



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 29, 2008

**S.B. NO. 241 (RAISED) AN ACT EXAMINING THE LICENSURE SYSTEM FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

The Department of Children and Families offers the following comments regarding S.B. No. 241 (Raised) An Act Examining the Licensure System for the Department of Children and Families.

This bill would establish a committee to examine the current licensure system for facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Families and determine the feasibility and appropriateness of transferring licensing responsibilities for such facilities to the Department of Public Health. It also requires the Commissioner of Children and Families to apply to the Department of Public Health for licensure of Riverview Hospital for Children and Youth.

Section 1 - The Department does not object to the establishment of the Committee to examine and evaluate the licensure system for facilities under the jurisdiction of DCF. The need to have DCF funded facilities licensed by DPH has been debated for many years. The two departments have examined this in the past and it is believed that to do so would require new resources for the Department of Public Health. The bill should be clarified to specify which type of licensed programs the study would apply to. For example, DCF currently issues licenses for 114 child caring facilities; 52 outpatient psychiatric clinics for children, 4 permanent family residence, 47 child placing agencies and over 2,000 foster homes.

Section 2 - We believe that the licensing of Riverview by DPH is inappropriate and not necessary. We would urge that the Committee weigh any positive attributes associated with the licensure of Riverview, with the significant fiscal impact that would be imposed upon both DCF and DPH. The Department is not aware of any other state-operated facility that is subject to licensure by another state agency. DCF would also point out that Riverview Hospital continues to be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), an organization with far more stringent requirements than any licensure standards that we are aware of.

Rather than requiring the licensure of Riverview by the Department of Public Health, we would suggest adding this issue to the charge of the committee established in section 1 to examine the broader licensure system.