



165 Capitol Avenue
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Proposed Bill 91

An Act Concerning the Department of Children & Families' Ability to Recover the Cost of Benefits

Committee on Human Services
March 9, 2010

The Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") is the agency responsible for the collection of debts owed to the state, including debts owed as a result of services provided by the Department of Children and Families ("DCF").

DAS respectfully submits that **Proposed Bill 91 is unnecessary**, because this legislature passed language in 2007 that accomplished the very goals of this bill.

The stated purpose of Proposed Bill 91 is to "prohibit the Department of Children and Families from recovering the cost of benefits from adults formerly in the department's custody."

Public Act 07-203, effective July 10, 2007, made statutory changes to the DCF laws to achieve this precise purpose. The 2007 legislation prohibited billing or collecting from the income or estate of a child or youth to recover the costs of care of such child or youth under the custody of DCF. DAS worked with legislators in 2007 to amend these statutes. As a result of P.A. 07-203, children in DCF custody are not legally responsible to reimburse the state for the cost of care they receive from the department, even after they become adults.

For the Committee's information, the law still permits the state to recover the costs that DCF incurs when it must take a child into custody and care for the child. In such a case, the child's legally liable relatives remain liable for those costs - but not the child.

Thank you for the considering DAS's views on this bill. Please contact DAS's legislative liaison, Andrea Keilty (860-713-5267) if you have any questions regarding this testimony.