



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 386

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 6227

House of Representatives, April 5, 2011

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. TERCYAK of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A REGIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-98a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 [(a)] The Department of Children and Families, in consultation with
4 the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction
5 Services and Developmental Services, shall establish, within available
6 appropriations, a kinship navigator program. Such program shall
7 ensure that: (1) When the Department of Children and Families
8 determines that it is in the best interest of the child to be placed with a
9 relative for foster care, the department informs the relative regarding
10 procedures to become licensed as a foster parent, and (2) grandparents
11 and other relatives caring for a minor child are provided with
12 information on the array of state services and benefits for which they

13 may be eligible, including the subsidy program established pursuant
14 to section 17a-126, as amended by this act. The Commissioner of
15 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, ensure
16 that information on the array of services available under the kinship
17 navigator program is accessible through the 2-1-1 Infoline program.

18 [(b) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
19 Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in accordance
20 with section 11-4a, on the implementation of the kinship navigator
21 program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
22 having cognizance of matters relating to human services.]

23 Sec. 2. Section 17a-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

25 (a) The advisory group for the Connecticut Juvenile Training School,
26 established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-6, [and the
27 Connecticut Juvenile Training School public safety committee,
28 established pursuant to section 17a-27f,] shall provide an on-going
29 review of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School with
30 recommendations for improvement or enhancement. The review shall
31 include, but not be limited to:

32 (1) The number, age, ethnicity and race of the residents placed at the
33 training school, including the court locations that sentenced them, the
34 number sentenced from each court location and the offenses for which
35 they were sentenced;

36 (2) The percentage of residents in need of substance abuse treatment
37 and the programming interventions provided to assist residents;

38 (3) A review of the program and policies of the facility;

39 (4) The educational and literacy programs available to the residents,
40 including the educational level of residents, the number of residents
41 requiring special education and related services, including school
42 attendance requirements, the number of residents who are educated in
43 the alternative school and the reasons for such education;

44 (5) The vocational training programs available to the residents and
45 the actual number of residents enrolled in each training program,
46 including all vocational attendance requirements;

47 (6) The delinquency recidivism rates of such residents, which shall
48 include the number of children discharged to residential placement,
49 the number of children discharged due to expiration of the period of
50 commitment and the number of children returned to the Connecticut
51 Juvenile Training School;

52 (7) The diagnosis of each resident after intake assessment;

53 (8) The costs associated with the operation of the training school,
54 including staffing costs and average cost per resident; [and]

55 (9) Reintegration strategies and plans to transition the residents to
56 their home communities; and

57 (10) A review of safety and security issues that affect the host
58 municipality.

59 (b) The Department of Children and Families shall serve as
60 administrative staff of the advisory group referred to in subsection (a)
61 of this section.

62 (c) Not later than February 4, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
63 Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in accordance
64 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
65 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
66 judiciary and human services and to the select committee of the
67 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
68 with respect to the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

69 (d) Each report required pursuant to subsection (c) of this section
70 shall summarize the information and recommendations specified in
71 subsection (a) of this section and shall also include such other
72 information that the Department of Children and Families has
73 identified as requiring immediate legislative action.

74 Sec. 3. Section 17a-126 of the general statutes is repealed and the
75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

76 (a) As used in this section, (1) "relative caregiver" means a person
77 who is caring for a child related to such person because the parent of
78 the child has died or become otherwise unable to care for the child for
79 reasons that make reunification with the parent and adoption not
80 viable options within the foreseeable future, and (2) "commissioner"
81 means the Commissioner of Children and Families.

82 (b) The commissioner shall establish a program of subsidized
83 guardianship for the benefit of children in foster care who have been
84 living with relative caregivers, who are licensed foster care providers
85 pursuant to section 17a-114, and who have been in foster care [or
86 certified relative care] for not less than six consecutive months. A
87 relative caregiver may request a guardianship subsidy from the
88 commissioner.

