



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 307

January Session, 2011

Senate Bill No. 980

Senate, March 31, 2011

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL STUDY FOSTER PARENTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "licensed" means a person holds a license
4 issued by the Department of Children and Families to provide foster
5 care, including foster care of a specific child, and "special study foster
6 parent" means a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and
7 who does not hold a license issued by the Department of Children and
8 Families to provide foster care.

9 (b) (1) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and
10 Families shall be placed with any person, unless such person is
11 licensed for that purpose by the department or the Department of
12 Developmental Services pursuant to the provisions of section 17a-227,
13 or such person's home is approved by a child placing agency licensed

14 by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-149. Any person licensed
15 by the department may be a prospective adoptive parent. The
16 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
17 provisions of chapter 54, to establish the licensing procedures and
18 standards.

19 (2) The commissioner shall require each applicant for licensure
20 pursuant to this section and any person sixteen years of age or older
21 living in the household of such applicant to submit to state and
22 national criminal history records checks prior to issuing a license to
23 such applicant to accept placement of a child. Such criminal history
24 records checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.
25 The commissioner shall also check the state child abuse registry
26 established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such
27 applicant and for the name of any person sixteen years of age or older
28 living in the household of such applicant.

29 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b) of this
30 section, the commissioner may place a child with a relative who is not
31 licensed, a nonrelative, if such child's sibling who is related to the
32 caregiver is also placed with such caregiver or [, if the child is ten years
33 of age or older,] with a special study foster parent for a period of up to
34 ninety days when such placement is in the best interests of the child,
35 provided a satisfactory home visit is conducted, a basic assessment of
36 the family is completed and such relative, nonrelative or special study
37 foster parent attests that such relative, nonrelative or special study
38 foster parent and any adult living within the household has not been
39 convicted of a crime or arrested for a felony against a person, for injury
40 or risk of injury to or impairing the morals of a child, or for the
41 possession, use or sale of a controlled substance. Any such relative,
42 nonrelative or special study foster parent who accepts placement of a
43 child in excess of such ninety-day period shall be subject to licensure
44 by the commissioner, except that any such relative who, prior to July 1,
45 2001, had been certified by the commissioner to provide care for a
46 related child may continue to maintain such certification if such
47 relative continues to meet the regulatory requirements and the child

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 eliminates the age restriction of children placed with special study foster parents, does not result in a fiscal impact as the rates associated with licensed special study homes are equivalent to those for children in regular foster care homes.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 980*****AN ACT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL STUDY FOSTER PARENTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the minimum age requirement with which the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must comply to temporarily place a child with a special study foster parent. Currently, only children 10 years old or older can be placed in such care. A special study foster parent is at least 21 years old and not licensed by DCF to provide foster care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***Special Study Foster Homes***

By law, a child may be placed with a special study foster parent for up to 90 days when the placement is in the child's best interest. The placement is made once the department conducts and completes a satisfactory home visit and a basic family assessment, and the special study foster parent attests that he or she and any adult living in the household has not been convicted of a crime or arrested for any of specified felonies or for the possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance. A special study foster parent is subject to the licensure requirement beyond the 90-day placement period.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/03/2011)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/17/2011)