



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Proposed Bill No. 5320**

LCO No. 2315

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
REP. HAMM, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 That title 17a of the general statutes be amended to require the  
2 Department of Children and Families to report to the General  
3 Assembly during each regular legislative session regarding (1) the  
4 results of Connecticut comprehensive objective reviews, including any  
5 recommendations contained in said reviews and any steps taken by  
6 the department to implement such recommendations; and (2) the  
7 aggregate data from every administrative case review, including any  
8 information regarding the strengths and deficiencies of the  
9 department's treatment plan review process and any steps the  
10 department is taking to address department-wide deficiencies. It is  
11 further proposed that title 17a of the general statutes be amended to  
12 require the Department of Children and Families to (A) institute a pilot  
13 program that merges administrative case reviews with court-based  
14 case status conferences in at least one judicial district and to require the  
15 department to report to the General Assembly regarding its evaluation  
16 of the outcome of each case involved in such pilot program; (B)

17 conduct a case and service review of every child who has overstayed a  
18 temporary placement, placement in a psychiatric hospital or placement  
19 in an out-of-state residential treatment center, or who is a runaway,  
20 homeless or has a permanency plan of another planned permanency  
21 living arrangement; (C) determine measurable outcomes for every  
22 child who receives services from a private provider, to incorporate  
23 such outcomes into the department's contract with each such provider  
24 and to hold each such provider more accountable for failing to achieve  
25 such measurable outcomes; and (D) require the Department of  
26 Children and Families to include the following information in every  
27 status report and permanency plan study, except when otherwise  
28 directed by the Juvenile Court: (i) A description of any problems or  
29 offenses that necessitated the placement of a child or ward with the  
30 department; (ii) a description of the type and an analysis of the  
31 effectiveness of the care, treatment and supervision that the  
32 department has provided for each child or ward; (iii) a list of all  
33 placements made since each child or ward has been in the  
34 guardianship or legal custody of the department and the length of time  
35 the child or ward has spent in each placement; (iv) a list of every  
36 school each child or ward has attended since the child or ward has  
37 been in the guardianship or legal custody of the department and the  
38 length of time such child or ward has spent in each school; (v) the  
39 current visitation schedule between a child or ward and his parents,  
40 and siblings for each child and ward in substitute care; (vi) a  
41 description of every effort taken by the department to return each  
42 child and ward to the parental home or to find a permanent placement  
43 for each child and ward, including, where applicable, every effort to  
44 assist the parents in remedying factors that contributed to the removal  
45 of the child or ward from the home; (vii) a proposed timetable for  
46 every child and ward to return home or to a permanent placement if  
47 continued substitute care is recommended or a justification of why  
48 extended substitute care is necessary; and (viii) whether each child and  
49 ward has been visited no less frequently than every three months by a  
50 state or private agency if such child or ward has been placed in foster

51 care outside this state. It is also proposed that the general statutes be  
52 amended to establish a pilot program that opens the proceedings of the  
53 Juvenile Court in one judicial district to the public while maintaining  
54 the court's ability to exclude members of the public and providing the  
55 court with the authority to prohibit the dissemination of any  
56 personally identifiable information disclosed during the proceedings  
57 and that an evaluation of such program be reported to the General  
58 Assembly. It is further proposed that (I) section 46b-129 of the general  
59 statutes be amended to require the Department of Children and  
60 Families to provide notice to every attorney in a child protection case  
61 when the department seeks to move a child or youth in its care or  
62 supervision to an out-of-state placement; and (II) any employee of the  
63 Department of Children and Families who handles any mental health,  
64 sexual abuse or a more complex child protection case have a master's  
65 degree in a relevant field of study and the requisite training.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require more transparency and accountability from the Department of Children and Families.