



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5532

LCO No. 2048

02048 _____ HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH POLICY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-65a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) There shall be an Office of Policy and Management which shall
4 be responsible for all aspects of state staff planning and analysis in the
5 areas of budgeting, management, planning, energy policy
6 determination and evaluation, intergovernmental policy, youth policy,
7 criminal and juvenile justice planning and program evaluation. The
8 department head shall be the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
9 Management, who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance
10 with the provisions of sections 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, as amended, and 4-8, with
11 all the powers and duties therein prescribed. The Secretary of the
12 Office of Policy and Management shall be the employer representative
13 (1) in collective bargaining negotiations concerning changes to the state
14 employees retirement system and health and welfare benefits, and (2)
15 in all other matters involving collective bargaining, including
16 negotiation and administration of all collective bargaining agreements
17 and supplemental understandings between the state and the state

18 employee unions concerning all executive branch employees except
19 (A) employees of the Division of Criminal Justice, and (B) faculty and
20 professional employees of boards of trustees of constituent units of the
21 state system of higher education. The secretary may designate a
22 member of the secretary's staff to act as the employer representative in
23 the secretary's place.

24 (b) There shall be such undersecretaries as may be necessary for the
25 efficient conduct of the business of the office. Each such undersecretary
26 shall be appointed by the secretary and shall be qualified and
27 experienced in the functions to be performed by him. The positions of
28 each such undersecretary shall be exempt from the classified service.

29 (c) The secretary may delegate to the deputy secretary all or part of
30 the authority, powers and duties of the secretary.

31 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) The Office of Policy and
32 Management shall be the lead agency for coordinating the state's youth
33 policy. Such policy shall focus on achieving positive development
34 outcomes for all youth in the state. The youth policy of the state shall
35 focus on ensuring that all youth have access to: Ongoing relationships
36 with caring adults, safe residences and schools that provide structured
37 activities, services that improve and promote mental and physical
38 health and well-being, and opportunities for community service and
39 civic participation.

40 (b) The Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the
41 Departments of Education, Children and Families, Public Health and
42 Social Services shall: (1) Develop guidelines for the delivery of services
43 that incorporate best practices based on defined, developmentally
44 appropriate, positive outcomes for youth relating to health, safety and
45 education. Such positive outcomes, shall include, but not be limited to,
46 improved school attendance, improved academic and technical
47 proficiencies, improvement in the percentage of youth obtaining a high
48 school diploma or its equivalent, increases in the percentage of youth
49 who enroll in and complete postsecondary school educational and

50 training programs, employment programs that build skills, full
51 employment for youth not enrolled in educational programs,
52 opportunities to be engaged in public service, stable and safe housing,
53 access to quality mental and physical health providers, and
54 opportunities to develop leadership and mentoring skills; (2)
55 coordinate youth program and service delivery systems to improve
56 communication among agencies that administer programs serving
57 youth, especially those programs serving disadvantaged youth; (3)
58 assess existing funding resources, networks and returns on
59 investments to maximize the development of community level services
60 that assist in achieving state goals and objectives with respect to youth
61 policy; and (4) collaborate with public and private partnerships in
62 order to facilitate the positive outcomes for youth described in this
63 subsection.

64 (c) On or before January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
65 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in
66 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the General
67 Assembly on (1) the progress made in achieving the positive outcomes
68 for youth set forth in this section, and the total state expenditures
69 dedicated to achieving such positive outcomes, and (2) state agency
70 programs that are serving youth not participating in educational
71 activities. Such report shall also include a delineation on the progress
72 made by each city or town in achieving the positive outcomes for
73 youth set forth in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	4-65a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Office of Policy and Management to be the lead state agency in the development of youth policy and in the coordination of efforts among state agencies to achieve positive outcomes for youth.

[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.]