



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Proposed Bill No. 312

LCO No. 2767



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Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.
REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF PARTICULARLY
VULNERABLE CHILDREN.**

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

1 That title 17a of the general statutes be amended to require the
2 Department of Children and Families, in consultation with the Office
3 of Early Childhood, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
4 Services, the Department of Public Health, the Office of the Child
5 Advocate, and the child fatality review panel, to adopt policies and
6 procedures not later than October 1, 2015, to protect particularly
7 vulnerable children from unexpected death or critical injury, based on
8 any external or internal reviews and reports of unexpected child
9 deaths. Said policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited
10 to: (1) Appropriate risk assessment for particularly vulnerable
11 children, including risk of death or critical injury from unsafe sleeping
12 conditions, as defined in the Department of Children and Families
13 policy; (2) appropriate procedures for determining whether to accept a
14 case for child protection services, including consulting with hospital
15 staff caring for newborns; (3) heightened investigation protocols; (4)

16 increased visitation standards; (5) provision of or referral to
17 appropriate evidence-based in-home services; (6) heightened
18 supervision and quality assurance protocols; (7) protocols to ensure
19 appropriate expertise and multidisciplinary planning; (8) development
20 of a team of early childhood experts, including experts external to the
21 agency, to inform such policies and practice protocols; (9) procedures
22 for ensuring consistency, across cases and regional offices, in decisions
23 whether to substantiate abuse or neglect and whether to file neglect
24 petitions with the appropriate juvenile court; and (10) the ability to
25 collect and disaggregate reportable outcomes regarding the efficacy
26 and implementation of said policies and procedures in protecting
27 children ages birth to three.

Statement of Purpose:

To require policies and procedures to reduce fatalities in children ages birth to three.