



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 368

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6805

House of Representatives, April 1, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM AND HEARING TESTS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than October
2 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall require, as
3 part of the birth-to-three program, established under section 17a-248b
4 of the general statutes, that the parent or guardian of a child who is (1)
5 receiving services under the birth-to-three program, and (2) exhibiting
6 delayed speech, language or hearing development, be notified of the
7 availability of hearing testing for such child. Such notification may
8 include, but not be limited to, information regarding (A) the benefits of
9 hearing testing for children, (B) the resources available to the parent or
10 guardian for hearing testing and treatment, and (C) any financial
11 assistance that may be available for such testing.

12 (b) The Commissioner of Developmental Services may adopt
13 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
14 implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section

PH *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 associated with requiring the Department of Developmental Services' Birth to Three Program to provide information regarding hearing tests as this conforms to current practice.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

Sources: www.birth23.org

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6805*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM AND HEARING TESTS.*****SUMMARY:**

Beginning by October 1, 2015, this bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), as part of the Birth-to-Three program, to notify parents and guardians of the availability of hearing tests for children receiving services under the program and exhibiting delayed speech, language, or hearing development.

The notice may include information about (1) the benefits of hearing tests for children, (2) the resources available to the parent or guardian for hearing tests and treatment, and (3) available financial assistance for the tests. The DDS commissioner may adopt regulations to implement the bill.

The Birth-to-Three program provides services to families with infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 41) to the Public Health Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminates a provision exempting children whose parents' religious beliefs conflict with hearing screening.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/26/2015)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/23/2015)