



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2013



***S.B. No. 986 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF
PROBATE COURT ORDERS TO STATE AGENCIES***

The Department of Children and Families **opposes** S.B. No. 986, An Act Concerning the Applicability of Probate Court Orders to State Agencies.

DCF believes that Section 1 of this bill is unnecessary and interferes with due process of law. Existing statutes confers authority on the Probate Court to enter and enforce orders against state agencies, including DCF, when the legislature has deemed that appropriate. Likewise, existing law requires state agencies to either comply with a Probate Court order or appeal an adverse decision to the Superior Court. The proposed bill appears to be a blanket statement requiring state agencies to comply with Probate Court orders regardless of whether the state agency is a party to the case. This gives Probate Court judges unprecedented and ill-defined power that is not available even to Superior Courts. In addition, the bill is confusing in that it uses definitions from the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, which apply only to administrative appeals from state agency decisions and cannot properly be applied to the Probate Court context.

***S.B. No. 995 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH***

The Department of Children and Families **supports** S.B. No. 995, An Act Concerning the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch.

Specifically, DCF supports the language in section 1 of this bill which would reduce delays in facilitating services related to the treatment needs of children under the supervision of the Court Support Services Division.