



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 336**

February Session, 2014

House Bill No. 5135

*House of Representatives, April 3, 2014*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "high need community" means a community in a regional area served  
3 by the Department of Children and Families that has a higher  
4 population than other communities in the region or generates a higher  
5 than average department caseload than other communities within the  
6 region.

7 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4a-2 and 4b-29 of the  
8 general statutes, the Department of Administrative Services shall not  
9 enter into any property lease, sale or purchase agreement or authorize  
10 a building use that would result in the relocation of a regional office of  
11 the Department of Children and Families from a high need community  
12 to another community unless the Department of Administrative  
13 Services has: (1) Conducted an impact analysis of the relocation, and

14 (2) submitted the analysis and the proposed relocation plan for review  
 15 and approval to the joint standing committees of the General  
 16 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human  
 17 services, government administration and appropriations and the  
 18 budgets of state agencies.

19 (c) The Department of Administrative Services shall include in the  
 20 impact analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section:  
 21 (1) The number of persons affected by the proposed office relocation,  
 22 (2) the effect such proposed relocation would have on accessibility to  
 23 human services pursuant to the provisions of section 4b-31 of the  
 24 general statutes, (3) accessibility by public and private transportation  
 25 to the proposed relocated office, including, but not limited to, whether  
 26 such relocation would result in increased transportation costs or  
 27 traveling time for persons served at the current office location, and (4)  
 28 cost savings to the state related to the proposed relocation of such  
 29 office.

30 (d) The joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
 31 cognizance of matters relating to children, human services,  
 32 government administration and appropriations and the budgets of  
 33 state agencies shall have thirty days from receipt of the impact analysis  
 34 and proposed relocation plan to approve or deny the proposed  
 35 relocation of a Department of Children and Families' regional office. If  
 36 the committees do not concur on the proposed relocation or fail to act,  
 37 the proposed relocation shall be deemed approved.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

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.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>
Dept. of Administrative Services	Various - Potential Cost	Potential	Potential

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill prohibits the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) from 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. This may reduce the number of competitive proposals the state receives; thus, potentially increasing DAS leasing costs.<sup>1</sup>

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to a reduced pool of competitive bidders with the state.

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<sup>1</sup>In FY 14, the cost for renting office space at 17 DCF locations is approximately \$7.7 million.

**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)