



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 6148

LCO No. 1853

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.

REP. MORRIS, 140th Dist.

REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING RIGHTS OF JUVENILES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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

1 That chapter 319 of the general statutes be amended to provide each
2 juvenile under the supervision of the Department of Children and
3 Families: (1) A comprehensive assessment of substance use, medical,
4 mental health, educational and family issues that may be linked to the
5 juvenile's commitment to department custody; (2) comprehensive
6 treatment for substance abuse, medical, mental health and dental
7 issues; (3) educational services, including special education services,
8 when needed, that meet the criteria established by the Department of
9 Education; (4) services to improve family and social functioning; (5)
10 the least restrictive means of restraint appropriate to the juvenile's
11 needs; (6) after care to support successful reentry into the community
12 with a continuity of care from placement through release; (7) court and
13 departmental decisions that are made without regard to religion, race,

14 national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation; (8) safe housing
15 in a facility dedicated to juveniles free from abuse, including
16 protection from disproportionate means of restraint and use of force;
17 (9) competent legal counsel at all stages of proceedings available at no
18 cost; (10) safeguards against self-incrimination, including a privilege
19 for statements made by the juvenile that are related to his treatment or
20 assessment for treatment; (11) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
21 treatment provided to the juvenile to ensure that the means of
22 treatment lead to improvement; and (12) cases processed fairly and in
23 a timely manner.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide juveniles in the custody of the Department of Children and Families with comprehensive screening for substance abuse.