



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 385

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5219

House of Representatives, April 12, 2012

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 THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT CARD ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN.

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

1 Section 1. Section 2-53m of the 2012 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Child" means any person under eighteen years of age;

6 (2) "Young adult" means any person eighteen years of age or older
7 but under twenty-five years of age.

8 [(a)] (b) The select committee of the General Assembly having
9 cognizance of matters relating to children, in consultation with the
10 Office of Fiscal Analysis, the Office of Legislative Research and the
11 Commission on Children, shall maintain an annual report card that

12 evaluates the progress of state policies and programs in promoting the
13 result that all Connecticut children and young adults grow up in a
14 stable living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead successful
15 lives. Progress shall be measured by primary indicators of progress,
16 including, but not limited to, indicators established in the final report
17 of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
18 prepared pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of public act 09-166, of
19 state-wide rates of child abuse, child poverty, low birth weight, third
20 grade reading proficiency, and the annual social health index
21 developed pursuant to section 46a-131a. For each indicator, the data
22 shall also be presented according to ethnicity or race, gender,
23 geography and, where appropriate, age and other relevant
24 characteristics. Said committee shall prepare the report card on or
25 before January 15, 2012, and annually thereafter. On or before January
26 15, 2012, and annually thereafter, said committee shall make the report
27 card available to the public on the Internet and on the web site of the
28 General Assembly and shall transmit the report card electronically to
29 (1) members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
30 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the
31 budgets of state agencies and human services, (2) the Commissioners
32 of Children and Families, Education and Public Health, (3) the Child
33 Advocate, (4) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
34 and (5) the Chief Court Administrator.

35 [(b)] (c) On or before January 15, [2012] 2013, the select committee of
36 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
37 children, in consultation with a working group of representatives of
38 state agencies and departments, community organizations, private
39 provider agencies operating programs that impact the well-being of
40 children, young adults and families, parents and other caretakers of
41 children and young adults, child advocacy organizations, young adult
42 advocacy organizations, health care professionals that serve children,
43 young adults and families, schools, and child care providers, shall
44 identify or develop (1) an indicator for measuring whether children
45 and young adults are living with their families and have stability in
46 their living environments, (2) secondary indicators for measuring

47 progress within each area of children's and young adults' well-being
 48 related to measuring progress in their health, safety, stability,
 49 education and future success, including, but not limited to, food
 50 security, and (3) key measures of performance of the state child
 51 welfare system, including, but not limited to, (A) rates of repeat
 52 maltreatment among victims of child abuse and neglect; (B) placement
 53 in out-of-home care among children at risk of abuse and neglect; (C)
 54 child fatalities involving child abuse or neglect; (D) rates of
 55 reunification and permanency for children removed from their homes;
 56 and (E) the developmental and health status and educational progress
 57 of children served by the child welfare system and other appropriate
 58 measures of well-being and preparation for success in life. Not less
 59 than annually, said committee shall: (i) With the assistance of the
 60 working group, review the adequacy of primary and secondary
 61 indicators, system-level performance measures, and related data
 62 resources for such indicators and measures, and determine whether
 63 there are more appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress in
 64 achieving the result that all Connecticut children and young adults
 65 grow up in a stable living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead
 66 successful lives, and (ii) in consultation with the results-based
 67 accountability subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the
 68 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 69 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, identify programs
 70 within the child welfare system that make a significant contribution to
 71 achieving such result and require the entities administering such
 72 programs to prepare annual report cards employing the results-based
 73 format developed by said subcommittee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2012	2-53m

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(a)(2) "at least" was removed for conciseness.

KID	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HS
HS	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO</i>	

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 expands the annual report card on policies and programs affecting children to include young adults, does not result in a fiscal impact. The Commission on Children currently produces an annual report card on programs affecting children.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5219

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT CARD ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the annual report card that the Children's Committee must maintain on the progress of state policies and programs promoting child well-being to include the well-being of young adults (ages 18-24).

By law, the committee measures well-being using indicators that show whether these young individuals are (1) growing up in stable environments, (2) safe, (3) healthy, and (4) ready to lead successful lives.

By law, a working group has consulted with the committee since the fall of 2011 to develop these indicators. It consists of legislators, state agency staff, community organizations, parents, and private provider agencies operating programs that have an impact on children. The bill requires (1) this group to also include agencies and organizations that serve young adults and (2) the indicators to address young adults as well as children.

The bill requires the Children's Committee, in consultation with the working group, to identify or develop the indicators, including those for young adults, by January 15, 2013. Current law requires the committee to develop the child indicators by January 15, 2012, and the committee has already done so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 8 Nay 0 (03/08/2012)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/22/2012)