



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 35

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Senate Bill No. 185

Senate, March 14, 2016

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. BARTOLOMEO of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17a-3 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) (1) The department, with the assistance of the State Advisory
5 Council on Children and Families, and in consultation with
6 representatives of the children and families served by the department,
7 providers of services to children and families, advocates, and others
8 interested in the well-being of children and families in this state, shall
9 develop and regularly update a single, comprehensive strategic plan
10 for meeting the needs of children and families served by the
11 department. In developing and updating the strategic plan, the
12 department shall identify and define agency goals and indicators of
13 progress, including benchmarks, in achieving such goals. The strategic

14 plan shall include, but not be limited to: (A) The department's mission
15 statement; (B) the expected results for the department and each of its
16 mandated areas of responsibility; (C) a schedule of action steps and a
17 time frame for achieving such results and fulfilling the department's
18 mission that includes strategies for working with other state agencies
19 to leverage resources and coordinate service delivery; (D) priorities for
20 services and estimates of the funding and other resources necessary to
21 carry them out; (E) standards for programs and services that are based
22 on research-based best practices, when available; and (F) relevant
23 measures of performance.

24 (2) The department shall begin the strategic planning process on
25 July 1, 2009. The department shall hold regional meetings on the plan
26 to ensure public input and shall post the plan and the plan's updates
27 and progress reports on the department's web site. The department
28 shall submit the strategic plan to the State Advisory Council on
29 Children and Families for review and comment prior to its final
30 submission to the General Assembly and the Governor. On or before
31 July 1, 2010, the department shall submit the strategic plan, in
32 accordance with section 11-4a, to the General Assembly and the
33 Governor.

34 (3) The commissioner shall track and report on progress in
35 achieving the strategic plan's goals not later than October 1, 2010, and
36 quarterly thereafter, to said State Advisory Council. The commissioner
37 shall submit a status report on progress in achieving the results in the
38 strategic plan, in accordance with section 11-4a, not later than July 1,
39 2011, and annually thereafter to the General Assembly, the joint
40 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
41 matters relating to children and the Governor.

42 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17a-6b of the general statutes is
43 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
44 *passage*):

45 (c) Not later than February 4, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
46 Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in accordance

47 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
48 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
49 judiciary [, human services] and children with respect to the
50 Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

51 Sec. 3. Section 17a-6c of the general statutes is repealed and the
52 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

53 (a) On or before June 1, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
54 Department of Children and Families shall report, in accordance with
55 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
56 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to criminal law [.] and
57 children [and the Department of Children and Families] on: (1) The
58 number of adjudicated youths, by gender and age, in the care and
59 custody of the department, (2) the facilities in which such youths are
60 being housed, (3) the number, age and gender of such youths who
61 have left department custody in an unauthorized manner, (4) the
62 number of police reports filed with respect to such youths, and (5) the
63 status of new construction or preparation of facilities to house
64 adjudicated youths in the care and custody of the department.

65 (b) The report required by subsection (a) of this section shall be
66 attached to the annual report required to be filed by the Commissioner
67 of Children and Families pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of section
68 17a-6b, as amended by this act.

69 Sec. 4. Section 17a-10c of the general statutes is repealed and the
70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

71 (a) For purposes of this section, "Youth Advisory Board" means a
72 board established by each Department of Children and Families
73 regional office that is comprised of youth in out-of-home care.

74 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall meet with the
75 members of each Youth Advisory Board to gather recommendations
76 for and to draft a "Sibling Bill of Rights", which may include, but not be
77 limited to, ways to protect the relationships of siblings separated as a

78 result of said commissioner's intervention and an affirmation by the
79 department of its commitment to preserve the relationships between
80 siblings who have been separated from each other while under
81 department care. On or before October 1, 2013, the commissioner and
82 members of the Youth Advisory Boards shall submit the Sibling Bill of
83 Rights to the [select] joint standing committee of the General Assembly
84 having cognizance of matters relating to children for consideration of
85 possible legislative action.

86 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall incorporate the
87 final version of the Sibling Bill of Rights into department policy and
88 share such policy with each child placed in the care and custody of the
89 commissioner pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order
90 of commitment.

91 Sec. 5. Section 17a-20a of the general statutes is repealed and the
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

93 (a) Not later than January 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Children
94 and Families shall establish and implement a regional behavioral
95 health consultation and care coordination program for primary care
96 providers who serve children. Such program shall provide to such
97 primary care providers: (1) Timely access to a consultation team that
98 includes a child psychiatrist, social worker and a care coordinator; (2)
99 patient care coordination and transitional services for behavioral
100 health care; and (3) training and education concerning patient access to
101 behavioral health services. Said commissioner may enter into a
102 contract for services to administer such program.