89 (c) If a relative caregiver who is receiving a guardianship subsidy
90 for a related child is also caring for the child's sibling who is not
91 related to the caregiver, the commissioner shall provide a
92 guardianship subsidy to such relative caregiver [if the sibling has been
93 in foster care for not less than eighteen months, and the commissioner
94 shall, within available appropriations, provide a guardianship subsidy
95 to such relative caregiver] in accordance with regulations adopted by
96 the commissioner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. For
97 purposes of this subsection, "child's sibling" includes a stepbrother,
98 stepsister, a half-brother or a half-sister.

99 (d) The commissioner shall provide the following subsidies under
100 the subsidized guardianship program in accordance with this section
101 and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (e) of this section:
102 (1) A special-need subsidy, which shall be a lump sum payment for
103 one-time expenses resulting from the assumption of care of the child
104 and shall not exceed two thousand dollars; and (2) a medical subsidy
105 comparable to the medical subsidy to children in the subsidized
106 adoption program. [if the child lacks private health insurance.] The

107 subsidized guardianship program shall also provide a monthly
108 subsidy on behalf of the child payable to the relative caregiver that is
109 based on the circumstances of the relative caregiver and the needs of
110 the child and shall not exceed the foster care maintenance payment
111 that would have been paid on behalf of the child if the child had
112 remained in licensed foster care.

113 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
114 chapter 54, implementing the subsidized guardianship program
115 established under this section. Such regulations shall include all
116 federal requirements necessary to maximize federal reimbursement
117 available to the state, including, but not limited to, (1) eligibility for the
118 program, (2) the maximum age at which a child is no longer eligible for
119 a guardianship subsidy, including the maximum age, for purposes of
120 claiming federal reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security
121 Act, at which a child is no longer eligible for a guardianship subsidy,
122 and (3) a procedure for determining the types and amounts of the
123 subsidies.

124 (f) At a minimum, the guardianship subsidy provided under this
125 section shall continue until the child reaches the age of eighteen or the
126 age of twenty-one if such child is in full-time attendance at a secondary
127 school, technical school or college or is in a state accredited job training
128 program or otherwise meets the criteria set forth in federal law.
129 Annually, the subsidized guardian shall submit to the commissioner a
130 sworn statement that the child is still living with and receiving support
131 from the guardian. The parent of any child receiving assistance
132 through the subsidized guardianship program shall remain liable for
133 the support of the child as required by the general statutes.

134 (g) A guardianship subsidy shall not be included in the calculation
135 of household income in determining eligibility for benefits of the
136 relative caregiver of the subsidized child or other persons living within
137 the household of the relative caregiver.

138 (h) Payments for guardianship subsidies shall be made from
139 moneys available from any source to the commissioner for child

140 welfare purposes. The commissioner shall develop and implement a
141 plan that: (1) Maximizes use of the subsidized guardianship program
142 to decrease the number of children in the legal custody of the
143 commissioner and to reduce the number of children who would
144 otherwise be placed into nonrelative foster care when there is a family
145 member willing to provide care; (2) maximizes federal reimbursement
146 for the costs of the subsidized guardianship program, provided
147 whatever federal maximization method is employed shall not result in
148 the relative caregiver of a child being subject to work requirements as a
149 condition of receipt of benefits for the child or the benefits restricted in
150 time or scope other than as specified in subsection (c) of this section;
151 and (3) ensures necessary transfers of funds between agencies and
152 interagency coordination in program implementation. The
153 commissioner shall seek all federal waivers and reimbursement as are
154 necessary and appropriate to implement this plan.

155 (i) In the case of the death, severe disability or serious illness of a
156 relative caregiver who is receiving a guardianship subsidy, the
157 commissioner may transfer the guardianship subsidy to a new relative
158 caregiver who meets the Department of Children and Families foster
159 care safety requirements and is appointed as legal guardian by a court
160 of competent jurisdiction.

