



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 143

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5040

House of Representatives, March 27, 2014

The Committee on Children reported through REP. URBAN of the 43rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-28 of the 2014 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Person" means (A) any individual named in a record,
6 maintained by the department, who (i) is presently or at any prior time
7 was a ward of or committed to the commissioner for any reason; (ii)
8 otherwise received services, voluntarily or involuntarily, from the
9 department; or (iii) is presently or was at any prior time the subject of
10 an investigation by the department; (B) a parent whose parental rights
11 have not been terminated or current guardian of an individual
12 described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, if such individual is
13 a minor; or (C) the authorized representative of an individual

14 described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, if such individual is
15 deceased;

16 (2) "Attorney" means the licensed attorney authorized to assert the
17 confidentiality of or right of access to records of a person;

18 (3) "Authorized representative" means a parent, guardian, guardian
19 ad litem, attorney, conservator or other individual authorized to assert
20 the confidentiality of or right of access to records of a person;

21 (4) "Consent" means permission given in writing by a person, such
22 person's attorney or authorized representative to disclose specified
23 information, within a limited time period, regarding the person to
24 specifically identified individuals or entities;

25 (5) "Records" means information created or obtained in connection
26 with the department's child protection activities or other activities
27 related to a child while in the care or custody of the department,
28 including information in the registry of reports to be maintained by the
29 commissioner pursuant to section 17a-101k;

30 (6) "Disclose" means (A) to provide an oral summary of records
31 maintained by the department to an individual, agency, corporation or
32 organization, or (B) to allow an individual, agency, corporation or
33 organization to review or obtain copies of such records in whole, part
34 or summary form;

35 (7) "Near fatality" means an act that places a child in serious or
36 critical condition.

37 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-210, 1-211 or 1-213,
38 records maintained by the department shall be confidential and shall
39 not be disclosed, unless the department receives written consent from
40 the person or as provided in this section, section 17a-101g or section
41 17a-101k. Any unauthorized disclosure shall be punishable by a fine of
42 not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more
43 than one year, or both. Any employee of the department who in the
44 ordinary course of such person's employment has reasonable cause to

45 suspect or believe that another employee has engaged in the
46 unauthorized disclosure of records shall report in writing such
47 unauthorized disclosure of records to the commissioner. The report
48 shall include the name of the person disclosing the information and the
49 nature of the information disclosed and to whom it was disclosed, if
50 known.

51 (c) Records that (1) contain privileged communications, or (2) are
52 confidential pursuant to any federal law or regulation shall not be
53 disclosed except as authorized by law.

54 (d) Any information disclosed from a person's record shall not be
55 further disclosed to another individual or entity without the written
56 consent of the person, except (1) pursuant to section 19a-80 or 19a-80f,
57 provided such disclosure is otherwise permitted pursuant to
58 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, (2) pursuant to the order of a
59 court of competent jurisdiction, or (3) as otherwise provided by law.

60 (e) The commissioner shall, upon written request, disclose the
61 following information concerning agencies licensed by the Department
62 of Children and Families, except foster care parents, relatives of the
63 child who are licensed to provide foster care or prospective adoptive
64 families: (1) The name of the licensee; (2) the date the original license
65 was issued; (3) the current status of the license; (4) whether an agency
66 investigation or review is pending or has been completed; and (5) any
67 licensing action taken by the department at any time during the period
68 such license was issued and the reason for such action, provided
69 disclosure of such information will not jeopardize a pending
70 investigation.

71 (f) The name of any individual who reports suspected abuse or
72 neglect of a child or youth or cooperates with an investigation of child
73 abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential upon request or upon
74 determination by the department that disclosure of such information
75 may be detrimental to the safety or interests of the individual, except
76 the name of any such individual shall be disclosed pursuant to
77 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section to

78 (1) an employee of the department for reasons reasonably related to
79 the business of the department; (2) a law enforcement officer for
80 purposes of investigating (A) abuse or neglect of a child or youth, or
81 (B) an allegation that such individual falsely reported the suspected
82 abuse or neglect of a child or youth; (3) a state's attorney for purposes
83 of investigating or prosecuting (A) abuse or neglect of a child or youth,
84 or (B) an allegation that such individual falsely reported the suspected
85 abuse or neglect of a child or youth; (4) an assistant attorney general or
86 other legal counsel representing the department; (5) a judge of the
87 Superior Court and all necessary parties in a court proceeding
88 pursuant to section 17a-112 or 46b-129, or a criminal prosecution
89 involving child abuse or neglect; (6) a state child care licensing agency;
90 or (7) the executive director of any institution, school or facility or
91 superintendent of schools pursuant to section 17a-101i, as amended by
92 this act.

93 (g) The department shall disclose records, subject to subsections (b)
94 and (c) of this section, without the consent of the person who is the
95 subject of the record, to:

96 (1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized
97 representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to
98 information (A) contained in the record about such person or about
99 such person's biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's
100 parental rights to such child have not been terminated; and (B)
101 identifying an individual who reported abuse or neglect of the person,
102 including any tape recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-
103 103, if a court determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the
104 reporter knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice
105 require disclosure;

106 (2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably
107 related to the performance of such employee's duties;

108 (3) A guardian ad litem or attorney appointed to represent a child or
109 youth in litigation affecting the best interests of the child or youth;

110 (4) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any
111 other legal counsel retained to represent the department during the
112 course of a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee
113 of the department;

114 (5) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

115 (6) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's
116 designee for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the
117 attorneys with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide
118 legal and guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and
119 for ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such
120 attorneys;

121 (7) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's
122 designee for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation
123 related to child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual
124 made a false report of suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an
125 allegation that a mandated reporter failed to report suspected child
126 abuse or neglect in accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such
127 prosecuting authority shall have access to records of a child charged
128 with the commission of a delinquent act, who is not being charged
129 with an offense related to child abuse, only while the case is being
130 prosecuted and after obtaining a release;

