meetings and public hearings.

137 (i) (1) On or before January 1, 2007, and annually thereafter until
138 January 1, 2015, the council shall report, in accordance with section 11-
139 4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General
140 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations,
141 education, human services and public health and to the select
142 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
143 relating to children, on the state's progress toward realigning state
144 agency budgets to incorporate prevention services that contribute to
145 prevention or reduction of child poverty as a budget and

146 programmatic priority in budgeted state agencies with membership on
147 the council. The report shall include (A) a summary of measurable
148 gains made toward the child poverty and prevention goals specified in
149 this section; (B) each such agency's report on prevention services
150 submitted to the council pursuant to this subsection; (C) examples of
151 successful interagency collaborations to meet the child poverty and
152 prevention goals in this section; and (D) recommendations for
153 prevention investment and budget realignment developed by the
154 council pursuant to this subsection.

155 (2) On or before November 1, 2006, and annually thereafter until
156 November 1, 2014, each such budgeted state agency that provides
157 prevention services to children shall report to the council on such
158 prevention services. For each prevention service, the report shall
159 include (A) the number of children and families served, (B) a
160 description of the preventive purposes of the service, (C) data showing
161 success or failure of the program in preventing child poverty or related
162 risk factors, as measured by performance-based standards and
163 outcomes, (D) performance-based standards and outcomes included in
164 relevant contracts pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, and (E)
165 any performance-based vendor accountability protocols. Each agency
166 report shall also include (i) long-term departmental goals, strategies
167 and outcomes to promote the health and well-being of children and
168 families, (ii) overall findings on the effectiveness of prevention within
169 such agency using performance-based standards or outcomes, (iii)
170 methods within such agency to reduce disparities in child performance
171 and outcomes by race, income level and gender, and (iv) other
172 information that the agency head deems relevant to demonstrate the
173 preventive value of such services. Each agency shall report on at least
174 two prevention services for the report due on or before November 1,
175 2006, and the number of services shall increase by one for each
176 subsequent report up to and including the report due on or before
177 November 1, 2010.

178 (3) For purposes of each agency's report on prevention services,
179 long-term agency goals in prevention may include, but shall not be

180 limited to, (A) with respect to health goals: Increasing (i) the number of
181 healthy pregnant women and newborns, (ii) the number of youths
182 who adopt healthy behaviors and successfully obtain and maintain
183 employment as adults, and (iii) access to health care, (B) with respect
184 to education goals: Increasing the number of children who (i) are ready
185 for school at an appropriate age, (ii) learn to read by third grade, (iii)
186 succeed in school, and (iv) graduate from high school, (C) with respect
187 to safety goals: Decreasing (i) the rate of child neglect and abuse, (ii)
188 the number of children who are unsupervised after school, (iii) the
189 incidence of child and youth suicide, and (iv) the incidence of juvenile
190 crime, and (D) with respect to housing goals: Increasing access to
191 stable housing.

192 (4) Each report submitted pursuant to this subsection shall include
193 information on the impact of the prevention services in preventing and
194 reducing the incidence of short-term and long-term child poverty.

195 (5) In developing the recommendations pursuant to this subsection,
196 the council shall consult with experts and providers of services to
197 children and families. The council shall annually hold at least one
198 public hearing on the recommendations. After each public hearing, the
199 council may make modifications that the members deem necessary
200 based on testimony given at the public hearing.

201 [(i)] (j) The council shall terminate on June 30, 2015.

202 Sec. 4. Section 17b-16 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes
203 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
204 *October 1, 2006*):

205 The Labor Department, in cooperation with the Department of
206 Social Services, shall provide information and assistance in obtaining,
207 within available appropriations, the federal earned income credit
208 established pursuant to 26 USC 32, to each applicant for or recipient of
209 assistance from the department. The Labor Department, in cooperation
210 with the Department of Revenue Services, shall promote the earned
211 income credit program to recipients of benefits pursuant to section