103 (b) Not later than October 1, 2013, said commissioner shall submit a
104 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
105 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
106 matters relating to public health, children [, human services] and
107 appropriations concerning the program to be established pursuant to
108 subsection (a) of this section.

109 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families may adopt

110 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
111 implement the provisions of this section.

112 Sec. 6. Section 17a-22m of the general statutes is repealed and the
113 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

114 The Commissioners of Children and Families, Social Services and
115 Mental Health and Addiction Services shall conduct an annual
116 evaluation of the Behavioral Health Partnership and shall report, in
117 accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
118 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
119 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health and
120 [human services] children on the provision of behavioral health
121 services under the Behavioral Health Partnership, including
122 information on the status of any administrative services organization
123 implementation, the status of the collaboration among the
124 Departments of Children and Families, Social Services and Mental
125 Health and Addiction Services, the services provided, the number of
126 persons served, program outcomes and spending by child and adult
127 populations.

128 Sec. 7. Section 17a-62 of the general statutes is repealed and the
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

130 On or before February 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
131 Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit a report, in
132 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
133 [committees] committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
134 matters relating to [human services and] children. The report shall
135 include the following information, for the preceding calendar year, for
136 children and youth in the custody of the Department of Children and
137 Families: (1) The number and age of such children and youth who are
138 living in a psychiatric hospital or out-of-state residential treatment
139 center, the average length of stay for such children and youth, the
140 number of children and youth who have overstayed their estimated
141 placement time in such placements and an analysis of the reasons for
142 the placements out of state and overstays; (2) the number and age of

143 such children and youth who are runaways or homeless, including (A)
144 the number of episodes of unauthorized absence from the
145 department's care for one full day or more; (B) the total number of
146 children and youth involved in such episodes and, of that number, (i)
147 the number of children and youth having one such episode, (ii) the
148 number of children and youth having two such episodes, (iii) the
149 number of children and youth having three such episodes, and (iv) the
150 number of children and youth having more than three such episodes;
151 (C) the average number of children and youth who, without
152 authorization, are absent from the department's care each day; (D) the
153 number of children and youth having an episode of unauthorized
154 absence from the department's care according to age group as follows:
155 Those (i) under six years of age, (ii) six to nine years of age, (iii) ten to
156 twelve years of age, (iv) thirteen to fifteen years of age, and (v) sixteen
157 or seventeen years of age; (E) the number of days of unauthorized
158 absence from the department's care according to the period of time
159 absent as follows: (i) Less than two days, (ii) three to seven days, (iii)
160 eight to fourteen days, (iv) fifteen to thirty days, (v) thirty-one to sixty
161 days, (vi) sixty-one to one hundred twenty days, (vii) one hundred
162 twenty-one to one hundred eighty days, and (viii) more than one
163 hundred eighty days; (F) an analysis of the trends relating to runaways
164 and homelessness; and (G) a description of the strategies employed
165 and policies implemented by the department to address runaways and
166 homelessness and to reduce the number and duration of episodes of
167 absence from the department's care; (3) the number and age of children
168 and youth who have a permanency plan of another planned
169 permanency living arrangement and an analysis of the trends relating
170 to permanency plans; and (4) the number and age of children and
171 youth who have refused services offered by the department and an
172 analysis of the trends relating to participation in services. The
173 commissioner shall conduct case and service reviews for each child in
174 the groups described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this
175 section.

176 Sec. 8. Section 17a-63a of the general statutes is repealed and the
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

178 The Commissioner of Children and Families shall (1) determine
179 measurable outcomes for each type of service provided by a private
180 provider pursuant to such provider's contract with the Department of
181 Children and Families; (2) incorporate such outcomes into the
182 department's contract with each such provider; and (3) include
183 achievement of such outcomes and other quality indicators in annual
184 evaluations of each such provider. The department shall, annually,
185 submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
186 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
187 relating to [human services] children on the department's progress in
188 implementing such steps, including (A) the number of service types
189 with outcomes, (B) the types of outcomes, (C) the incorporation of such
190 outcomes into contracts, and (D) the application of outcome
191 information into quality improvement.

192 Sec. 9. Section 4-68s of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is
193 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
194 *passage*):

195 (a) Not later than January 1, 2016, and not later than October first in
196 every even-numbered year thereafter, the Departments of Correction,
197 Children and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and
198 the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch shall
199 compile a program inventory of each of said agency's criminal and
200 juvenile justice programs and shall categorize them as evidence-based,
201 research-based, promising or lacking any evidence. Each program
202 inventory shall include a complete list of all agency programs,
203 including the following information for each such program for the
204 prior fiscal year: (1) A detailed description of the program, (2) the
205 names of providers, (3) the intended treatment population, (4) the
206 intended outcomes, (5) the method of assigning participants, (6) the
207 total annual program expenditures, (7) a description of funding
208 sources, (8) the cost per participant, (9) the annual number of
209 participants, (10) the annual capacity for participants, and (11) the
210 estimated number of persons eligible for, or needing, the program.