131 (8) A state or federal law enforcement officer for purposes of
132 investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or neglect, (B) an
133 allegation that an individual made a false report of suspected child
134 abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated reporter failed to
135 report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with section 17a-
136 101a;

137 (9) Any foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records pertain
138 to a child or youth currently placed with the foster or prospective
139 adoptive parent, or a child or youth being considered for placement
140 with the foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the records are
141 necessary to address the social, medical, psychological or educational

142 needs of the child or youth, provided no information identifying a
143 biological parent is disclosed without the permission of such biological
144 parent;

145 (10) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the
146 Governor's official functions, the Legislative Program Review and
147 Investigations Committee, the joint standing committee of the General
148 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, the
149 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
150 of matters relating to the judiciary or the select committee of the
151 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
152 when requested in writing in the course of said committee's official
153 functions, and upon a majority vote of said committee, provided no
154 name or other identifying information is disclosed unless such
155 information is essential to the gubernatorial or legislative purpose;

156 (11) The Department of Public Health for the purpose of (A)
157 determining the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility
158 licensed pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80 or 19a-87b; (B) determining
159 the suitability of such person for licensure; [or] (C) an investigation
160 conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (D) notifying the Department of
161 Public Health when the Department of Children and Families places
162 an individual licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health
163 on the child abuse and neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or
164 (E) notifying the Department of Public Health when the Department of
165 Children and Families possesses information regarding a Department
166 of Public Health regulatory violation committed by an individual
167 licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health;

168 (12) The Department of Developmental Services, to allow said
169 department to determine eligibility, facilitate enrollment and plan for
170 the provision of services to a child who is a client of said department
171 and who is applying to enroll in or is enrolled in said department's
172 voluntary services program. At the time that a parent or guardian
173 completes an application for enrollment of a child in the Department of
174 Developmental Services' voluntary services program, or at the time

175 that said department updates a child's annual individualized plan of
176 care, said department shall notify such parent or guardian that the
177 Department of Children and Families may provide records to the
178 Department of Developmental Services for the purposes specified in
179 this subdivision without the consent of such parent or guardian;

180 (13) A state agency that licenses or certifies an individual to educate
181 or care for children or youth;

182 (14) A judge or employee of a probate court who requires access to
183 such records in order to perform such judge's or employee's official
184 duties;

185 (15) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of determining the
186 appropriate disposition of a child convicted as delinquent or a child
187 who is a member of a family with service needs;

188 (16) A judge of the Superior Court in a criminal prosecution for
189 purposes of in camera inspection whenever (A) the court has ordered
190 that the record be provided to the court; or (B) a party to the
191 proceeding has issued a subpoena for the record;

192 (17) A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a
193 family violence proceeding when such records concern family violence
194 with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding or the
195 parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding;

196 (18) The Auditors of Public Accounts, or their representative,
197 provided no information identifying the subject of the record is
198 disclosed unless such information is essential to an audit conducted
199 pursuant to section 2-90;

200 (19) A local or regional board of education, provided the records are
201 limited to educational records created or obtained by the state or
202 Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section
203 17a-37;

204 (20) The superintendent of schools for any school district for the

205 purpose of determining the suitability of a person to be employed by
206 the local or regional board of education for such school district
207 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-221d;

208 (21) The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of criminal
209 history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44,
210 provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall be
211 limited to information included on the Department of Children and
212 Families child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to
213 section 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and
214 17a-101k concerning the nondisclosure of findings of responsibility for
215 abuse and neglect;

216 (22) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for
217 the purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have
218 transitioned from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

219 (23) The superintendent of a public school district or the executive
220 director or other head of a public or private institution for children
221 providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to sections
222 17a-101b, 17a-101c and 17a-101i, as amended by this act, or (B) when
223 the Department of Children and Families places an individual
224 employed by such institution or school on the child abuse and neglect
225 registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; [and]

226 (24) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A)
227 determining the suitability of a person for payment from the
228 Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting
229 the health, safety and welfare of [the] a child or youth receiving
230 services from either department; or (C) investigating allegations of
231 fraud provided no information identifying the subject of the record is
232 disclosed unless such information is essential to any such
233 investigation; [.]

234 (25) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch for
235 the purpose of sharing common case records to track recidivism of
236 juvenile offenders; and

237 (26) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the
238 purpose of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for,
239 and (C) providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse
240 and neglect with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns
241 impacted by withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug
242 exposure.

243 (h) The department may, subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this
244 section, disclose records without the consent of the person who is the
245 subject of the record, to:

246 (1) An employee or former employee of the department or such
247 employee or former employee's authorized representative for purposes
248 of participating in any court, administrative or disciplinary
249 proceeding, provided such disclosure shall be limited to records that
250 are necessary to the proceeding, as determined by the department;

251 (2) Multidisciplinary teams, as described in section 17a-106a, as
252 amended by this act;

253 (3) A provider of professional services for a child, youth or parent
254 referred to such provider, provided such disclosure is limited to
255 information necessary to provide services to the child, youth or parent;

256 (4) An individual or agency under contract with the department for
257 the purposes of identifying and assessing a potential foster or adoptive
258 home for a child or youth, provided no information identifying a
259 biological parent of a child or youth is disclosed without the
260 permission of such biological parent;

261 (5) A physician examining a child with respect to whom abuse or
262 neglect is suspected and who is authorized pursuant to section 17a-
263 101f to keep the child in the custody of a hospital when such physician
264 requires the information in a record of the department to determine
265 whether to keep the child in protective custody;

266 (6) An individual who reports child abuse or neglect pursuant to
267 sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, or section 17a-103, who made