161 (j) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the commissioner from
162 continuing to pay guardianship subsidies to those relative caregivers
163 who entered into written subsidy agreements with the Department of
164 Children and Families prior to October 5, 2009.

165 Sec. 4. Section 45a-709 of the general statutes is repealed and the
166 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

167 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections [17a-91,] 17a-112, 17a-
168 113, 17a-148, 45a-187, 45a-606, 45a-607, 45a-706 to 45a-708, inclusive,
169 45a-715 to 45a-718, inclusive, 45a-724, 45a-727, 45a-732 to 45a-734,
170 inclusive, and 52-231a, to the contrary, any adoption completed after
171 October 1, 1973, in which the application and agreement of adoption
172 were received by the Court of Probate before October 1, 1973, shall be

173 valid, provided the adoption would have been valid under the general
174 statutes in effect on September 30, 1973.

175 (b) Applications for termination of parental rights, appointment of
176 statutory parents or for adoptions or any actions taken in accordance
177 with the applications which were received by the Court of Probate
178 prior to May 10, 1974, shall be valid if they conform to the provisions
179 of sections [17a-91,] 17a-112, 17a-148, 45a-606, 45a-706 to 45a-708,
180 inclusive, 45a-715 to 45a-718, inclusive, 45a-724, 45a-727, 45a-731 to
181 45a-734, inclusive, and 52-231a in effect on May 9, 1974.

182 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 17a-3 of the general statutes is
183 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
184 *July 1, 2011*):

185 (a) The department shall plan, create, develop, operate or arrange
186 for, administer and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated
187 state-wide program of services, including preventive services, for
188 children and youths whose behavior does not conform to the law or to
189 acceptable community standards, or who are mentally ill, including
190 deaf and hearing impaired children and youths who are mentally ill,
191 emotionally disturbed, substance abusers, delinquent, abused,
192 neglected or uncared for, including all children and youths who are or
193 may be committed to it by any court, and all children and youths
194 voluntarily admitted to, or remaining voluntarily under the
195 supervision of, the commissioner for services of any kind. Services
196 shall not be denied to any such child or youth solely because of other
197 complicating or multiple disabilities. The department shall work in
198 cooperation with other child-serving agencies and organizations to
199 provide or arrange for preventive programs, including, but not limited
200 to, teenage pregnancy and youth suicide prevention, for children and
201 youths and their families. The program shall provide services and
202 placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of
203 the child or youth. In furtherance of this purpose, the department
204 shall: (1) Maintain the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and other
205 appropriate facilities exclusively for delinquents; (2) develop a

206 comprehensive program for prevention of problems of children and
207 youths and provide a flexible, innovative and effective program for the
208 placement, care and treatment of children and youths committed by
209 any court to the department, transferred to the department by other
210 departments, or voluntarily admitted to the department; (3) provide
211 appropriate services to families of children and youths as needed to
212 achieve the purposes of sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended
213 by this act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, as amended by this act, and
214 17a-51; (4) establish incentive paid work programs for children and
215 youths under the care of the department and the rates to be paid such
216 children and youths for work done in such programs and may provide
217 allowances to children and youths in the custody of the department;
218 (5) be responsible to collect, interpret and publish statistics relating to
219 children and youths within the department; (6) conduct studies of any
220 program, service or facility developed, operated, contracted for or
221 supported by the department in order to evaluate its effectiveness; (7)
222 establish staff development and other training and educational
223 programs designed to improve the quality of departmental services
224 and programs, provided no social worker trainee shall be assigned a
225 case load prior to completing training, and may establish educational
226 or training programs for children, youths, parents or other interested
227 persons on any matter related to the promotion of the well-being of
228 children, or the prevention of mental illness, emotional disturbance,
229 delinquency and other disabilities in children and youths; (8) develop
230 and implement aftercare and follow-up services appropriate to the
231 needs of any child or youth under the care of the department; (9)
232 establish a case audit unit to monitor each [area] regional office's
233 compliance with regulations and procedures; (10) develop and
234 maintain a database listing available community service programs
235 funded by the department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to
236 persons caring for children whose parents are unable to do so by
237 informing such persons of programs and benefits for which they may
238 be eligible; and (12) collect data sufficient to identify the housing needs
239 of children served by the department and share such data with the
240 Department of Economic and Community Development.

