



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6419

LCO No. 3281

03281_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

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

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the Department of Children and Families. The task force shall
3 (1) analyze issues relating to the department's transparency and
4 accountability, including, but not limited to, the following: (A)
5 Whether the department should be required to report to the General
6 Assembly during each regular legislative session regarding results of
7 Connecticut comprehensive objective reviews and aggregate data from
8 administrative case reviews; (B) whether the department should
9 institute a pilot program that merges administrative case reviews with
10 court-based case status conferences in at least one judicial district; (C)
11 whether the department should conduct a case and service review of
12 every child who has overstayed a temporary placement, placement in
13 a psychiatric hospital or placement in an out-of-state residential
14 treatment center or who is a runaway, homeless or has a permanency
15 plan of another planned permanency living arrangement; (D) whether
16 the department should determine measurable outcomes for every child

17 who receives services from a private provider and incorporate such
18 outcomes in the department's contract with each such provider; (E)
19 whether the department should include the following information in
20 every status report and permanency plan study: (i) A description of
21 any problems or offenses that necessitated the placement of the child
22 with the department; (ii) a description of the type and an analysis of
23 the effectiveness of the care, treatment and supervision that the
24 department has provided for the child; (iii) a list of each placement
25 made since the child has been in the guardianship or legal custody of
26 the department and the length of time the child has spent in each
27 placement; (iv) a list of every school the child has attended since the
28 child has been in the guardianship or legal custody of the department
29 and the length of time the child has spent in each school; (v) for each
30 child in substitute care, the current visitation schedule between the
31 child and his parents and siblings; (vi) a description of every effort
32 taken by the department to return the child to the parental home or to
33 find a permanent placement for the child, including, where applicable,
34 every effort to assist the parents in remedying factors that contributed
35 to the removal of the child from the home; (vii) a proposed timetable
36 for the child to return home or to a permanent placement if continued
37 substitute care is recommended or a justification of why extended
38 substitute care is necessary; and (viii) whether the child has been
39 visited no less frequently than every three months by a state or private
40 agency if the child has been placed in foster care outside this state; (F)
41 whether to establish a pilot program that opens the proceedings of the
42 Juvenile Court in at least one judicial district to the public while
43 maintaining the court's ability to exclude members of the public and
44 providing the court with the authority to prohibit the dissemination of
45 any personally identifiable information disclosed during the
46 proceedings; (G) whether the department should be required to
47 provide notice to every attorney in a child protection case when the
48 department seeks to move a child or youth in its care, custody or
49 supervision to an out-of-state placement; and (H) whether every
50 employee of the department who handles any mental health, sexual

51 abuse or a complex child protection case should be required to have a
52 master's degree in a relevant field of study and the requisite training;
53 and (2) recommend any changes regarding the transparency and
54 accountability of the department, including the costs associated with
55 each change, a time frame for implementation and any statutory
56 changes necessary to effectuate such recommendations.

57 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

58 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

59 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

60 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
61 Representatives;

62 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

63 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
64 Representatives;

65 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

66 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
67 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
68 of the General Assembly.

69 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
70 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
71 filled by the appointing authority.

72 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
73 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
74 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
75 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no
76 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

77 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

78 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
79 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

80 (g) Not later than January 1, 2010, the task force shall submit a
81 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
82 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
83 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
84 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
85 submits such report or January 1, 2010, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require a study of issues concerning transparency and accountability of the Department of Children and Families.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]