268 a report of abuse or neglect, provided the information disclosed is
269 limited to (A) the status of the investigation conducted pursuant to
270 section 17a-101g resulting from the individual's report; and (B) in
271 general terms, the action taken by the department as a result of such
272 investigation;

273 (7) An individual or organization engaged in the business of
274 medical, psychological or psychiatric diagnosis and treatment and who
275 is treating an individual who has perpetrated abuse or neglect, as
276 determined in an investigation conducted pursuant to section 17a-
277 101g, or who is unwilling or unable to protect a child or youth from
278 abuse or neglect, as determined in an investigation conducted
279 pursuant to section 17a-101g, when the commissioner, or the
280 commissioner's designee, determines that the disclosure is necessary to
281 accomplish the objectives of diagnosis or treatment;

282 (8) A court or public agency in another state or a federally
283 recognized Indian tribe, that is responsible for investigating child
284 abuse or neglect, preventing child abuse and neglect or providing
285 services to families at risk for child abuse or neglect, for the purpose of
286 such investigation, prevention or providing services to such families;

287 (9) An individual conducting bona fide research, provided no
288 information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless (A)
289 such information is essential to the purpose of the research; and (B) the
290 department has given written approval for the use of such
291 information;

292 (10) An individual or agency involved in the collection of fees for
293 services, provided such information is limited to the name and address
294 of the person who received the services and the fees for services,
295 except as provided in section 17b-225. In cases where a dispute arises
296 over such fees or claims or where additional information is needed to
297 substantiate the fee or claim, the Department of Children and Families
298 may disclose the following: (A) That the person was, in fact, provided
299 services by the department; (B) the dates and duration of such services;
300 and (C) a general description of the types of services, including

301 evidence that a service or treatment plan exists and has been carried
302 out and evidence to substantiate the necessity for admission and
303 length of stay in an institution or facility;

304 (11) A law enforcement officer or state's attorney if there is
305 reasonable cause to believe that (A) a child or youth is being abused or
306 neglected or at risk of being abused or neglected as a result of any
307 suspected criminal activity by any individual, or (B) an employee of
308 the department is being threatened or harassed or has been assaulted
309 by a client or coworker;

310 (12) Any individual interviewed as part of an investigation
311 conducted pursuant to section 17a-101g, who is not otherwise entitled
312 to such information, provided such disclosure is limited to: (A) The
313 general nature of the allegations contained in the reports; (B) the
314 identity of the child or youth alleged to have been abused or neglected;
315 and (C) information necessary to effectively conduct the investigation;

316 (13) Any individual, when information concerning an incident of
317 child abuse or neglect has been made public or the commissioner
318 reasonably believes publication of such information is likely, provided
319 such disclosure is limited to: (A) Whether the department has received
320 any report in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive,
321 or section 17a-103; (B) in general terms, any action taken by the
322 department, provided: (i) Names or other individually identifiable
323 information of the child or other family members is not disclosed,
324 regardless of whether such individually identifiable information is
325 otherwise available, and (ii) the name or other individually identifiable
326 information of the person suspected to be responsible for the abuse or
327 neglect is not disclosed unless such person has been arrested for a
328 crime due to such abuse or neglect; (C) confirmation or denial of the
329 accuracy of information that has been made public; and (D)
330 notwithstanding the provisions of section 46b-124, in general terms,
331 the legal status of the case;

332 (14) Any individual for the purpose of locating such individual's
333 missing parent, child or youth, provided such disclosure is limited to

334 information that assists in locating such missing parent, child or youth;

335 (15) Any individual, when the information concerns an incident of
336 abuse or neglect that resulted in a child or youth fatality or near
337 fatality of a child or youth, provided disclosure of such information is
338 in general terms and does not jeopardize a pending investigation;

339 (16) A judge of a court of competent jurisdiction whenever an
340 employee of the department is subpoenaed and ordered to testify
341 about such records for purposes of in camera inspection to determine
342 if such records may be disclosed pursuant to this section if (A) the
343 court has ordered that such records be provided to the court; or (B) a
344 party to the proceeding has issued a subpoena for such records;

345 (17) An individual who is not employed by the department who
346 arranges, performs or assists in performing functions or activities on
347 behalf of the department, including, but not limited to, data analysis,
348 processing or administration, utilization reviews, quality assurance,
349 practice management, consultation, data aggregation and accreditation
350 services.

351 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e) to (h),
352 inclusive, of this section, the department may refuse to disclose records
353 to any individual, provided the department gives such individual
354 notice (1) that records are being withheld; (2) of the general nature of
355 the records being withheld; (3) of the department's reason for refusing
356 to disclose the records; and (4) of the individual's right to judicial relief
357 pursuant to subsection (j) of this section.

358 (j) (1) Any person or individual aggrieved by a violation of
359 subsection (b) or (d), subsections (f) to (h), inclusive, or subsection (k)
360 of this section, or a person's authorized representative, may seek
361 judicial relief in the manner prescribed in section 52-146j.

362 (2) Any person, individual or authorized representative denied
363 access to records by the commissioner under subdivision (i) of this
364 section may petition the superior court for the venue district provided

365 in section 46b-142 in which the person resides for an order requiring
366 the commissioner to permit access to those records, and the court, after
367 a hearing and an in camera review of the records in question, shall
368 issue such an order unless it determines that permitting disclosure of
369 all or any portion of the record (A) would be contrary to the best
370 interests of the person or the person's authorized representative; (B)
371 could reasonably result in the risk of harm to any individual; or (C)
372 would contravene the public policy of the state.