241 Sec. 6. Section 17a-9 of the general statutes is repealed and the
242 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

243 (a) The commissioner shall appoint, after consultation with the state
244 advisory council, and may remove in a like manner, two deputy
245 commissioners who shall be in the unclassified service. The deputy
246 commissioner for program services shall be a clinically competent
247 professional person experienced in one or more fields of children's
248 services and in the administration of such services, and shall be
249 responsible for the supervision of all clinical treatment and program
250 services of the department. The deputy commissioner of
251 administrative services shall have experience in business or
252 institutional administration and shall be responsible for the
253 organizational and general administrative services of the department.

254 (b) The commissioner shall appoint, [in accordance with chapter 67,]
255 after consultation with the state advisory council, and may remove in
256 like manner, [such] not more than two program directors [as the
257 commissioner deems necessary] who shall be in the unclassified
258 service, provided [any director's] the title or duties of any director
259 appointed pursuant to this subsection may be changed as the
260 commissioner deems necessary after consultation with the state
261 advisory council. Such directors may oversee community programs
262 and services and the operation of institutions and facilities.

263 (c) The commissioner shall, in accordance with chapter 67 and after
264 consultation with the state advisory council, appoint the
265 administrative heads of all of the institutions and facilities transferred
266 to the department and such other institutions and facilities as now are
267 or hereafter may be established by or transferred to the department.
268 Such administrative heads shall have skill and experience in the
269 administration of children's services and shall manage their
270 institutions and facilities in accordance with the regulations and orders
271 of the commissioner.

272 (d) The commissioner shall, after consultation with the state
273 advisory council, appoint and may remove in a like manner, up to six

274 regional directors who shall be in the unclassified service. Each
275 regional director shall have skill and experience in the field of
276 children's services and in the administration of such services. Each
277 regional director shall be subject to the direction of the commissioner
278 and shall be responsible for the operation and administration of
279 services provided or funded by the department in the regions created
280 by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-30, as
281 amended by this act.

282 Sec. 7. Section 17a-22b of the general statutes is repealed and the
283 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

284 (a) Each community collaborative shall, within available
285 appropriations, (1) complete a local needs assessment which shall
286 include objectives and performance measures, (2) specify the number
287 of children and youths requiring behavioral health services, and (3)
288 specify the number of children and youths actually receiving
289 community-based and residential services and the type and frequency
290 of such services. Each community collaborative shall submit its local
291 needs assessment to the Commissioner of Children and Families and
292 the Commissioner of Social Services.

293 (b) The [area] regional offices of the Department of Children and
294 Families shall contract with lead service agencies, within available
295 appropriations, to coordinate the care of all children and youths
296 enrolled in Connecticut Community KidCare residing within their
297 designated catchment areas, including children and youths with
298 complex behavioral health service needs. The lead service agencies
299 shall employ or subcontract for the employment of care coordinators to
300 assist families in establishing and implementing individual service
301 plans for children and youths with complex behavioral health service
302 needs and to improve clinical outcomes and cost effectiveness. Parents
303 shall be afforded a choice of contracted providers for authorized
304 services.

