



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 186

January Session, 2009

Substitute Senate Bill No. 756

Senate, March 25, 2009

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY CHECK FOR APPLICANTS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT'S PROVIDERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) The Commissioner of
2 Developmental Services may require each applicant seeking
3 employment with the department or seeking employment with a
4 provider licensed or funded by the department to submit to a check for
5 substantiated complaints in the Department of Children and Families
6 child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-
7 101k of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
-----------	------------------------	-------------

PH	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HS
HS	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i>	

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 \$
Developmental Services, Dept. & Children & Families, Dept.	GF - None	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to require applicants for employment with either the department or with a DDS-funded or licensed provider to submit to a check of the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) child abuse and neglect registry.

The bill will allow the two state agencies to develop a data sharing methodology that minimizes DCF's workload increase, so as to preclude the need for the hiring of additional staff. DDS intends to initially submit requests to DCF for checks on only those applicants seeking DDS employment. When this phase has been implemented, the agencies will work to extend the requested checks to include applicants for employment with DDS-providers. It is anticipated that this workload increase could be accommodated by DCF within their normal budgetary resources.

The Out Years

None

Sources: Department of Developmental Services, Department of Children & Families, Public Hearing Testimony

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 756*****AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY CHECK FOR APPLICANTS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT'S PROVIDERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) commissioner to require anyone applying for a job with the department or a provider it licenses or funds to submit to a check of the Department of Children and Families' child abuse and neglect registry.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

BACKGROUND***Related Law and Policy***

By law, anyone applying for a job in a DDS program that provides direct services to clients must submit to a state criminal history background check, and the DDS commissioner can (and does through policy) require private providers to establish written policies requiring such checks for their job applicants. When a check is conducted, the law prohibits DDS or a private provider from hiring anyone before the results are available (CGS § 17a-227a). The law also prohibits employers from hiring someone listed on the DDS abuse and neglect registry for a position involving service to a DDS client (CGS § 17a-247c).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 30 Nay 0 (02/18/2009)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/10/2009)