



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Raised Bill No. 1152**

LCO No. 3979

\*03979\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**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 Section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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  
48 requirements and the child remains in such relative's care. The

49 commissioner may grant a waiver from such procedure or standard,  
50 except any safety standard, for a child placed with a relative, on a case-  
51 by-case basis, from such procedure or standard, except any safety  
52 standard, based on the home of the relative and the needs and best  
53 interests of such child. The reason for any waiver granted shall be  
54 documented in writing. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in  
55 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish certification  
56 procedures and standards for a [caretaker who is a relative of such  
57 child] caregiver under this section. For purposes of this subsection,  
58 "sibling" includes a stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother or half-sister.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	17a-114

**Statement of Purpose:**

To change the age for placements into special study foster homes from fourteen to ten, and also to allow placements of children with nonrelatives, if such children are siblings of other children placed in relative care.

*[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.]*