



Office of the Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut

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TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO
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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
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R. B. No. 6636 - AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN CONVICTED AS DELINQUENT
WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Office of the Chief Public Defender supports passage of **Raised Bill 6636, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN CONVICTED AS DELINQUENT WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**. The proposals amend section 17a-7a of the general statutes to increase the Commissioner of Children and Families' ability to craft meaningful and appropriate reentry plans for committed delinquent children. The proposals increase the Commissioner's discretion to approve leaves or furloughs from placement and secure custody and allow DCF to determine when a child is ready for community reentry from the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

Section 1 would provide discretion to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to waive that 60 day period when a child is transferred from one facility to another. Under current law, children who are committed delinquent must undergo a 60 day risk assessment before being granted leave from any residential facility. Often, children are moved out of CJTS to a less restrictive residential or are transferred to a more appropriate facility during their commitment to DCF. Many of these children do not need another 60 day risk assessment and would benefit from community furloughs or family visits. The Commissioner should have the discretion to waive this requirement if the child is simply being moved to another facility.

Section 2 would also provide discretion to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to waive that 60 day period when a child is transferred from one facility to another. Under current law, children who are committed delinquent must undergo a 60 day risk assessment before being granted leave from any residential facility. Often, children are moved out of CJTS to a less restrictive residential or are transferred to a more appropriate facility during their commitment to DCF. Many of these children do not need another 60 day risk assessment and would benefit from community furloughs or family visits. The Commissioner should have the discretion to waive this requirement if the child is simply being moved to another facility.