



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 111

January Session, 2007

Senate Bill No. 1201

Senate, March 22, 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 THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN
PLACED IN OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-151aa of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) Any state agency that places a child, as defined in section 17a-93,
4 in a residential facility shall enter into a written agreement with the
5 facility at the time of the placement. Such written agreement shall
6 establish clear standards for the child's care and treatment, including,
7 but not limited to, requirements for monthly written reports
8 concerning the child's care and treatment, addressed to the case
9 worker overseeing the child's placement. The monthly written reports
10 shall set forth child-specific goals and expectations for treatment and
11 progress. The written agreement shall require the facility to report
12 promptly to the placing agency any allegation that the child is abused
13 or neglected, as defined in section 46b-120, or any incident of abuse or
14 neglect of an individual placed in the facility. The placing agency shall

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 \$
Department of Mental Retardation	GF - Cost	70,330	73,580
Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	GF - Cost	15,630	36,470

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill would result in a state cost of \$85,960 in FY 08 and \$110,050 in FY 09 by requiring in-person visits at least every two months for children placed in out-of-state residential settings. The cost associated with the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) would reflect: a Case Manager position at \$60,580 (although the bill is effective 10/1/07, full year funding of the position is reflected in FY 08 to allow for training); fringe benefits ¹ (\$15,630 in FY 08 and \$36,470 in FY 09); and travel costs of \$9,750 in FY 08 and \$13,000 in FY 09. DMR funds residential services for 34 children in 14 different out-of-state residential settings (in four Northeast states) that currently receive in-person visits twice a year. The bill would require an additional 4 visits per child per year.

¹ The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated first year fringe benefit rate for a new employee as a percentage of average salary is 25.8%, effective July 1, 2006. The first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State Employees Retirement System (SERS). The SERS 2006-07 fringe benefit rate is 34.4%, which when combined with the non pension fringe benefit rate totals 60.2%.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1201*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN
PLACED IN OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.*****SUMMARY:**

Current law requires Department of Children and Families' (DCF) representatives to visit children the department has placed in out-of-state residential facilities at least every two months. The bill extends this visitation requirement to any state agency that places children under age 18 out of state, such as the Correction, Education, Judicial, and Mental Retardation departments.

In addition to assessing the child's well-being, which DCF must do under current law, the bill requires the agency visitor to assess the quality of care and treatment progress and the child's health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

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)