



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Substitute Bill No. 5635

* HB05635HS_APP031506 *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KINSHIP CARE NAVIGATOR SYSTEM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-98a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "relative caregiver" means a person who
4 is caring for a child related to such person because the parent of the
5 child has died or become otherwise unable to care for the child, and
6 "respite services" means a scheduled period of relief from the ongoing
7 parental responsibilities assumed by relative caregivers, not to exceed
8 fourteen days per calendar year.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation
10 with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a program to
11 provide respite services to a relative caregiver who has been appointed
12 guardian or coguardian of a child by any court of competent
13 jurisdiction. Respite services available under such program, may
14 include, but shall not be limited to, enrollment of a child cared for by a
15 relative caregiver in a summer camp program.

16 (c) The Department of Children and Families, in consultation with
17 the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction
18 Services and Mental Retardation, shall establish, within available
19 appropriations, a kinship [foster care] navigator program. Such

20 program shall ensure that: [when the department] (1) When the
21 Department of Children and Families determines that it is in the best
22 interest of the child to be placed with a relative for foster care, the
23 department [shall inform] informs the relative regarding procedures to
24 become licensed as a foster parent, and (2) grandparents and other
25 relatives caring for a child related to such persons are provided with
26 information on the array of state services and benefits for which they
27 may be eligible, including the subsidy program established pursuant
28 to section 17a-126 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes. The
29 Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that information
30 on the array of services available under the kinship navigator program
31 is accessible through the 2-1-1 Infoline program.

32 (d) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
33 Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in accordance
34 with section 11-4a, on the implementation of the kinship navigator
35 program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
36 having cognizance of matters relating to human services and to the
37 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
38 matters relating to children.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2006	17a-98a

HS

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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