



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 366

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5346

House of Representatives, April 7, 2010

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL CONNECTICUT CHILDREN AND REQUIRING AN ANNUAL REPORT CARD EVALUATING STATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IMPACTING CHILDREN.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) The select committee
2 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
3 children, in consultation with the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the Office
4 of Legislative Research and the Commission on Children, shall
5 maintain and review an annual report card that evaluates the progress
6 of state policies and programs in promoting the result that all
7 Connecticut children grow up in a stable living environment, safe,
8 healthy and ready to lead successful lives. The first report card shall be
9 prepared on or before January 15, 2011, and annually thereafter.
10 Progress shall be measured by primary indicators of progress,
11 including, but not limited to, indicators established in the final report
12 of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee

13 prepared pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of public act 09-166, of
14 state-wide rates of child abuse, child poverty, low birth weight, third
15 grade reading proficiency, and the annual social health index
16 developed under section 46a-131a of the general statutes. For each
17 indicator, the data shall also be presented according to ethnicity or
18 race, gender, geography and, where appropriate, age and other
19 relevant characteristics. On or before January 15, 2011, and annually
20 thereafter, the report card shall be made available to the public on the
21 Internet and located on the web site of the General Assembly and shall
22 be transmitted electronically to (1) members of the joint standing
23 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
24 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and to
25 human services, (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families,
26 Education and Public Health, (3) the Child Advocate, (4) the Secretary
27 of the Office of Policy and Management, and (5) the Chief Court
28 Administrator.

29 (b) On or before January 15, 2011, the select committee of the
30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
31 consultation with a working group of representatives of state agencies
32 and departments, community organizations, private provider agencies
33 operating programs that impact the well-being of children and
34 families, parents and other caretakers of children, child advocacy
35 organizations, health care professionals that serve children and
36 families, schools, and child care providers, shall identify or develop (1)
37 an indicator for measuring whether children are living with their
38 families and have stability in their living environments, (2) secondary
39 indicators for measuring progress within each area of children's well-
40 being related to measuring progress in their health, safety, stability,
41 education and future success, including, but not limited to, food
42 security, and (3) key measures of performance of the state child
43 welfare system, including, but not limited to, (A) rates of repeat
44 maltreatment among victims of child abuse and neglect; (B) placement
45 in out-of-home care among children at risk of abuse and neglect; (C)
46 child fatalities involving child abuse or neglect; (D) rates of
47 reunification and permanency for children removed from their homes;

48 and (E) the developmental and health status and educational progress
 49 of children served by the child welfare system and other appropriate
 50 measures of well-being and preparation for success in life. At least
 51 annually, the committee, shall: (i) With the assistance of the working
 52 group, review the adequacy of primary and secondary indicators,
 53 system-level performance measures, and related data resources for
 54 such indicators and measures, and determine whether there are more
 55 appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress in achieving the result
 56 that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable living environment,
 57 safe, healthy and ready to lead successful lives, and (ii) in consultation
 58 with the results-based accountability subcommittee of the joint
 59 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 60 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
 61 identify programs within the child welfare system that make a
 62 significant contribution to achieving such result and require such
 63 programs to prepare annual report cards employing the results-based
 64 format developed by said joint standing committee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2010	New section

PRI *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* HS
HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires various legislative committees and offices to maintain and review an annual report card regarding the state's children, does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5346*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL CONNECTICUT CHILDREN AND REQUIRING AN ANNUAL REPORT CARD EVALUATING STATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IMPACTING CHILDREN.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the non-partisan offices of Fiscal Analysis and Legislative Research and the Commission on Children to help the legislature's Children's Committee to develop and keep current an annual report card evaluating the progress of state policies and programs in promoting the result that all Connecticut children grow up safe, healthy, and ready to lead successful lives.

The committee must use as primary indicators of child well-being those recognized by the Program Review and Investigations Committee under PA 09-166, §1. These are (1) statewide rates of child abuse, child poverty, low birth-weight, and third-grade reading proficiency and (2) the Commission on Children's annual social health index, which monitors the state's social health using indicators such as those listed above.

By January 15, 2011 and annually thereafter, the report card must be posted on the Internet and on the legislature's web page. Report cards must also be emailed to (1) members of the Appropriations and Human Services committees; (2) the Children and Families, Education, and Public Health commissioners; (3) the child advocate; (4) the Office of Policy and Management secretary; and (5) the chief court administrator.

Also by January 15, 2011, the Children's Committee, in consultation

with a working group including state agencies, private providers, and children’s advocates, must identify or develop indicators and performance measures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2010

WORKING GROUP

The bill identifies practice and specialty areas that should be represented on the working group. These are:

1. state agencies and departments,
2. community organizations,
3. private providers operating programs that impact children’s well-being,
4. parents and other child caretakers,
5. child advocacy organizations,
6. health care professionals that serve children and families,
7. schools, and
8. child day care providers.

The bill does not specify how working group members are selected.

Children’s Committee and Working Group Charge

The committee and working group must identify or develop:

1. an indicator for measuring whether children are living with their families in stable living environments;
2. secondary indicators for measuring progress within each area of children’s well-being, including health, safety, stability, education, and future success;
3. key measures of the state child welfare system’s performance,

including (a) repeat maltreatment rates among child abuse or neglect victims; (b) out-of-home placements among those at risk of abuse or neglect; (c) rates of reunification and permanency for children in out-of-home care; (d) child fatalities involving abuse or neglect; and (e) the developmental, health status, and educational progress of children served by the child welfare system.

The committee and working group must consider other appropriate measures of well-being and preparation for success in life.

Annual Reviews

The bill requires the Children’s Committee, with the assistance of the working group, at least annually, to review the adequacy of primary and secondary indicators, system-level performance measures, and related data sources to determine whether there are more appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress in achieving the result that children grow up safe, healthy, and ready to lead successful lives.

It also requires the committee, in consultation with the Appropriations subcommittee on results-based accountability, to (1) identify child welfare system programs that make a significant contribution to achieving the above-stated results and (2) require the programs to prepare annual report cards using the subcommittee’s results-based format.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2010)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/23/2010)