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 Advisory Council on Services for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities. The council, within available appropriations, shall make recommendations regarding the efficacy of support systems for children and young adults, not older than twenty-one years of age, with developmental disabilities who may or may not have mental health treatment needs.

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

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

   (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, children, public health, education and human services, or their designees;

   (3) The Health Care Advocate, or the Health Care Advocate's designee;
(4) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(15) The executive director of the Council on Developmental Disabilities, or the executive director's designee;
(16) A member of the Council on Developmental Disabilities, appointed by the senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) A strategic plan regarding workforce development.

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

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

(2) The system of community-based services for children and young adults who are diagnosed with a developmental disability;
(3) The congregate care settings that are operated privately or by the state and have housed children and young adults and how the quality of delivered care to such children and young adults is measured; and

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>from passage</th>
<th>New section</th>
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**
In Section 1(b)(2), "chairpersons' designees" was changed to "their designees" for accuracy; in Section 1(c), "provided that" was changed to "except" for conformity with legislative drafting conventions; and in Section 1(f)(2), "children" was changed to "children and young adults" for accuracy and consistency.

**HS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO**