



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Proposed Bill No. 536

LCO No. 2759



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Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:

SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AGES
BIRTH TO THREE.**

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 Office of Early Childhood and the Commissioners of the Departments
3 of Children and Families, Public Health and Social Services, and the
4 Office of the Child Advocate, to file an annual report on Connecticut's
5 strategic plan to ensure the health and well-being of children from ages
6 birth to three with the joint standing committees of the General
7 Assembly having cognizance of matters concerning children and
8 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The annual report
9 shall be reviewed at an annual public hearing scheduled by said
10 committees and shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Agency-led and
11 interagency coordinated efforts to report or address the identification
12 of high risk or high need children; (2) engagement and service delivery
13 for such children and their families; (3) child fatality prevention; (4)
14 outcomes achieved for such children; (5) reporting by the Departments
15 of Social Services, Public Health, Children and Families and the Office
16 of Early Childhood on maximization of private and public funding

17 streams to support medical, mental health and behavioral health
18 service delivery for high need children ages birth to three and their
19 caregivers; (6) information provided by the Office of the Child
20 Advocate, in consultation with the state child fatality review panel, on
21 child mortality rates and critical incidents involving children ages birth
22 to three and causes, with attention to state-wide trends; (7)
23 recommendations concerning necessary changes in state policy,
24 including the state Medicaid plan and insurance coverage rules, as
25 well as health, mental health and child care funding for the reduction
26 of preventable child deaths and improved health and well-being
27 outcomes for high risk and high need children ages birth to three; (8)
28 data from the Department of Children and Families on the number of
29 children who: (A) Were referred to said department's telephone hot
30 line to report suspected abuse and neglect by type of referral, (B) were
31 deemed substantiated victims of abuse or neglect, (C) were referred to
32 the state's Family Assessment Response program, (D) were referred for
33 parent-child educational or clinical supports, or (E) were removed to
34 foster care, including kinship care, along with data on their retention in
35 foster care or their return to the family. The Department of Children
36 and Families shall also include in said report data on the well-being
37 and safety outcomes for all such children, including results of
38 assessment of developmental and emotional needs, the interventions
39 provided, needs met, and rates of repeat referral for maltreatment
40 concerns, by type of referral, and information on the development,
41 implementation and efficacy of said department's child protective
42 services response model for children ages birth to three.

Statement of Purpose:

To require annual reporting and public hearings on Connecticut's strategic plan to improve health and well-being outcomes for children ages birth to three.