



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 370

LCO No. 1828

01828_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT REDUCING THE LENGTH OF STAY IN EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of the general statutes, in emergency situations, a child or
3 youth may be placed by the Commissioner of Children and Families in
4 a licensed facility on an emergency basis for not more than forty-five
5 days. Such emergency placement shall be made in a facility licensed
6 by the Commissioner of Children and Families in accordance with
7 section 17a-145 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes. Such
8 emergency placements include, but are not limited to, emergency
9 placements in short term assessment and respite homes, emergency
10 shelters and foster homes.

11 (b) If a child or youth will remain in such emergency placement for
12 more than thirty days, not later than thirty days after the initial
13 placement, the commissioner shall file an application with the court for
14 approval of the continued placement in accordance with this section.

15 Not later than fifteen days after the application is filed, the court shall
16 hold a hearing on the application to review the reasons for continued
17 placement in an emergency placement, the services being provided to
18 the child or youth, and the efforts made by the commissioner to locate
19 an alternative placement. On the date of the hearing, the court shall
20 issue such order as it deems necessary concerning placement of the
21 child or youth. If the child or youth remains in an emergency
22 placement following the hearing or court order, the court shall hold a
23 hearing every fifteen days while the child remains in such placement
24 to review the court's order regarding placement or order compliance
25 with the court's order regarding placement, as the case may be. The
26 commissioner shall ensure that the child or youth is present at such
27 hearing unless the child or youth is physically unable to attend or
28 refuses to attend. Such hearing requirements may not be waived by
29 any party.

30 (c) From January 1, 2007, until June 30, 2007, the commissioner shall
31 ensure that at least ninety per cent of all children and youth placed by
32 the commissioner in emergency placements are removed from such
33 emergency placements prior to the sixtieth day after the date of such
34 placement. On and after July 1, 2007, the commissioner shall ensure
35 that at least ninety-seven per cent of all children and youth placed by
36 the commissioner in emergency placements are removed from such
37 emergency placements prior to the sixtieth day after the date of initial
38 placement.

39 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
40 group to examine (1) the reasons for extended emergency placements
41 for children and youth in the care or custody of the Commissioner of
42 Children and Families, and (2) therapeutic placement alternatives for
43 such children and youth.

44 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members, or
45 their designees:

46 (1) The Commissioner of Children and Families;

- 47 (2) The Child Advocate;
- 48 (3) One representative of a nonprofit child advocacy group
49 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 50 (4) One representative of a nonprofit child advocacy group
51 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 52 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
53 Representatives;
- 54 (6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 55 (7) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
56 Representatives; and
- 57 (8) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- 58 (c) Not later than January 1, 2007, the working group shall submit a
59 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
60 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
61 relating to the judiciary and the select committee of the General
62 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
63 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
64 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
65 January 1, 2007, whichever is later.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce the length of stay for children and youth in emergency placements under the care or custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families.

[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.]