



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 215

January Session, 2009

House Bill No. 6236

House of Representatives, March 25, 2009

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN REPORTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES RELATED TO 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 Section 17a-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a
4 school district within the Department of Children and Families, for the
5 education or assistance of any child or youth who resides in or receives
6 day treatment at any state-operated institution or facility within that
7 department and whose needs require that his education be provided
8 within the institution in which he resides or at which he receives day
9 treatment. The school district shall be known as State of Connecticut-
10 Unified School District #2. The Commissioner of Children and
11 Families shall administer, coordinate and control the operations of the
12 school district and shall be responsible for the overall supervision and
13 direction of all courses and activities of the school district and shall

14 establish such vocational and academic education, research and
15 statistics, training and development services and programs as he
16 considers necessary or advisable in the best interests of the persons
17 benefiting therefrom. The commissioner or his designee shall be the
18 superintendent of said district and shall act in accordance with the
19 applicable provisions of section 10-157.

20 (b) The superintendent of the school district shall have the power to
21 (1) establish and maintain within the Department of Children and
22 Families such schools of different grades as he may from time to time
23 require and deem necessary; (2) establish and maintain within the
24 department such school libraries as may from time to time be required
25 in connection with the educational courses, services and programs
26 authorized by this section; (3) purchase, receive, hold and convey
27 personal property for school purposes and equip and supply such
28 schools with necessary furniture and other appendages; (4) make
29 agreements and regulations for the establishing and conducting of the
30 district's schools and employ and dismiss, in accordance with the
31 applicable provisions of section 10-151, such teachers as are necessary
32 to carry out the intent of this section and to pay their salaries; (5)
33 receive any federal funds or aid made available to the state for such
34 programs and shall be eligible for and may receive any other funds or
35 aid whether private, state or otherwise, to be used for the purposes of
36 this section.

37 (c) The superintendent of the school district may cooperate with the
38 federal government in carrying out the purposes of any federal law
39 pertaining to the education of students within his school district, and
40 may adopt such methods of administration as are found by the federal
41 government to be necessary, and may comply with such conditions as
42 may be necessary to secure the full benefit of all such federal funds
43 available.

44 [(d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall annually
45 evaluate the progress and accomplishments of the school district
46 established in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. Said

47 commissioner shall submit annual evaluation reports to the
48 Commissioner of Education in order to apprise the State Board of
49 Education of the true condition, progress and needs of said school
50 district. Said commissioner shall follow procedures adopted by the
51 Commissioner of Education in preparation of annual evaluation
52 reports.]

53 Sec. 2. Section 17a-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the
54 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

55 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the
56 Commissioner of Social Services shall establish performance measures
57 in the areas of finance, administration, utilization, client satisfaction,
58 quality and access for Connecticut Community KidCare.

59 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and
60 implement, within available appropriations, culturally appropriate
61 and competency-based curricula including best practices for the care of
62 children and youths with, or at risk of, behavioral health needs and
63 offer training to all willing persons involved in Connecticut
64 Community KidCare, including, but not limited to, employees in
65 education and child care and appropriate employees within the
66 judicial system.

67 [(c) The Commissioners of Children and Families and Social
68 Services shall, within available appropriations, design and conduct a
69 five-year independent longitudinal evaluation with evaluation goals
70 and methods utilizing an independent evaluator. The evaluation shall
71 assess changes in outcomes for individual children, youths and
72 families, evaluate the effectiveness of the overall initiative in the early
73 phases to guide future expansion of Connecticut Community KidCare
74 and examine benefits, costs and cost avoidance achieved by it. Such
75 evaluation may include, but is not limited to, the following: (1)
76 Utilization of out-of-home placements; (2) adherence to system of care
77 principles; (3) school attendance; (4) delinquency recidivism rates; (5)
78 satisfaction of families and children and youths with Connecticut
79 Community KidCare as assessed through client satisfaction surveys;

80 (6) coordination of Connecticut Community KidCare with the juvenile
81 justice, child protection, adult behavioral health and education
82 systems; and (7) the quality of transition services.]

83 Sec. 3. Section 17a-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

85 No person or entity shall care for or board a child without a license
86 obtained from the Commissioner of Children and Families, except: (1)
87 When a child has been placed by a person or entity holding a license
88 from the commissioner; (2) any residential educational institution
89 exempted by the state Board of Education under the provisions of
90 section 17a-152; (3) residential facilities licensed by the Department of
91 Developmental Services pursuant to section 17a-227; (4) facilities
92 providing child day care services, as defined in section 19a-77; or (5)
93 any home that houses students participating in a program described in
94 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (8) of section 10a-29. The person or
95 entity seeking a child-care facility license shall file with the
96 commissioner an application for a license, in such form as the
97 commissioner furnishes, stating the location where it is proposed to
98 care for such child, the number of children to be cared for, in the case
99 of a corporation, the purpose of the corporation and the names of its
100 chief officers and of the actual person responsible for the child. The
101 Commissioner of Children and Families is authorized to fix the
102 maximum number of children to be boarded and cared for in any such
103 home or institution or by any person or entity licensed by the
104 commissioner. [Each person or entity holding a license under the
105 provisions of this section shall file annually, with the commissioner, a
106 report stating the number of children received and removed during
107 the year, the number of deaths and the causes of death, the average
108 cost of support per capita and such other data as the commissioner
109 may prescribe.] If the population served at any facility, institution or
110 home operated by any person or entity licensed under this section
111 changes after such license is issued, such person or entity shall file a
112 new license application with the commissioner, and the commissioner
113 shall notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in which the

