



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 418**

February Session, 2008

Senate Bill No. 241

*Senate, April 3, 2008*

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 EXAMINING THE LICENSURE SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of  
2 Policy and Management shall establish a committee, in accordance  
3 with subsection (b) of this section, to assist the secretary in examining  
4 and evaluating the existing licensure system for facilities under the  
5 jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Families. The  
6 committee shall focus on the (1) most appropriate system of licensure  
7 for such facilities, including, but not limited to, the feasibility and  
8 appropriateness of transferring licensing responsibilities for such  
9 facilities to the Department of Public Health, and (2) resources  
10 necessary to transfer licensing responsibilities for such facilities to the  
11 Department of Public Health or to successfully implement any other  
12 recommended changes to the existing licensure system. At the  
13 discretion of the secretary, the committee may focus on additional  
14 topics.

15 (b) (1) The committee shall be appointed by the secretary and shall  
16 consist of (A) two members who are employees of the Department of  
17 Public Health, (B) two members who are employees of the Department  
18 of Children and Families, and (C) the Child Advocate, or a designee. In  
19 addition, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the  
20 Commissioner of Public Health and the Commissioner of Children and  
21 Families, or their designees, shall be ex-officio members of the  
22 committee with full voting rights.

23 (2) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may  
24 expand the membership of the committee to include representatives  
25 from related fields if the secretary believes that such expansion would  
26 be beneficial to the work of the committee.

27 (c) On or before January 1, 2009, the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
28 and Management shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
29 general statutes, the results of the examination, with specific  
30 recommendations for statutory changes, to the Governor and the joint  
31 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
32 matters relating to public health and human services.

33 Sec. 2. Section 17a-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
34 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

35 (a) (1) The name of the Department of Children and Families facility  
36 at Connecticut Valley Hospital shall be Riverview Hospital for  
37 Children and Youth.

38 [(b)] (2) The name of the Department of Children and Families  
39 facility in the city of Middletown shall be the Connecticut Juvenile  
40 Training School.

41 [(c)] (3) The name of the Department of Children and Families  
42 facility in the town of East Windsor shall be the Connecticut Children's  
43 Place.

44 [(d)] (4) The name of the Department of Children and Families  
45 facility in the town of Hamden shall be High Meadows.



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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 09 \$</b>	<b>FY 10 \$</b>
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	87,500	159,450
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	19,595	90,604
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	None	None
Child Advocate, Off.	GF - Cost	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

It is anticipated that the Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Children and Families (DCF); the Offices of Policy and Management and the Child Advocate will be able to participate in the work of the committee established pursuant to Section 1 within each agency’s normally budgeted resources.

The bill requires the DCF to seek licensure of Riverview Hospital by 7/1/09, and apply for renewal annually. The DPH will incur FY 09 costs of approximately \$87,500 to support the partial year salaries of 2 Nurse Consultants who would be trained during the latter half of FY 09. Once licensure is sought these positions would be required to conduct inspections and perform ongoing regulatory activities - including complaint investigations. The FY 10 cost associated with these staff would be approximately \$159,450. Funding for these

<sup>1</sup> The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs. The estimated first year fringe benefit rate as a percentage of payroll is 25.36%. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State

positions has not been reflected within sHB 5021 (the Revised FY 09 Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee).

Fringe benefits costs of \$19,595 in FY 09 and \$90,604 in FY 10 would also result.

The DCF would incur administrative costs, which are anticipated to be accommodated within the agency's normally budgeted resources, to apply for licensure. However, it cannot be determined at this time how mandatory licensure might impact the DCF's budget, as it will depend upon unknown standards to be adopted by the DPH, and the extent to which the Hospital meets those standards.

### ***The Out Years***

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

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Employees Retirement System (SERS). The SERS fringe benefit rate is 33.27%, which when combined with the rate for non-pension fringe benefits totals 58.63%.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 241*****AN ACT EXAMINING THE LICENSURE SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to seek Public Health Department (DPH) licensure for Riverview Hospital by July 1, 2009. It requires DPH to adopt regulations by December 31, 2008 establishing minimum licensing standards for Riverview. Current law exempts state-operated mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities like Riverview from DPH licensure (CGS § 19a-490(a)).

The bill also requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary and a committee he appoints to evaluate the existing licensing system for facilities under DCF's jurisdiction, that is, facilities DCF operates directly and the private facilities it licenses. The committee's examination must include the feasibility, appropriateness, and resources needed to transfer licensing responsibility to DPH.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**LICENSURE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

The bill requires the committee to help the OPM secretary examine and evaluate the existing system for licensing DCF-operated and -licensed facilities. It must look at:

1. the most appropriate licensing system, including the feasibility and appropriateness of transferring responsibility to DPH;
2. the resources needed to transfer licensing to DPH or implement any other recommendations it makes; and

3. any other topics the secretary determines.

The committee consists of two DPH and two DCF employees; the child advocate, or her designee; and the DPH and DCF commissioners and the OPM secretary, or their designees. The secretary may expand the committee to include representatives from related fields if he believes that would help the committee.

The secretary must report on the committee's work to the governor and the Public Health and Human Services committees, including recommendations for statutory changes, by January 1, 2009.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Facilities in DCF's Jurisdiction***

In addition to Riverview Hospital, DCF operates the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, Connecticut Children's Place, High Meadows, and the Wilderness School (which DPH licenses as a youth camp). It licenses residential child caring agencies and facilities such as group homes, residential educational and treatment centers, and temporary shelters; extended day treatment facilities; outpatient psychiatric clinics for children; in- and out-of-state adoption agencies; and permanent family residences.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

### Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
 Yea 20 Nay 8 (03/07/2008)

### Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable  
 Yea 14 Nay 4 (03/18/2008)