373 (k) All written records disclosed to an individual who is not the
374 subject of the record, an agency, an entity or an organization shall bear
375 a stamp requiring confidentiality in accordance with the provisions of
376 this section. Such records shall not be disclosed to another individual,
377 agency, entity or an organization without the written consent of the
378 person who is the subject of the record or as provided by this section.
379 A copy of the consent form, specifying to whom and for what specific
380 use the record is disclosed or a statement setting forth any other
381 statutory authorization for disclosure and the limitations imposed on
382 such disclosure, shall accompany the record. In cases where the
383 disclosure is made orally, the individual disclosing the information
384 shall inform the recipient that such information is governed by the
385 provisions of this section.

386 (l) Whenever any person, attorney or authorized representative,
387 having obtained access to any record, believes there are factually
388 inaccurate entries or materials contained in such record, such person,
389 attorney or authorized representative may add a statement to the
390 record setting forth what such person, attorney or authorized
391 representative believes to be an accurate statement of those facts and
392 such statement shall become a permanent part of the record.

393 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 17b-90 of the 2014 supplement to the
394 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
395 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

396 (b) No person shall, except for purposes directly connected with the
397 administration of programs of the Department of Social Services and in

398 accordance with the regulations of the commissioner, solicit, disclose,
399 receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in
400 or acquiesce in the use of, any list of the names of, or any information
401 concerning, persons applying for or receiving assistance from the
402 Department of Social Services or persons participating in a program
403 administered by said department, directly or indirectly derived from
404 the records, papers, files or communications of the state or its
405 subdivisions or agencies, or acquired in the course of the performance
406 of official duties. The Commissioner of Social Services shall disclose (1)
407 to any authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner such
408 information directly related to unemployment compensation,
409 administered pursuant to chapter 567 or information necessary for
410 implementation of sections 17b-688b, 17b-688c and 17b-688h and
411 section 122 of public act 97-2 of the June 18 special session, (2) to any
412 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and
413 Addiction Services any information necessary for the implementation
414 and operation of the basic needs supplement program, (3) to any
415 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Administrative
416 Services or the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
417 Protection such information as the Commissioner of Social Services
418 determines is directly related to and necessary for the Department of
419 Administrative Services or the Department of Emergency Services and
420 Public Protection for purposes of performing their functions of
421 collecting social services recoveries and overpayments or amounts due
422 as support in social services cases, investigating social services fraud or
423 locating absent parents of public assistance recipients, (4) to any
424 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Children and
425 Families necessary information concerning a child or the immediate
426 family of a child receiving services from the Department of Social
427 Services, including safety net services, if (A) the Commissioner of
428 Children and Families or the Commissioner of Social Services has
429 determined that imminent danger to such child's health, safety or
430 welfare exists to target the services of the family services programs
431 administered by the Department of Children and Families, or (B) the
432 Commissioner of Children and Families requires access to the federal

433 Parent Locator Service established pursuant to 88 Stat. 2353 (1975), 42
434 USC 653 in order to identify a parent or putative parent of a child, (5)
435 to a town official or other contractor or authorized representative of
436 the Labor Commissioner such information concerning an applicant for
437 or a recipient of assistance under state-administered general assistance
438 deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Social Services and the
439 Labor Commissioner to carry out their respective responsibilities to
440 serve such persons under the programs administered by the Labor
441 Department that are designed to serve applicants for or recipients of
442 state-administered general assistance, (6) to any authorized
443 representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
444 Services for the purposes of the behavioral health managed care
445 program established by section 17a-453, (7) to any authorized
446 representative of the Commissioner of Public Health to carry out his or
447 her respective responsibilities under programs that regulate child day
448 care services or youth camps, (8) to a health insurance provider, in IV-
449 D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of
450 section 46b-231, information concerning a child and the custodial
451 parent of such child that is necessary to enroll such child in a health
452 insurance plan available through such provider when the noncustodial
453 parent of such child is under court order to provide health insurance
454 coverage but is unable to provide such information, provided the
455 Commissioner of Social Services determines, after providing prior
456 notice of the disclosure to such custodial parent and an opportunity for
457 such parent to object, that such disclosure is in the best interests of the
458 child, (9) to any authorized representative of the Department of
459 Correction, in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of
460 subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial
461 parents that is necessary to identify inmates or parolees with IV-D
462 support cases who may benefit from Department of Correction
463 educational, training, skill building, work or rehabilitation
464 programming that will significantly increase an inmate's or parolee's
465 ability to fulfill such inmate's support obligation, (10) to any
466 authorized representative of the Judicial Branch, in IV-D support cases,
467 as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231,

468 information concerning noncustodial parents that is necessary to: (A)
469 Identify noncustodial parents with IV-D support cases who may
470 benefit from educational, training, skill building, work or
471 rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase such
472 parent's ability to fulfill such parent's support obligation, (B) assist in
473 the administration of the Title IV-D child support program, or (C)
474 assist in the identification of cases involving family violence, (11) to
475 any authorized representative of the State Treasurer, in IV-D support
476 cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-
477 231, information that is necessary to identify child support obligors
478 who owe overdue child support prior to the Treasurer's payment of
479 such obligors' claim for any property unclaimed or presumed
480 abandoned under part III of chapter 32, or (12) to any authorized
481 representative of the Commissioner of Housing for the purpose of
482 verifying whether an applicant for the renters rebate program
483 established by section 12-170d is a recipient of cash assistance from the
484 Department of Social Services and the amount of such assistance. No
485 such representative shall disclose any information obtained pursuant
486 to this section, except as specified in this section. Any applicant for
487 assistance provided through said department shall be notified that, if
488 and when such applicant receives benefits, the department will be
489 providing law enforcement officials with the address of such applicant
490 upon the request of any such official pursuant to section 17b-16a.

