
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5135

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLOSURE OR RELOCATION OF DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' REGIONAL OFFICES IN HIGH NEED COMMUNITIES.

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) from carrying out certain property transactions that would relocate a Department of Children and Families (DCF) regional office from a “high need community” to another community unless DAS has (1) conducted an impact analysis of the relocation and (2) submitted the analysis and the proposed relocation plan for review and approval by the legislative committees of cognizance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

RELOCATION OF DCF FACILITIES

Under the bill, a “high need community” is a community in a region served by DCF that (1) has a higher population than other communities in the region or (2) generates a higher-than-average department caseload than other communities in the region.

The bill bars DAS from (1) entering into any property lease, sale, or purchase agreement or (2) authorizing a building use that would result in relocating a DCF regional office from a high need community to another community unless DAS has conducted an impact analysis of the relocation. DAS must include in the analysis:

1. the number of people affected by the proposed relocation;
2. the relocation’s effect on accessibility to human services under an existing law (CGS § 4b-31) that requires collocating human service agencies, when feasible, to promote accessibility and integration of services;

3. accessibility by public and private transportation to the proposed relocated office, including whether the relocation would increase transportation costs or traveling time for people served at the current location; and
4. cost savings to the state related to the proposed relocation.

Before DAS proceeds with the property transaction, it must submit the analysis and the proposed relocation plan for review and approval to the Committee on Children and the Human Services, Government Administration and Elections, and Appropriations committees.

The committees have 30 days after receiving the analysis and proposed relocation plan to approve or deny the proposed DCF office relocation. If the committees do not concur on the proposed relocation or fail to act, the proposed relocation is considered approved.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)