305 (c) Each community collaborative may establish the number of
306 members and the type of representatives to ensure that the

307 membership of such collaborative is appropriately balanced. The chief
308 elected officers of municipalities served by a community collaborative
309 may designate a member to serve as a representative of the chief
310 elected officials. A community collaborative, at a minimum, shall
311 consist of representatives from the local or regional board of education,
312 special education program, youth services bureau, local departments
313 of social services and public health, representatives from private
314 organizations serving children and youths and a substantial number of
315 parents of children and youths with behavioral health needs. A
316 community collaborative shall participate in the [area] regional
317 advisory councils established under section 17a-30, as amended by this
318 act, provide outreach to community resources, coordinate behavioral
319 health services by forming, with the consent of the family, child
320 specific teams for children and youths with complex behavioral health
321 service needs, conduct community need assessments to identify
322 service gaps and service barriers, identify priority investment areas for
323 the state and lead service agencies and provide public education and
324 support. A community collaborative shall establish a governance
325 structure, determine membership and identify or establish a fiscal
326 agent.

327 (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the
328 Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available appropriations,
329 provide or arrange for the administrative services necessary to operate
330 Connecticut Community KidCare.

331 Sec. 8. Section 17a-22d of the general statutes is repealed and the
332 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

333 The Commissioner of Children and Families may, within available
334 appropriations, provide financial assistance for the establishment of an
335 organization, with local chapters in each [area] region served by the
336 Department of Children and Families, that shall provide family-to-
337 family support and family advocates for children, youths and their
338 families, and when requested by the family, assist the family with the
339 individual service plan process and otherwise encourage active family

340 participation in treatment and Connecticut Community KidCare
341 planning. Such organization shall assure that families have input into
342 the development and implementation of their individual service plans,
343 including those established pursuant to section 17a-127, and into
344 policy and planning for, and the implementation and evaluation of,
345 Connecticut Community KidCare.

346 Sec. 9. Section 17a-30 of the general statutes is repealed and the
347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

348 (a) The commissioner shall create distinct service [areas] regions and
349 shall create in each such [area, an area] region, a regional advisory
350 council to advise the commissioner and the [area] regional director on
351 the development and delivery of services of the department in that
352 [area] region and to facilitate the coordination of services for children,
353 youths and their families in the [area] region.

354 (b) Each [area] regional advisory council shall consist of no more
355 than twenty-one persons, a majority of whom shall be persons who
356 earn less than fifty per cent of their salaries from the provision of
357 services to children, youths and their families, and the balance
358 representative of private providers of human services throughout the
359 [area] region. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall
360 appoint one-third of the representatives of each group for a term of
361 three years, one-third for a term of two years, and one-third for a term
362 of one year. No person may serve more than two consecutive three-
363 year terms. All subsequent appointments to replace those whose terms
364 have expired shall be for a term of three years. No person may serve
365 on more than one [area] regional advisory council at a time. The [area]
366 regional director shall make a good faith effort to ensure that, to the
367 extent possible, the membership is qualified and closely reflects the
368 gender and racial diversity of the [area] region. All members shall
369 serve without compensation. Each [area] regional advisory council
370 shall elect two cochairpersons. Each [area] regional advisory council
371 shall meet at least quarterly, or more often at the call of the
372 cochairpersons or a majority of the council members. The [area]

373 regional director, or a designee of the [area] regional director, shall be
 374 an ex-officio member of the council without the right to vote. Any
 375 member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent
 376 of all meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have
 377 resigned. A majority of the members in office, but not less than six
 378 members, shall constitute a quorum.

379 Sec. 10. Section 17a-55 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 380 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

381 The Commissioner of Children and Families shall implement a
 382 system of awarding grants to community service programs whereby
 383 such programs are funded proportionate to their effectiveness in
 384 treating clients of the department. The evaluation of a program shall be
 385 based on (1) an analysis of program outcomes; (2) an assessment of
 386 regional needs for treatment services; [in each service delivery area;]
 387 and (3) the availability of the program to clients of the department. The
 388 Department of Children and Families shall collect, maintain and
 389 analyze the data to be used in the evaluation process on an ongoing
 390 basis. The commissioner shall impose a probationary period on a
 391 program found to be ineffective and shall propose requirements for the
 392 improvement of such a program. The commissioner shall determine
 393 the length of the probationary period and shall cease to fund a
 394 program which has not met the proposed requirements for
 395 improvement within such period.

