



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 148**

*January Session, 2007*

Senate Bill No. 1152

*Senate, March 27, 2007*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HARRIS of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "licensed" means a person holds a license  
4 issued by the Department of Children and Families to provide foster  
5 care, including foster care of a specific child, and "special study foster  
6 parent" means a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and  
7 who does not hold a license issued by the Department of Children and  
8 Families to provide foster care.

9 (b) (1) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and  
10 Families shall be placed with any person, unless such person is  
11 licensed for that purpose by the department or the Department of  
12 Mental Retardation pursuant to the provisions of section 17a-227, or  
13 such person's home is approved by a child placing agency licensed by

14 the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-149. Any person licensed by  
15 the department may be a prospective adoptive parent. The  
16 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
17 provisions of chapter 54, to establish the licensing procedures and  
18 standards.

19 (2) The commissioner shall require each applicant for licensure  
20 pursuant to this section and any person sixteen years of age or older  
21 living in the household of such applicant to submit to state and  
22 national criminal history records checks prior to issuing a license to  
23 such applicant to accept placement of a child. Such criminal history  
24 records checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.  
25 The commissioner shall also check the state child abuse registry  
26 established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such  
27 applicant and for the name of any person sixteen years of age or older  
28 living in the household of such applicant.

29 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b) of this  
30 section, the commissioner may place a child with a relative who is not  
31 licensed, a nonrelative, if such child's sibling who is related to the  
32 caregiver is also placed with such caregiver or, if the child is [fourteen]  
33 ten years of age or older, with a special study foster parent for a period  
34 of up to ninety days when such placement is in the best interests of the  
35 child, provided a satisfactory home visit is conducted, a basic  
36 assessment of the family is completed and such relative, nonrelative or  
37 special study foster parent attests that such relative, nonrelative or  
38 special study foster parent and any adult living within the household  
39 has not been convicted of a crime or arrested for a felony against a  
40 person, for injury or risk of injury to or impairing the morals of a child,  
41 or for the possession, use or sale of a controlled substance. Any such  
42 relative, nonrelative or special study foster parent who accepts  
43 placement of a child in excess of such ninety-day period shall be  
44 subject to licensure by the commissioner, except that any such relative  
45 who, prior to July 1, 2001, had been certified by the commissioner to  
46 provide care for a related child may continue to maintain such  
47 certification if such relative continues to meet the regulatory



The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

A minimal revenue loss to the state may ensue, as additional children may be placed in unlicensed foster homes for up to ninety days given passage of this bill. States are not allowed to claim federal financial participation (50%) for the costs of maintaining Title IV-E eligible children in unlicensed settings.

The actual revenue loss will depend upon the number of additional children placed in unlicensed relative or special study homes, their duration of stay and Title IV-E status. For comparison purposes, the estimated average maximum revenue loss per such a child in FY 08 would be \$564.70.<sup>1</sup>

No fiscal impact would be associated with the placement of additional children in licensed relative or special study homes, as rates paid are equivalent to those for children in regular foster care homes.

There are currently 94 children in unlicensed relative foster homes and 34 children in unlicensed special study foster homes.

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<sup>1</sup>Based upon an average per diem foster care maintenance payment of \$27.28 for ninety days, a 46% Title IV-E penetration rate and federal financial participation of 50%.

***The Out Years***

The fiscal impact identified above would continue subject to future changes in foster care payments and Title IV-E penetration rates.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 1152*****AN ACT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases short-term, unlicensed placement options for foster children. It allows the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to place half- and step-siblings together with an unlicensed caregiver who is related to at least one of the children. Currently, these caregivers must be related to all children placed with them.

It also lowers, from 14 to 10, the minimum age for placing children temporarily with unlicensed family friends or other responsible adults who already know the child. As under existing law, DCF must first conduct a home study and basic family assessment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

**BACKGROUND*****Unlicensed Foster Homes***

State law prohibits DCF from placing children in unlicensed foster homes. But when it is in a child's best interests, it may place him or her for up to 90 days with responsible unlicensed relatives (caretaker relatives) or others with whom the child has a positive relationship (special study foster parents). These caretakers must become licensed foster parents if the placement extends beyond 90 days.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/06/2007)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2007)