491 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) The Commissioner of
492 Children and Families may: (1) Provide child welfare services for any
493 minor child residing in the state who is identified by the Department
494 of Children and Families as a victim of trafficking, as defined in section
495 46a-170 of the general statutes; and (2) provide appropriate services to
496 a minor child residing in the state who the Department of Children
497 and Families reasonably believes may be a victim of trafficking in
498 order to safeguard the welfare of such minor child. For purposes of
499 this section and section 17a-106a of the general statutes, "minor child"
500 means any person under eighteen years of age.

501 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families may, within

502 available appropriations, provide training to law enforcement officials
503 regarding the trafficking of minor children. The training shall include,
504 but not be limited to, (1) awareness and compliance with the laws and
505 protocols concerning trafficking of minor children, (2) identification of,
506 access to and provision of services for minor children who are victims
507 of trafficking, and (3) any other services the department deems
508 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and section 17a-
509 106a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

510 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 17a-106a of the general statutes is
511 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
512 *October 1, 2014*):

513 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families, as department head
514 of the lead agency, and the appropriate state's attorney may establish
515 multidisciplinary teams for the purpose of reviewing particular cases
516 or particular types of cases or to coordinate the prevention,
517 intervention and treatment in each judicial district or to review
518 selected cases of child abuse or neglect or cases involving the
519 trafficking, as defined in section 46a-170, of minor children. The
520 purpose of such multidisciplinary teams is to advance and coordinate
521 the prompt investigation of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect,
522 to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection
523 and treatment of the child. The head of the local law enforcement
524 agency or his designee may request the assistance of the Division of
525 State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
526 Protection for such purposes.

527 Sec. 5. Subdivision (8) of section 46b-120 of the general statutes is
528 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
529 *October 1, 2014*):

530 (8) A child or youth may be found "uncared for" (A) who is
531 homeless, [or] (B) whose home cannot provide the specialized care that
532 the physical, emotional or mental condition of the child or youth
533 requires, or (C) who has been identified as a victim of trafficking, as
534 defined in section 46a-170. For the purposes of this section, the

535 treatment of any child or youth by an accredited Christian Science
536 practitioner, in lieu of treatment by a licensed practitioner of the
537 healing arts, shall not of itself constitute neglect or maltreatment;

538 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the 2014 supplement to
539 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
540 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

541 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: (1) Any
542 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2)
543 any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether
544 or not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any licensed practical
545 nurse, (5) any medical examiner, (6) any dentist, (7) any dental
546 hygienist, [or] (8) any psychologist, [a] (9) any school employee, as
547 defined in section 53a-65, [social worker,] (10) any person who holds or
548 is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach
549 of intramural or interscholastic athletics and is eighteen years of age or
550 older, (11) any paid coach or director of youth athletics who is eighteen
551 years of age or older, (12) any paid coach or director of a private youth
552 sports organization, league or team who is eighteen years of age or
553 older, (13) any paid administrator, faculty, staff, athletic director,
554 athletic coach or athletic trainer employed by a public or private
555 institution of higher education who is eighteen years of age or older,
556 excluding student employees, (14) any social worker, except a social
557 worker employed or retained by an attorney or law firm who, in the
558 course of his or her duties for such attorney or law firm, has
559 knowledge of a communication from a client of such attorney or law
560 firm about such client that would otherwise require such social worker
561 to make a report pursuant to section 17a-101a, (15) any police officer,
562 (16) any juvenile or adult probation officer, (17) any juvenile or adult
563 parole officer, (18) any member of the clergy, (19) any pharmacist, (20)
564 any physical therapist, (21) any optometrist, (22) any chiropractor, (23)
565 any podiatrist, (24) any mental health professional, [or] (25) any
566 physician assistant, (26) any person who is a licensed or certified
567 emergency medical services provider, (27) any person who is a
568 licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, (28) any person who

569 is a licensed marital and family therapist, (29) any person who is a
570 sexual assault counselor or a domestic violence counselor, as defined
571 in section 52-146k, (30) any person who is a licensed professional
572 counselor, (31) any person who is a licensed foster parent, (32) any
573 person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child
574 day care center, group day care home or family day care home licensed
575 by the state, (33) any employee of the Department of Children and
576 Families, (34) any employee of the Department of Public Health who is
577 responsible for the licensing of child day care centers, group day care
578 homes, family day care homes or youth camps, (35) any paid youth
579 camp director or assistant director, (36) the Child Advocate and any
580 employee of the Office of the Child Advocate, and (37) any family
581 relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family
582 services supervisor employed by the Judicial Department.

583 Sec. 7. Section 17a-101i of the general statutes is repealed and the
584 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

585 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, not later
586 than five working days after an investigation [has been completed and
587 the Commissioner of Children and Families, based upon the results of
588 the investigation, (1) has reasonable cause to believe] of a report that a
589 child has been abused or neglected by a school employee, as defined in
590 section 53a-65, [who has been entrusted with the care of a child and
591 who holds a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State
592 Board of Education, or (2) has recommended that such employee be
593 placed on the Department of Children and Families child abuse and
594 neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, the
595 commissioner] has been completed, the Commissioner of Children and
596 Families shall [, not later than five working days after such finding,]
597 notify the employing superintendent and the Commissioner of
598 Education of [such finding] the results of such investigation and shall
599 provide records, whether or not created by the department, concerning
600 such investigation to the superintendent and the Commissioner of
601 Education. [The superintendent shall suspend such school employee.]
602 The Commissioner of Children and Families shall provide such notice