396 Sec. 11. Sections 17a-27f and 17a-91 of the general statutes are
 397 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2011*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2011	17a-98a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2011	17a-6b
Sec. 3	July 1, 2011	17a-126
Sec. 4	July 1, 2011	45a-709
Sec. 5	July 1, 2011	17a-3(a)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2011	17a-9

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF – Precludes Federal Revenue Loss	400,000 - 500,000	400,000 - 500,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill precludes the loss of an estimated \$400,000 to \$500,000 of federal Title IV-E reimbursements against subsidized guardianship program expenditures, by making a change to CGS Sec. 17a-126 that brings this statute into conformance with federal regulations. Other bill provisions do not result in a fiscal impact. These provisions include:

1. Amending the duties of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School Advisory Board.
2. Repealing the Connecticut Juvenile Training School Public Safety Committee.
3. Requiring the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner to appoint program directors (limited to two) and regional directors (limited to six) in unclassified service¹.
4. Repealing various DCF reporting mandates.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

¹ These changes are consistent with the agency's proposed reorganization plan.

continue into the future subject to subsidized guardianship federal reimbursement rates under Title IV-E.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6227*****AN ACT CONCERNING A REGIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner to appoint up to two program directors and up to six regional directors in the unclassified service. Under current law, she must appoint directors as necessary, in the classified service, and with duties she determines. By law, unchanged by the bill, she must make the appointments after consulting with the State Advisory Council on Children and Families (SAC). The bill replaces the department's structure of area directors, offices, and advisory councils in current law with regional directors, offices, and advisory councils.

It conforms state law to federal requirements for foster care programs, and making the state eligible for federal reimbursement of subsidized guardianship assistance funds (see BACKGROUND). The bill removes obsolete language.

Finally, the bill repeals two DCF reporting requirements and the Connecticut Juvenile Training School's (CJTS) Public Safety Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

DCF ORGANIZATION***Program Directors***

Under current law, the DCF commissioner must appoint and may remove directors as she deems necessary, after consulting with SAC.

The bill identifies them as “program directors,” limits their number to two, removes them from the classified service, and authorizes them to oversee community programs and services and the operation of DCF institutions and facilities.

Regional Directors

The bill requires the commissioner to consult with SAC then appoint up to six regional directors, and it gives her authority to remove them. Each regional director must have skill and experience in providing and administering children’s services. At the commissioner’s direction, they are responsible for the operation and administration of DCF services in regions the commissioner creates. They replace area directors, who are currently in the classified service. The bill authorizes the commissioner to create distinct service regions with offices, rather than areas and area offices. It makes a corresponding change by renaming area advisory councils as regional advisory councils.

REPEALER

The bill repeals:

1. DCF’s annual reporting requirement regarding the Kinship Navigator Program, which helps relative caregivers find services and become foster parents and is not changed by the bill;
2. the CJTS Public Safety Committee and transfers its responsibility to review safety and security issues affecting the host municipality (Middletown) to the CJTS Advisory Group; and
3. DCF’s annual report on the status of the children committed to its custody as of January 1, and the central registry on children for whom a permanency plan has been formulated and a monitoring system on implementation.

Currently, the Kinship Navigator Program report goes to the Human Services Committee; the CJTS Advisory Group review goes to (and continues to do so under the bill) the Human Services, Children’s,

and Judiciary committees; and the central registry and monitoring system report goes to the governor and the Human Services and Judiciary committees.

BACKGROUND

Federal Law

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351, 42 U.S.C. § 670 *et seq.*) provides federal Title IV-E of the Social Security Act support for relatives caring for foster children. Among other things, it gives states the option for federal reimbursement for guardianship subsidy payments, promotes permanency, and requires states to make reasonable efforts to keep siblings together in foster care.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/22/2011)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/22/2011)