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill eliminates an annual reporting requirement concerning the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS). The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will experience a workload reduction and minimal savings as it will no longer have to assist the CJTS advisory group and the CJTS public safety committee in publishing the annual report.

The bill also eliminates an inactive advisory group and repeals various obsolete or duplicative DCF reporting mandates. Enactment of these changes will result in no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

Source: "Department of Children and Families Monitoring and Evaluation," Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (December 2007); 2/5/09 Public Hearing Testimony.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6236*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN REPORTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates six different reports issued by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), some of which are produced with the Department of Social Services (DSS).

The bill eliminates the Connecticut Juvenile Training School advisory group and the advisory committee on adoption and provision of services to minority children.

The bill eliminates an agreement between the Chief Court Administrator and the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council to do a cost-benefit analysis of programs for juvenile offenders. The report was completed and issued in 2001.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

ELIMINATED REPORTS

The bill eliminates the following reports:

1. a report that evaluates the progress and accomplishments of DCF's unified school district that is sent to the education commissioner and covers the condition, progress, and needs of the district.
2. a five-year study conducted by the DCF and DSS commissioners assessing changes in outcomes for individual children, youths, and families; evaluating the effectiveness the early phases of

Connecticut Community KidCare to guide future expansion of the program; and examining benefits, costs, and cost-avoidance achieved by it;

3. an annual report from the DCF commissioner to the Children's, Human Services, and Judiciary committees that details who is in the department's care, why, where they are housed; police reports about those in department care; and progress on the construction of new facilities;
4. annual reports from licensed day care and residential facilities filed with the DCF commissioner that include the number of children received and removed during the year, the number and causes of deaths, the average cost of support per capita, and any other information the commissioner decides is relevant;
5. quarterly reports from psychiatric hospitals and general hospitals providing psychiatric care to children and youths to the DCF commissioner that include the date of and reason for admission, diagnosis, date of birth, sex, town of residence, and date of discharge of all children and youths who have been admitted and treated for a psychiatric illness; and
6. a monthly report from DCF to the Human Services and Public Health committees covering the number of children and adolescents in DCF custody who (1) are in subacute care in freestanding psychiatric or general hospitals and (2) cannot be discharged due to the lack of appropriate placements in the community.

CONNECTICUT JUVENILE TRAINING SCHOOL ADVISORY GROUP

The bill eliminates the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) advisory group. The group provides an ongoing review of the school and gives recommendations for improvements and enhancements. The review includes the details on who is at CJTS; why they are there; the nature of the care they are receiving; and facility programs, policies,

and costs.

The bill also eliminates a requirement that DCF annually report to the Children's, Human Services, and Judiciary committees on CJTS.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADOPTION AND PROVISION OF SERVICES TO MINORITY CHILDREN

The bill eliminates this advisory group, which:

1. studies, develops, and evaluates programs and projects relating to community awareness and education, family support, counseling, parenting skills and education, and reform of the child welfare system;
2. consults with churches and other cultural and civic organizations; and
3. reports to annually DCF on their recommendations for programs and projects to promote the adoption of and provision of services to minority children.

DCF must report in odd-numbered years to the General Assembly the committee's recommendations and the actions DCF has taken to implement them.

EVALUATION OF COSTS AND BENEFITS OF JUVENILE OFFENDER PROGRAMS

The bill eliminates an agreement between the chief court administrator and the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council to evaluate the costs and benefits of programs serving juvenile offenders offered by private providers or state or municipal agencies to determine their cost-effectiveness in reducing recidivism.

The evaluation had to identify the types of programs that are effective and ineffective in reducing criminal offending in a cost-beneficial way. It must use uniform data collection and a common methodological approach to compare programs serving juvenile offenders.

A preliminary evaluation had to be submitted to Human Services and Judiciary committees by January 1, 2001. It was finished in 2002.

The bill eliminates the advisory board composed of the Correction and DCF commissioners and the chief court administrator, or their designees, and the chairpersons and ranking members of the Judiciary and Human Services committees.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

HB 6475 eliminates:

1. the CJTS advisory group,
2. the annual report about children in DCF care,
3. the statistical report about children in DCF care who are receiving psychiatric care in hospitals,
4. the monthly report about the number of children in subacute care who cannot be discharged,
5. the advisory committee on adoption and provision of services to minority children, and
6. the cost-benefit analysis of programs serving juvenile offenders.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
 Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/10/2009)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable
 Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/10/2009)