603 whether or not the child was a student in the employing school or
604 school district. If (1) the Commissioner of Children and Families, based
605 upon the results of the investigation, has reasonable cause to believe
606 that a child has been abused or neglected by such employee, and (2)
607 the commissioner recommends such school employee be placed on the
608 child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-
609 101k, the superintendent shall suspend such school employee. Such
610 suspension shall be with pay and shall not result in the diminution or
611 termination of benefits to such employee. Not later than seventy-two
612 hours after such suspension the superintendent shall notify the local or
613 regional board of education and the Commissioner of Education, or
614 the commissioner's representative, of the reasons for and conditions of
615 the suspension. The superintendent shall disclose such records to the
616 Commissioner of Education and the local or regional board of
617 education or its attorney for purposes of review of employment status
618 or the status of such employee's certificate, permit or authorization.
619 The suspension of a school employee employed in a position requiring
620 a certificate shall remain in effect until the board of education acts
621 pursuant to the provisions of section 10-151. If the contract of
622 employment of such certified school employee is terminated, or such
623 certified school employee resigns such employment, the
624 superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education, or the
625 commissioner's representative, within seventy-two hours after such
626 termination or resignation. Upon receipt of such notice from the
627 superintendent, the Commissioner of Education may commence
628 certification revocation proceedings pursuant to the provisions of
629 subsection (i) of section 10-145b. Notwithstanding the provisions of
630 sections 1-210 and 1-211, information received by the Commissioner of
631 Education, or the commissioner's representative, pursuant to this
632 section shall be confidential subject to regulations adopted by the State
633 Board of Education under section 10-145g.

634 (b) Not later than five working days after an investigation of a
635 report that a child has been abused or neglected by a staff member of a
636 public or private institution or facility that provides care for children
637 or a private school has been completed, [if] the Commissioner of

638 Children and Families shall notify such staff member's employer at
639 such institution, facility or school, or such employer's designee, of the
640 results of the investigation. If (1) the Commissioner of Children and
641 Families, based upon the results of the investigation, has reasonable
642 cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected by [a] such
643 staff member, [of a public or private institution or facility providing
644 care for children or private school,] and (2) the commissioner
645 recommends that such staff member be placed on the child abuse and
646 neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, such
647 institution, facility or school [or facility] shall suspend such staff
648 person. Such suspension shall be with pay and shall not result in
649 diminution or termination of benefits to such staff person. Such
650 suspension shall remain in effect until the incident of abuse or neglect
651 has been satisfactorily resolved by the employer of the staff person or
652 until an appeal, conducted in accordance with section 17a-101k, has
653 resulted in a finding that such staff person is not responsible for the
654 abuse or neglect or does not pose a risk to the health, safety or well-
655 being of children. If such staff member has a professional license or
656 certificate issued by the state or a permit or authorization issued by the
657 State Board of Education or if such institution, school or facility has a
658 license or approval issued by the state, the commissioner shall
659 forthwith notify the state agency responsible for issuing such license,
660 certificate, permit, approval or authorization to the staff member and
661 provide records, whether or not created by the department, concerning
662 such investigation.

663 (c) If a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, or any person
664 holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board
665 of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-149,
666 inclusive, is convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or
667 neglect as described in section 46b-120, as amended by this act, or a
668 violation of section 53-21, 53a-71 or 53a-73a, the state's attorney for the
669 judicial district in which the conviction occurred shall in writing notify
670 the superintendent of the school district or the supervisory agent of the
671 nonpublic school in which the person is employed and the
672 Commissioner of Education of such conviction.

673 (d) For the purposes of receiving and making reports, notifying and
 674 receiving notification, or investigating, pursuant to the provisions of
 675 sections 17a-101a to 17a-101h, inclusive, and 17a-103, a superintendent
 676 of a school district or a supervisory agent of a nonpublic school may
 677 assign a designee to act on such superintendent's or agent's behalf.

678 (e) On or before February 1, 2012, each local and regional board of
 679 education shall adopt a written policy, in accordance with the
 680 provisions of subsection (d) of section 17a-101, regarding the reporting
 681 by school employees, as defined in section 53a-65, of suspected child
 682 abuse in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and
 683 17a-103. Such policy shall be distributed annually to all school
 684 employees employed by the local or regional board of education. The
 685 local or regional board of education shall document that all such
 686 school employees have received such written policy and completed the
 687 training and refresher training programs required by subsection (c) of
 688 section 17a-101.

689 (f) (1) All school employees, as defined in section 53a-65, hired by a
 690 local or regional board of education on or after July 1, 2011, shall be
 691 required to complete the training program developed pursuant to
 692 subsection (c) of section 17a-101. All such school employees shall
 693 complete the refresher training program, developed pursuant to
 694 subsection (c) of section 17a-101, not later than three years after
 695 completion of the initial training program, and shall thereafter retake
 696 such refresher training course at least once every three years.

697 (2) On or before July 1, 2012, all school employees, as defined in
 698 section 53a-65, hired by a local or regional board of education before
 699 July 1, 2011, shall complete the refresher training program developed
 700 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-101 and shall thereafter retake
 701 such refresher training course at least once every three years.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	17a-28

Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17b-90(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-106a(a)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	46b-120(8)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-101(b)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-101i

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) from the bill. Among other changes, it expands (1) the disclosure of information in certain circumstances from and to DCF and (2) who is a mandated reporter. It allows DCF to provide training to law enforcement officials¹ and to establish multidisciplinary teams for victims of trafficking.² The bill also broadens the category of children or youths a court may find to be “uncared for” to include a child or youth identified as a trafficking victim.³

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹DCF recently hosted a conference on trafficking of minor children, which was recorded for training purposes and could be used by DCF for training of law enforcement officials, should they choose to do such trainings.

²DCF estimates that approximately 70 children are trafficked annually and that the provision of multidisciplinary teams can be provided without incurring a cost to the agency.

³Trafficked minors could access DCF services under current juvenile justice and Family with Service Needs statutes. This is not anticipated to alter the number of children DCF serves.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5040

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the circumstances in which the departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Social Services (DSS) must disclose the names and records of certain individuals to specific entities. The circumstances affecting DCF include:

1. disclosing the names and records of people being investigated and prosecuted for falsely reporting child abuse and neglect,
2. determining a person's suitability for working in a state-licensed child care facility,
3. placing a public school employee on the child abuse and neglect registry, and
4. protecting a DCF employee being threatened by a client or coworker.

