



General Assembly

**Amendment**

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LCO No. 7214

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Offered by:

REP. MUSHINSKY, 85<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. MCMAHON, 15<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. RUWET, 65<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7247

File No. 376

Cal. No. 319

**"AN ACT DESIGNATING CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES AS THE STATE'S COORDINATING AGENCIES TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY."**

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1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 4-67x of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

5 (a) [(1)] There shall be a Child Poverty and Prevention Council  
6 consisting of the following members or their designees: The Secretary  
7 of the Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of  
8 the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority  
9 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of  
10 Representatives, the Commissioners of Children and Families, Social  
11 Services, Correction, Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Addiction  
12 Services, Transportation, Public Health, Education, Economic and

13 Community Development and Health Care Access, the Labor  
14 Commissioner, the Chief Court Administrator, the Chairman of the  
15 Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, the  
16 chairperson of the Children's Trust Fund and the executive directors of  
17 the Commission on Children and the Commission on Human Rights  
18 and Opportunities. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
19 Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be the chairperson of  
20 the council. The council shall (1) develop and promote the  
21 implementation of a ten-year plan, to begin June 8, 2004, to reduce the  
22 number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty per cent, and  
23 (2) within available appropriations, establish prevention goals and  
24 recommendations and measure prevention service outcomes in  
25 accordance with this section in order to promote the health and well-  
26 being of children and families.

27 (b) The ten-year plan shall contain: (1) An identification and  
28 analysis of the occurrence of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis  
29 of the long-term effects of child poverty on children, their families and  
30 their communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to  
31 municipalities and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and  
32 private programs that address child poverty, (5) the percentage of the  
33 target population served by such programs and the current state  
34 funding levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and  
35 analysis of any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs, and (7)  
36 procedures and priorities for implementing strategies to achieve a fifty  
37 per cent reduction in child poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such  
38 procedures and priorities shall include, but not be limited to, (A)  
39 vocational training and placement to promote career progression for  
40 parents of children living in poverty, (B) educational opportunities,  
41 including higher education opportunities, and advancement for such  
42 parents and children, including, but not limited to, preliteracy, literacy  
43 and family literacy programs, (C) housing for such parents and  
44 children, (D) day care and after-school programs and mentoring  
45 programs for such children and for single parents, (E) health care  
46 access for such parents and children, including access to mental health

47 services and family planning, (F) treatment programs and services,  
48 including substance abuse programs and services, for such parents and  
49 children, and (G) accessible childhood nutrition programs.

50 (c) In developing the ten-year plan, the council shall consult with  
51 experts and providers of services to children living in poverty and  
52 parents of such children. The council shall hold at least one public  
53 hearing on the plan. After the public hearing, the council may make  
54 any modifications that the members deem necessary based on  
55 testimony given at the public hearing.

56 (d) Funds from private and public sources may be accepted and  
57 utilized by the council to develop and implement the plan and the  
58 provisions of this section.

59 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the council shall submit the plan,  
60 in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of  
61 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
62 appropriations and human services and to the select committee of the  
63 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
64 along with any recommendations for legislation and funding  
65 necessary to implement the plan.

66 (f) (1) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, until  
67 January 1, 2015, the council shall report, in accordance with section 11-  
68 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
69 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and human services  
70 and to the select committee of the General Assembly having  
71 cognizance of matters relating to children on the implementation of the  
72 plan, progress made toward meeting the child poverty reduction goal  
73 specified in subsection (a) of this section and the extent to which state  
74 actions are in conformity with the plan. The council shall meet at least  
75 two times annually for the purposes set forth in this section.

76 (2) On or before January 1, 2007, the council shall, within available  
77 appropriations, report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the  
78 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly

79 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, education,  
80 human services and public health and to the select committee of the  
81 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
82 on the state's progress in prioritizing expenditures in budgeted state  
83 agencies with membership on the council in order to fund prevention  
84 services. The report shall include (A) a summary of measurable gains  
85 made toward the child poverty and prevention goals established in  
86 this section; (B) a copy of each such agency's report on prevention  
87 services submitted to the council pursuant to subsection (g) of this  
88 section; (C) examples of successful interagency collaborations to meet  
89 the child poverty and prevention goals established in this section; and  
90 (D) recommendations for prevention investment and budget priorities.  
91 In developing such recommendations, the council shall consult with  
92 experts and providers of services to children and families.

93 (g) (1) On or before November 1, 2006, and on or before November  
94 1, 2007, each budgeted state agency with membership on the council  
95 that provides prevention services to children shall, within available  
96 appropriations, report to the council in accordance with this  
97 subsection.

