



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 5587***

LCO No. 2571



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the  
2 Advisory Council on Services for Children and Young Adults with  
3 Developmental Disabilities. The council, within available  
4 appropriations, shall make recommendations regarding the efficacy of  
5 support systems for children and young adults, not older than twenty-  
6 one years of age, with developmental disabilities who may or may not  
7 have mental health treatment needs.

8 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

9 (1) Two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be  
10 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one of  
11 whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

12 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
13 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

14 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, children,  
15 public health, education and human services, or the chairpersons'  
16 designees;

17 (3) The Health Care Advocate, or the Health Care Advocate's  
18 designee;

19 (4) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
20 commissioner's designee;

21 (5) The Commissioner of Developmental Disabilities, or the  
22 commissioner's designee;

23 (6) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

24 (7) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or  
25 the commissioner's designee;

26 (8) The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, or the  
27 commissioner's designee;

28 (9) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
29 designee;

30 (10) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

31 (11) A chairperson of the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight  
32 Council who represents consumers, who shall be appointed by the  
33 senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General  
34 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services;

35 (12) A representative from the behavioral health administrative  
36 services organization for the Medicaid program, who shall be  
37 appointed by the Commissioner of Social Services;

38 (13) Two family or child advocates, one of whom shall be appointed  
39 by one chairperson of the council and one of whom shall be appointed  
40 by the other chairperson of the council;

41 (14) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
42 secretary's designee;

43 (15) The executive director of the Council on Developmental  
44 Disabilities, or the executive director's designee;

45 (16) A member of the Council on Developmental Disabilities,  
46 appointed by the senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of  
47 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
48 health;

49 (17) The Probate Court Administrator, or the Probate Court  
50 Administrator's designee;

51 (18) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public  
52 School Superintendents, or the executive director's designee;

53 (19) The executive director of the Connecticut Chapter of the  
54 American Academy of Pediatrics, or the executive director's designee;

55 (20) The executive director of the Connecticut Council of Child and  
56 Adolescent Psychiatry, or the executive director's designee;

57 (21) Two members of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory  
58 Council, appointed by the house chairperson of the joint standing  
59 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
60 relating to human services; and

61 (22) The executive director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy  
62 for Persons with Disabilities, or the executive director's designee.

63 (c) Appointments to the council shall be made not later than thirty  
64 days after the effective date of this section, provided that appointments  
65 made by the council chairpersons shall be made not later than sixty  
66 days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled  
67 by the appointing authority.

68 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
69 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,  
70 one of whom shall be a family advocate, child advocate or consumer  
71 advocate and the other a member of the General Assembly appointed  
72 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The chairpersons shall  
73 schedule the first meeting of the council not later than sixty days after  
74 the effective date of this section.

75 (e) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, except  
76 for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The  
77 Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide  
78 administrative support to the council.

79 (f) Not later than January 1, 2017, the council shall report, in  
80 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
81 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
82 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
83 children, public health, education and human services and the  
84 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. The report shall  
85 include, but need not be limited to, recommendations concerning:

86 (1) Any statutory changes needed to (A) promote the best interests  
87 of children and young adults diagnosed with a developmental  
88 disability, (B) ensure efficient delivery of quality services and support  
89 for unmet needs for children with disabilities, (C) improve  
90 transparency and accountability with respect to state-funded services  
91 for children and young adults with developmental disabilities and  
92 mental health treatment needs, and (D) foster efficient sharing of  
93 information between the Office of Early Childhood, the Department of  
94 Education, the Department of Children and Families, the Department  
95 of Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Social Services and  
96 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to promote  
97 positive health and education outcomes for children and young adults  
98 with developmental disabilities;

99 (2) The development of a defined matrix for evaluating the quality  
100 of state-funded services to children and young adults with  
101 developmental disabilities, with or without co-occurring mental health  
102 treatment needs, that can be utilized by all relevant state agencies that  
103 fund services to such children;

104 (3) Short-term goals to be met within six months, medium-term  
105 goals to be met within twelve months and long-term goals to be met  
106 within eighteen months, for the council and state agencies with  
107 responsibilities with respect to the provision of services to children and  
108 young adults with developmental disabilities, including a meeting  
109 schedule to consider relevant reports and any related state strategic  
110 plan;

111 (4) How to address gaps in services identified by the council with  
112 respect to children and young adults diagnosed with developmental  
113 disabilities, with or without co-occurring mental health treatment  
114 needs;

115 (5) How to build upon strengths and remove barriers identified by  
116 the council that support or impede the educational needs of children  
117 and young adults with developmental disabilities, with or without co-  
118 occurring mental health treatment needs;

119 (6) A framework for cost analysis with attention to the value of  
120 prevention and early intervention, maximization of payment and  
121 payor sources; and

122 (7) A strategic plan regarding workforce development.

123 (g) Not later than July 1, 2017, the council shall report, in accordance  
124 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
125 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
126 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, children,  
127 public health, education and human services and the Secretary of the  
128 Office of Policy and Management. The report shall include, but need

129 not be limited to, an assessment of:

130 (1) The quality and accessibility of early intervention services  
131 available to children and young adults in this state;

132 (2) The system of community-based services for children and young  
133 adults who are diagnosed with a developmental disability;

134 (3) The congregate care settings that are operated privately or by the  
135 state and have housed children and young adults and how the quality  
136 of delivered care to such children and young adults is measured; and

137 (4) How the state Department of Education, local boards of  
138 education, the Department of Children and Families, the Department  
139 of Developmental Disabilities and other appropriate agencies can work  
140 collaboratively to reduce the number of children and young adults at  
141 risk of entering institutional care.

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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a council to make recommendations concerning services for children and young adults with developmental disabilities who may or may not have mental health treatment needs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*