



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6340

LCO No. 3255

03255_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-STATE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1,
2 2013, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall return each
3 child and youth in the commissioner's care and custody who is located
4 in an out-of-state treatment facility to a family or facility in the state of
5 Connecticut, unless the superior court for juvenile matters determines
6 that such out-of-state placement is necessary, appropriate and in the
7 best interest of such child or youth as provided in subsection (b) of this
8 section.

9 (b) For each child or youth in the commissioner's care and custody
10 who is located or subsequently placed in an out-of-state treatment
11 facility on or after April 1, 2013, the commissioner shall submit a
12 motion for review of such out-of-state placement to the superior court
13 for juvenile matters. The court shall determine whether such out-of-
14 state placement is necessary, appropriate and in the best interest of
15 such child or youth, and there shall be a rebuttable presumption that a
16 placement in the state of Connecticut is in the best interest of a child or

17 youth. If the court determines the child or youth should stay or be
18 placed in an out-of-state treatment facility, the commissioner shall,
19 every three months, submit a report to the court regarding the child or
20 youth's status and the commissioner's plan to return the child to a
21 family or facility in the state of Connecticut.

22 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Children and
23 Families shall, in consultation with the Court Support Services
24 Division of the Judicial Branch, in-state and out-of-state treatment
25 providers, child welfare and mental health advocates and family
26 consumers of mental health and child welfare services, develop a plan
27 to reallocate funds appropriated to the department and maximize
28 federal and private funding to increase in-state, community-based
29 services for children transitioning from out-of-state facilities. Not later
30 than January 1, 2012, the commissioner shall submit such plan, in
31 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
32 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
33 matters relating to human services and the select committee of the
34 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children.

35 Sec. 3. Section 17a-62 of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

37 On or before February 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
38 Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit a report, in
39 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
40 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
41 relating to human services and the select committee of the General
42 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children. The report
43 shall include the following information, for the preceding calendar
44 year, for children and youth in the custody of the Department of
45 Children and Families: (1) The number, [and] age and race of such
46 children and youth who are living in a psychiatric hospital or out-of-
47 state residential treatment center, the average length of stay for such
48 children and youth, the number of children and youth who have

49 overstayed their estimated placement time in such placements and an
 50 analysis of the reasons for the placements out of state and overstay;
 51 (2) the number, [and] age and race of such children and youth who are
 52 runaways or homeless, the number of days that each child or youth
 53 has been a runaway or homeless, and an analysis of the trends relating
 54 to runaways and homelessness; (3) the number, [and] age and race of
 55 children and youth who have a permanency plan of another planned
 56 permanency living arrangement and an analysis of the trends relating
 57 to permanency plans; and (4) the number, [and] age and race of
 58 children and youth who have refused services offered by the
 59 department and an analysis of the trends relating to participation in
 60 services. The commissioner shall conduct case and service reviews for
 61 each child in the groups described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,
 62 of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	17a-62

Statement of Purpose:

To return to Connecticut the children in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families that are placed in out-of-state treatment facilities, unless a court determines it is necessary, appropriate and in a child's best interest to be placed in an out-of-state treatment facility, and to track the race of certain groups of children in the custody of the Department of Children and Families.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]