98 (2) Each agency report shall include at least two prevention services  
99 for the report due on or before November 1, 2006, and the report due  
100 on or before November 1, 2007, not to exceed the actual number of  
101 prevention services provided by the agency. For each prevention  
102 service reported by the agency, the agency report shall include (A) a  
103 statement of the number of children and families served, (B) a  
104 description of the preventive purposes of the service, (C) for the report  
105 due on or before November 1, 2007, a description of performance-  
106 based standards and outcomes included in relevant contracts pursuant  
107 to subsection (h) of this section, and (D) any performance-based  
108 vendor accountability protocols.

109 (3) Each agency report shall also include (A) long-term agency  
110 goals, strategies and outcomes to promote the health and well-being of  
111 children and families, (B) overall findings on the effectiveness of

112 prevention within such agency, (C) a statement of whether there are  
113 methods used by such agency to reduce disparities in child  
114 performance and outcomes by race, income level and gender, and a  
115 description of such methods, if any, and (D) other information the  
116 agency head deems relevant to demonstrate the preventive value of  
117 services provided by the agency. Long-term agency goals, strategies  
118 and outcomes reported under this subdivision may include, but need  
119 not be limited to, the following:

120 (i) With respect to health goals, increasing (I) the number of healthy  
121 pregnant women and newborns, (II) the number of youths who adopt  
122 healthy behaviors, and (III) access to health care for children and  
123 families;

124 (ii) With respect to education goals, increasing the number of  
125 children who (I) are ready for school at an appropriate age, (II) learn to  
126 read by third grade, (III) succeed in school, (IV) graduate from high  
127 school, and (V) successfully obtain and maintain employment as  
128 adults;

129 (iii) With respect to safety goals, decreasing (I) the rate of child  
130 neglect and abuse, (II) the number of children who are unsupervised  
131 after school, (III) the incidence of child and youth suicide, and (IV) the  
132 incidence of juvenile crime; and

133 (iv) With respect to housing goals, increasing access to stable and  
134 adequate housing.

135 (h) Not later than July 1, 2006, the Office of Policy and Management  
136 shall, within available appropriations, develop a protocol requiring  
137 state contracts for programs aimed at reducing poverty for children  
138 and families to include performance-based standards and outcome  
139 measures related to the child poverty reduction goal specified in  
140 subsection (a) of this section. Not later than July 1, 2007, the Office of  
141 Policy and Management shall, within available appropriations, require  
142 such state contracts to include such performance-based standards and  
143 outcome measures. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and

144 Management may consult with the Commission on Children to  
145 identify academic, private and other available funding sources and  
146 may accept and utilize funds from private and public sources to  
147 implement the provisions of this section.

148 (i) For purposes of this section, the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
149 and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be responsible for  
150 coordinating all necessary activities, including, but not limited to,  
151 scheduling and presiding over meetings and public hearings.

152 (j) (1) The Office of Policy and Management shall designate a local  
153 entity in at least twelve municipalities that are public investment  
154 communities, as defined in section 7-545, to carry out the purposes of  
155 subdivision (2) of this subsection. The municipalities shall include at  
156 least (A) four that have populations of one hundred thousand or more  
157 persons, (B) four that have populations of more than fifty thousand but  
158 less than one hundred thousand persons, and (C) four that have  
159 populations of fifty thousand or less persons. For purposes of this  
160 subsection, "local entity" means a community action agency or other  
161 local provider of services to low income families.

162 (2) The designated local entities shall (A) hold at least one public  
163 hearing or informational meeting annually to obtain input from low  
164 income families in its public investment community on (i) policy and  
165 program recommendations to achieve the child poverty reduction goal  
166 specified in subsection (a) of this section, (ii) barriers and challenges in  
167 achieving such goal, (iii) strategies to reverse poverty trends, and (iv)  
168 state-wide and local efforts to reduce child poverty; and (B) submit a  
169 written annual progress report to the council that includes (i) data that  
170 measures the progress made by families toward achieving such child  
171 poverty reduction goal, (ii) an analysis of the barriers to achieving such  
172 goal, and (iii) input from families provided pursuant to subparagraph  
173 (A) of this subdivision.

174 (k) The council shall hold at least one public hearing annually to  
175 obtain state-wide input on its goal to reduce child poverty and to

176 review progress reports submitted by local entities pursuant to  
177 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (j) of this section.

178 [(j)] (l) The council shall terminate on June 30, 2015."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	4-67x