



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 7314

**\*HB0641907314HDO\***

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

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6419      File No. 510      Cal. No. 333

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES."**

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- 1      In line 37, strike "(3) a list of each placement"
  - 2      Strike lines 38 to 41, inclusive, in their entirety
  - 3      In line 42, strike "the length of time the child has spent in each
  - 4      school; (5)" and insert in lieu thereof "(3)"
  - 5      In line 44, strike "(6)" and insert in lieu thereof "(4)"
  - 6      In line 48, strike "(7)" and insert in lieu thereof "(5)"
  - 7      In line 51, strike "(8)" and insert in lieu thereof "(6)"
  - 8      After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
  - 9      internal references accordingly:
  - 10      "Sec. 501. Section 46b-122 of the general statutes is repealed and the
  - 11      following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

12       (a) All matters which are juvenile matters, as provided in section  
13 46b-121, shall be kept separate and apart from all other business of the  
14 Superior Court as far as is practicable, except matters transferred  
15 under the provisions of section 46b-127, which matters shall be  
16 transferred to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court. [Any]  
17 Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any judge hearing  
18 a juvenile matter may, during such hearing, exclude from the room in  
19 which such hearing is held any person whose presence is, in the court's  
20 opinion, not necessary, except that in delinquency proceedings, any  
21 victim shall not be excluded unless, after hearing from the parties and  
22 the victim and for good cause shown, which shall be clearly and  
23 specifically stated on the record, the judge orders otherwise. For the  
24 purposes of this section, "victim" means a person who is the victim of a  
25 delinquent act, a parent or guardian of such person, the legal  
26 representative of such person or an advocate appointed for such  
27 person pursuant to section 54-221.

28       (b) The Judicial Branch shall establish, in a superior court for  
29 juvenile matters designated by the Chief Court Administrator, a pilot  
30 program to increase public access to proceedings in which a child is  
31 alleged to be uncared for, neglected, abused or dependent or is the  
32 subject of a petition for termination of parental rights. The Judicial  
33 Branch shall adopt, in consultation with the Juvenile Access Pilot  
34 Program Advisory Board established pursuant to section 502 of this  
35 act, policies and procedures for the operation of such pilot program.

36       (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the  
37 confidentiality of records of cases of juvenile matters as set forth in  
38 section 46b-124.

39       Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
40 Juvenile Access Pilot Program Advisory Board. The board shall consist  
41 of the following members: (1) The Chief Court Administrator, or the  
42 Chief Court Administrator's designee, who shall serve as  
43 cochairperson of the board; (2) an attorney who represents children in  
44 child protection proceedings in juvenile court, appointed by the

45 speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as  
46 cochairperson of the board; (3) an attorney who represents parents in  
47 child protection proceedings in juvenile court, appointed by the  
48 president pro tempore of the Senate; (4) a judge of the superior court  
49 assigned to hear juvenile matters, appointed by the Chief Justice of the  
50 Supreme Court; (5) an assistant attorney general assigned to the Child  
51 Protection Department, appointed by the Attorney General; (6) a  
52 representative of the Department of Children and Families who is an  
53 employee of the division of said department that provides child  
54 welfare services, appointed by the Commissioner of Children and  
55 Families; (7) the Chief Child Protection Attorney, or the Chief Child  
56 Protection Attorney's designee; (8) the Child Advocate, or the Child  
57 Advocate's designee; (9) a member or former member of the media  
58 who has experience covering juvenile matters, appointed by the  
59 majority leader of the House of Representatives; and (10) a  
60 representative of a not-for-profit legal services agency in this state who  
61 serves as a guardian ad litem, appointed by the majority leader of the  
62 Senate. All appointments to the board shall be made not later than  
63 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
64 filled by the appointing authority. The chairperson of the board shall  
65 schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later  
66 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

67 (b) The Juvenile Access Pilot Program Advisory Board shall: (1)  
68 Review standards employed by other states in increasing public access  
69 to juvenile court proceedings; (2) monitor the progress of the Judicial  
70 Branch in the implementation of the pilot program established  
71 pursuant to section 501 of this act; (3) not later than December 31, 2010,  
72 make recommendations to the Judicial Branch and the joint standing  
73 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
74 relating to the judiciary and human services, in accordance with the  
75 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the  
76 accomplishment of such implementation; and (4) provide consultation  
77 to the Judicial Branch regarding policies and procedures that may be  
78 adopted to increase public access to child protection proceedings in the

79 judicial district designated by the Chief Court Administrator pursuant  
80 to section 501 of this act. The board shall terminate on January 1, 2011.

81 Sec. 503. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Judicial Branch shall  
82 conduct a comprehensive review of the pilot program established  
83 pursuant to section 501 of this act and, not later than January 1, 2011,  
84 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
85 the general statutes, on the pilot program to the joint standing  
86 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
87 relating to the judiciary and human services. The report shall include:  
88 (1) An assessment of the pilot program's effectiveness in balancing the  
89 interest in public access against the best interests of the children; and  
90 (2) a recommendation on whether and to what extent the pilot  
91 program should be expanded to other superior courts for juvenile  
92 matters in this state."