211 (b) Each program inventory required by subsection (a) of this
212 section shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of section
213 11-4a to the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the
214 Office of Policy and Management, the joint standing committees of the
215 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
216 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue
217 and bonding, the Office of Fiscal Analysis, and the Institute for
218 Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University.

219 (c) Not later than March 1, 2016, and annually thereafter by
220 November first, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at
221 Central Connecticut State University shall submit a report containing a
222 cost-benefit analysis of the programs inventoried in subsection (a) of
223 this section to the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the
224 Office of Policy and Management, the joint standing committees of the
225 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
226 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue
227 and bonding, and the Office of Fiscal Analysis, in accordance with the
228 provisions of section 11-4a.

229 (d) The Office of Policy and Management and the Office of Fiscal
230 Analysis may include the cost-benefit analysis provided by the
231 Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy under subsection (c) of this
232 section in their reports submitted to the joint standing committees of
233 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
234 children, appropriations and the [budget] budgets of state agencies []
235 and finance, revenue and bonding on or before November fifteenth
236 annually, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 2-36b.

237 Sec. 10. Section 1 of special act 14-7 is amended to read as follows
238 (*Effective from passage*):

239 The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public
240 Health and Children and Families shall jointly develop a proposal to
241 establish an urgent care center for individuals with behavioral health
242 concerns to be operated by both public and private entities. Said
243 departments shall submit the proposal, in accordance with section 11-

244 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
245 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
246 health [, human services] and children not later than February 1, 2015.

247 Sec. 11. Section 2 of special act 14-7 is amended to read as follows
248 (*Effective from passage*):

249 (a) The Department of Children and Families shall require each
250 entity providing professional services for a child or youth receiving
251 services under the voluntary services program operated by the
252 department to record, for a three-month period to be prescribed by the
253 department:

254 (1) The name of the insurance carrier, if applicable, of any such child
255 or youth whose parent or legal guardian seeks treatment for such child
256 or youth through a program offered by an in-home behavioral health
257 care service, or the name of the parent or legal guardian's employer if
258 the employer's health care plan is self-insured;

259 (2) (A) If such child or youth was accepted into the program,
260 whether (i) the insurance carrier agreed to cover the treatment, and (ii)
261 such child or youth participated in the program; or

262 (B) If such child or youth was not accepted into the program, (i) the
263 cost of treatment for such child or youth, and (ii) whether the denial of
264 coverage was due to exceeding the coverage limits of the insurance
265 policy; and

266 (3) If such child or youth was accepted into the program and
267 participated in such program, and the carrier agreed to such coverage,
268 the terms of the cost-sharing agreement.

269 (b) Each entity providing professional services for a child or youth
270 receiving services under the voluntary services program operated by
271 the department shall submit the information recorded pursuant to
272 subsection (a) of this section to the department on a date to be
273 prescribed by the department, provided such date is not later than
274 February 1, 2015.

275 (c) The department shall analyze the information submitted by such
276 entities pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to assess (1) the
277 accessibility of in-home behavioral health care services to insured
278 children or youth, (2) the extent to which costs of such services are
279 shifted to the state and the state's contracted nonprofit service
280 providers, and (3) if the department determines that the costs shifted
281 to the state and such providers is excessive, methods to alleviate the
282 burden on the state and such providers.

283 (d) The department shall report the results of its assessment, in
284 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
285 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
286 matters relating to insurance [, human services] and children not later
287 than April 1, 2015.

288 Sec. 12. Section 3 of special act 14-7 is amended to read as follows
289 (*Effective from passage*):

290 (a) The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and
291 Children and Families shall develop a substance abuse recovery
292 support plan to provide services to adolescents and young adults
293 throughout the state. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, (1)
294 methods to increase community support for such adolescents and
295 young adults, (2) methods to alert such adolescents and young adults
296 that such support is available, and (3) options for the implementation
297 of such plan, including securing access to public and private funding
298 for such plan.

299 (b) The departments shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of
300 the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
301 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children [, human
302 services] and public health on the status of the support plan not later
303 than January 15, 2016.