The bill expands the circumstances in which DSS must disclose information to DCF about a child receiving DSS services or the child's immediate family.

The bill also requires DCF to disclose information to help the Judicial Branch track juvenile offender recidivism and the Birth-to-Three program provide services.

The bill expands the actions DCF can take to help children it identifies or believes are victims of trafficking to include (1) providing services, (2) forming multidisciplinary teams to review trafficking

cases, and (3) providing training to law enforcement officers about trafficking. It also expands the category of children or youths a court may find to be “uncared for” to include child-trafficking victims.

Additionally, the bill expands the mandated reporter list and exempts certain social workers from mandated reporter responsibilities in certain circumstances.

Lastly, the bill aligns some of the procedural aspects for suspending an employee suspected of child abuse and neglect who works at a (1) public school or (2) private school or public or private child care facility or institution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

§ 1 — DCF NAME AND RECORD DISCLOSURE

Expanded Circumstances for Disclosing Names

The bill expands grounds under which DCF must report to a law enforcement officer or state’s attorney the name of someone who reports suspected child abuse or neglect or cooperates with a child abuse or neglect investigation. By law, DCF must report the person’s name to a law enforcement officer investigating child abuse or neglect and to a state’s attorney investigating or such matters. The bill also requires DCF to disclose the name to a law enforcement officer investigating an allegation that the person falsely reported the suspected child abuse or neglect and a state’s attorney investigating or prosecuting the allegation.

Expanded Circumstances for Disclosing Records

The bill expands the circumstances in which DCF must disclose records about a person to specified parties without the person’s consent.

By law, DCF must disclose such information to the chief state’s attorney or his designee investigating or prosecuting a child abuse or neglect allegation. The bill requires DCF to also disclose records to the chief state’s attorney or his designee investigating or prosecuting an

allegation that a (1) person made a false report of suspected child abuse or neglect or (2) mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

By law, DCF must disclose records to law enforcement officers investigating a child abuse or neglect allegation. The bill requires DCF to also disclose records to law enforcement officers investigating an allegation that a (1) person falsely reported suspected child abuse or neglect or (2) mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

The law requires DCF to disclose records to the Department of Public Health (DPH) to (1) determine a person's suitability to care for a child in a licensed child-care facility, (2) determine a person's suitability for licensure, or (3) investigate alleged child abuse or neglect involving a licensed child-care facility. The bill requires DCF to disclose records to DPH to notify it when DCF (1) places a DPH-licensed or -certified person on the child abuse registry or (2) has information about such a person who violated a DPH regulation.

The law requires DCF to disclose records to a public school district superintendent or executive director or other head of a public or private child-care institution or private school in response to (1) a mandated reporter's written or oral report of abuse or neglect or (2) the DCF commissioner's reasonable belief that a school employee abused or neglected a student. The bill requires DCF to also disclose records to such entities when it places an employee of the school or institution on the child abuse or neglect registry.

New Disclosure Requirements

The bill expands the list of entities to whom DCF must disclose its records to include:

1. the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division for sharing common case records to track juvenile offenders' recidivism and
2. the Birth-to-Three program's (see BACKGROUND) referral

intake office for determining eligibility of, facilitating enrollment for, and providing services to (a) substantiated abuse and neglect victims with suspected developmental delays and (b) newborns affected by withdrawal symptoms from prenatal drug exposure.

Permitted Record Disclosures

The bill expands the circumstances in which DCF may disclose records without the subject's consent to a law enforcement officer or state's attorney to include those in which it has a reasonable cause to believe that a DCF employee is being threatened or harassed or has been assaulted by a client or coworker. The law already allows DCF to disclose such records to a law enforcement officer or state's attorney if there is reasonable cause to believe that a child or youth is being, or is at risk of being, abused or neglected due to a person's suspected criminal activity.

Record Disclosures to DSS

The bill conforms the law to DCF's current practice of disclosing records to DSS to promote the health, safety, and welfare of a child or youth receiving services from either department. Current law does not specify that the record disclosures are limited to those of children and youths receiving services from DCF or DSS. The law already requires disclosure to DSS to (1) determine a person's suitability for payment from DSS for providing child care or (2) investigate fraud allegations, if no identifying information about the record's subject is disclosed unless necessary.

§ 2 — DSS INFORMATION DISCLOSURES

The law allows DSS to disclose information about individuals who apply for or receive department assistance, or participate in a department program under narrow circumstances. The bill expands those circumstances to include disclosure to DCF about a child receiving DSS services or the child's immediate family if the DCF commissioner requires access to the federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) to identify a child's parent or putative parent. (The FPLS is a computerized, national network that obtains address and employer

information as well as data on child support obligors in every state.) The law requires DSS to make such a disclosure to DCF in order for DCF to target services for the family if the DCF or DSS commissioner determines that the child's health, safety, or welfare is in imminent danger.

§§ 3-5 — TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

DCF Services

The bill allows the DCF commissioner to provide:

1. child welfare services for any minor child (under age 18) residing in the state who the department identifies as a trafficking victim (see BACKGROUND) and
2. appropriate services to a minor child in the state who DCF reasonably believes may be a trafficking victim in order to protect the child's welfare.

The bill allows DCF, within available appropriations, to provide training to law enforcement officials about the trafficking of minor children. The training must include:

1. awareness and compliance with the laws and protocols concerning trafficking of minor children;
2. service identification, access, and provision for minor children who are trafficking victims; and
3. any other services the department considers necessary to carry out the bill's provisions regarding child trafficking.

Multidisciplinary Teams

The bill expands the purposes for which DCF and the appropriate state's attorney may establish multidisciplinary teams to include reviewing cases involving the trafficking of a minor child. The law already allows DCF and a state's attorney to establish such teams to (1) review particular cases or types of cases; (2) coordinate prevention, intervention, and treatment in each judicial district; or (3) review

selected child abuse or neglect cases.

“Uncared for” Finding

The bill broadens the category of children or youths a court may find to be “uncared for” to include a child or youth identified as a trafficking victim. By law, a child or youth may be found “uncared for” if he or she is homeless or if his or her home cannot provide the specialized care that his or her physical, emotional, or mental condition requires.

§ 6 — MANDATED REPORTERS

The bill expands the mandated reporter list (see BACKGROUND) to include any paid youth camp director or assistant director and any person age 18 or older who is a paid (1) youth athletics coach or director; (2) private youth sports organization, league, or team coach or director; or (3) administrator, faculty, or staff member, athletic coach, director, or trainer employed by a public or private higher education institution, excluding student employees.

Under current law, a social worker is a mandated reporter. The bill exempts a social worker who is employed or retained by an attorney or law firm and who, in the course of his or her duties, has knowledge of a communication from a client about the client that would otherwise require the social worker to report, as a mandated reporter, suspected child abuse, neglect, injury, or imminent risk of serious harm.

§ 7 — INVESTIGATIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT BY CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND STAFF MEMBERS

The bill aligns some of the procedural aspects for suspending certain types of employees suspected of child abuse and neglect. The requirements vary depending on whether the employee works for a (1) public school or (2) private school or public or private child care facility or institution.

Public School Employees

The bill (1) expands the circumstances in which DCF must provide a school superintendent and the education commissioner the results of

an investigation into a report that an employee of the superintendent's school district abused or neglected a child, (2) narrows the circumstances in which the superintendent must suspend the employee, and (3) broadens the category of school employees who may be suspended to include any school employee, not just those with SBE-issued credentials who take care of children.

The bill requires the DCF commissioner, within five days after investigating a school employee's alleged child abuse or neglect, to notify the superintendent and the education commissioner of the investigation's results and provide records to both. Under current law, the DCF commissioner must notify and provide investigation results and records to the superintendent and the commissioner only if she (1) reasonably believes, based on the investigation, that a child has been abused or neglected by a school employee who (a) has been entrusted with the care of a child and (b) holds an SBE-issued certificate, permit, or authorization or (2) has recommended that the employee be placed on the DCF child abuse and neglect registry. She must provide the notice within five days of making such a finding.

Under the bill, the superintendent must suspend the employee if the DCF commissioner (1) reasonably believes, based on the investigation results, that a child has been abused or neglected and (2) recommends that the employee be placed on the child abuse and neglect registry. Under current law, the superintendent must suspend the employee for either reason rather than both.

Private School and Public and Private Child-Care Facility and Institution Employees

The bill (1) imposes a deadline by which DCF must report the results of an abuse or neglect investigation of an employee of a private school or a public or private child care facility or institution and (2) eliminates the five-day period in which the school, facility, or institution must, based on the commissioner's findings and recommendations, suspend the staff member.

Under the bill, the DCF commissioner, no more than five days after

investigating a report that an employee abused or neglected a child, must report the investigation results to his or her employer or employer's designee. Current law does not require DCF to report its investigation results to the facility, institution, or school unless the commissioner (1) reasonably believes, based on the investigation results, that a child has been abused or neglected by the staff member and (2) recommends that the staff member be placed on the child abuse and neglect registry.

By law, the school, institution, or facility must suspend the staff person within five days after the commissioner completes her investigation if she (1) reasonably believes, based on the investigation results, that a staff member has abused or neglected a child and (2) recommends the staff member be placed on the child abuse and neglect registry.

BACKGROUND

Birth-to-Three Program

The Birth-to-Three program is designed to strengthen families' capacities to meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities. Eligible families work with service providers to develop Individualized Family Services Plans, with services starting within 45 days of the plan's completion. The plans are reviewed at least once every six months and rewritten at least annually.

The Department of Developmental Services is the state's lead agency for the Birth-to-Three program, but families may get referrals from it to other state agencies' programs, depending on the number and type of disabilities a child has.

Mandated Reporters

Mandated reporters are:

1. licensed physicians or surgeons, resident physicians or interns working in Connecticut hospitals, registered or licensed practical nurses, and mental health professionals or physician

- assistants;
- 2. medical examiners;
- 3. dentists and dental hygienists;
- 4. psychologists;
- 5. school employees;
- 6. social workers;
- 7. police officers;
- 8. juvenile and adult probation and parole officers;
- 9. clergy members;
- 10. pharmacists;
- 11. physical therapists;
- 12. optometrists, chiropractors, and podiatrists;
- 13. licensed or certified emergency medical services providers;
- 14. licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselors, licensed marital or family therapists, licensed professional counselors, and sexual assault and domestic violence counselors;
- 15. licensed foster parents;
- 16. people paid to care for children in a public or private facility, child day care center, group day care center, group day care home, or family day care home licensed by the state;
- 17. DCF employees;
- 18. DPH employees responsible for licensing child day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes, or youth camps;

- 19. the child advocate and her employees; and
- 20. Judicial Branch employees working as family relations counselors, counselor trainees, and family services supervisors (CGS § 17a-101).

Trafficking

By law, “trafficking” means all acts involved in recruiting, abducting, transporting, harboring, transferring, selling, or receiving people, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud, or deception, to place them in (1) slavery or slavery-like conditions; (2) forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services; (3) domestic servitude; (4) bonded sweatshop labor; or (5) other debt bondage (CGS § 46a-170).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 8 Nay 4 (03/11/2014)