



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 6486**

LCO No. 3367

\*03367\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND STRONG FAMILIES.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) The Chief Court  
2 Administrator shall establish, within available appropriations, a  
3 Problem-Solving Court Demonstration pilot program in at least one  
4 family court designated by the Chief Court Administrator. The pilot  
5 program shall improve responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-  
6 income families by offering services to and establishing requirements  
7 for noncustodial fathers in arrears on child support payments.

8 (b) The pilot program shall utilize existing municipal, state and  
9 federal resources and existing services within the community to (1)  
10 provide case management, parenting education and legal counsel for  
11 pilot program participants; and (2) partner with regional community-  
12 technical colleges designated by the Chief Court Administrator to  
13 provide literacy, educational and job training services to fathers at risk  
14 of incarceration due to their failure to make child support payments.

15 (c) The Chief Court Administrator shall report, in accordance with

16 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the pilot program to the select  
17 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
18 relating to children no later than July 1, 2011.

19 Sec. 2. Section 46b-215d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

21 [Notwithstanding the child support guidelines established pursuant  
22 to section 46b-215a, in cases in which an obligor is an hourly wage  
23 earner and has worked less than forty-five hours per week at the time  
24 of the establishment of the support order, any additional income  
25 earned from working more than forty-five hours per week shall not be  
26 considered income for purposes of such guidelines.]

27 Child support arrears in excess of five hundred dollars shall not  
28 accrue when a noncustodial parent's income is at or below the federal  
29 poverty level.

30 Sec. 3. Section 17b-27a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

32 (a) There is established within the Department of Social Services,  
33 within available appropriations, the John S. Martinez Fatherhood  
34 Initiative. Said initiative shall promote the positive involvement and  
35 interaction of fathers with their children with an emphasis on children  
36 eligible or formerly eligible for services funded by the temporary  
37 assistance for needy families block grant and shall identify those  
38 services that effectively encourage and enhance responsible and  
39 skillful parenting and those services that increase the ability of fathers  
40 to meet the financial and medical needs of their children through  
41 employment services and child support enforcement measures. The  
42 objectives of the initiative shall be to: (1) Promote public education  
43 concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;  
44 (2) assist men in preparation for the legal, financial and emotional  
45 responsibilities of fatherhood; (3) promote the establishment of  
46 paternity at childbirth; (4) encourage fathers, regardless of marital

47 status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of  
48 their children; (5) establish support mechanisms for fathers in their  
49 relationship with their children, regardless of their marital and  
50 financial status; and (6) integrate state and local services available for  
51 families.

52 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall report to the select  
53 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
54 relating to children, in accordance with section 11-4a, regarding (1) the  
55 effectiveness of any child support arrears management efforts, (2) any  
56 teen pregnancy efforts aimed at reducing teen fatherhood, (3) the  
57 number of noncustodial parents participating in job training programs,  
58 (4) the number of newly employed noncustodial parents, and (5) the  
59 number of noncustodial parents with incomes at or below the federal  
60 poverty level.

61 (c) If federal funds are available that may be used for programs that  
62 promote the objectives described in subsection (a) of this section, the  
63 commissioner shall award grants to entities for such programs. The  
64 commissioner shall require each grantee to make available services  
65 funded under the grant to noncustodial and custodial parents.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	46b-215d
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	17b-27a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To promote responsible fatherhood and strong 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.]*