304 Sec. 13. Subsection (o) of section 45a-715 of the 2016 supplement to
305 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
306 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

307 (o) For any child who is the subject of a petition for adoption under
308 this chapter, the court shall consider the appropriateness of
309 postadoption communication or contact with a sibling of such child,
310 including, but not limited to, visitation, written correspondence or
311 telephone calls. If the court determines such postadoption
312 communication or contact is in the best interest of the child, the court
313 shall order that such child [has] have access to and visitation rights
314 with such sibling until the child reaches eighteen years of age.

315 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 17a-117 of the 2016 supplement to
316 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
317 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

318 (a) The Department of Children and Families may, and is
319 encouraged to, contract with child-placing agencies to arrange for the
320 adoption of children who are free for adoption. If (1) a child for whom
321 adoption is indicated, cannot, after all reasonable efforts consistent
322 with the best interests of the child, be placed in adoption through
323 existing sources because the child is a special needs child, and (2) the
324 adopting family meets the standards for adoption which any other
325 adopting family meets, the Commissioner of Children and Families
326 shall, before adoption of such child by such family, certify such child
327 as a special needs child and, after adoption, provide one or more of the
328 following subsidies for the adopting parents: (A) A special-need
329 subsidy, which is a lump sum payment paid directly to the person
330 providing the required service, to pay for an anticipated expense
331 resulting from the adoption when no other resource is available for
332 such payment; or (B) a periodic subsidy which is a payment to the
333 adopting family; and (C) in addition to the subsidies granted under
334 this subsection, any medical benefits which are being provided prior to
335 final approval of the adoption by the superior court for juvenile
336 matters or the Probate Court in accordance with the fee schedule and
337 payment procedures under the state Medicaid program administered
338 by the Department of Social Services shall continue as long as the child
339 qualifies as a dependent of the adoptive parent under the provisions of
340 the Internal Revenue Code. The amount of a periodic subsidy shall not

341 exceed the current costs of foster maintenance care.

342 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 17a-126 of the 2016 supplement to
343 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
344 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

345 (a) As used in this section, (1) "caregiver" means (A) a fictive kin
346 caregiver, as defined in section 17a-114, who is caring for a child, or (B)
347 a person who is a licensed foster care provider pursuant to section 17a-
348 114 and is caring for a child who is related to such person [.] because
349 the parent of the child has died or become otherwise unable to care for
350 the child for reasons that make reunification with the parent and
351 adoption not viable options within the foreseeable future, and (2)
352 "commissioner" means the Commissioner of Children and Families.

353 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 17a-10b of the 2016 supplement to
354 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
355 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

356 (b) The notice provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
357 shall include: (1) A statement that the child has been removed from the
358 custody of a parent; (2) a summary of the relative's rights under federal
359 and state law to participate in the care and placement of the child,
360 including any options that may be deemed waived through failure to
361 respond to such notice; (3) a description of the requirements to become
362 licensed or approved as a foster family home and the additional
363 services and supports that are available for a child placed in such
364 home; and (4) a description of how the caregiver of the child may
365 subsequently enter into an agreement with the department to receive
366 subsidies for the provision of foster care.

367 Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 17a-11 of the 2016 supplement to
368 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
369 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

370 (b) A child or youth voluntarily admitted to the department shall be
371 deemed to be within the care of the commissioner until such admission

372 is terminated. The commissioner shall terminate the admission of any
373 child or youth voluntarily admitted to the department within ten days
374 after receipt of a written request for termination from a parent or
375 guardian of any child under fourteen years of age or from a child if
376 such child is fourteen years of age or older, or youth, unless prior to
377 the expiration of that time the commissioner has sought and received
378 from the Superior Court an order of temporary custody as provided by
379 law. Except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, the
380 commissioner may terminate the admission of any child or youth
381 voluntarily admitted to the department after (1) giving reasonable
382 notice in writing to (A) the parent or guardian of any child or youth,
383 and (B) the child, if such child is fourteen years of age or older, or
384 youth, and (2) if the commissioner has previously petitioned the
385 Probate Court pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, providing
386 notice to the Probate Court of such petition. Any child or youth
387 admitted voluntarily to the department may be placed in, or
388 transferred to, any resource, facility or institution within the
389 department or available to the commissioner except the Connecticut
390 Juvenile Training School, provided the commissioner shall give
391 written notice to such child or youth and to the parent or guardian of
392 the child of the commissioner's intention to make a transfer at least ten
393 days prior to any actual transfer, unless written notice is waived by
394 those entitled to receive it, or unless an emergency commitment of
395 such child or youth is made pursuant to section 17a-502. Any child or
396 youth admitted voluntarily to the department may be transferred to
397 the supervision of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
398 Services or the Department of Developmental Services, in collaboration
399 with the commissioner of the department to which the child is
400 transferred. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall provide
401 written notice of his or her intention to make a transfer at least ten
402 days prior to any actual transfer to a child fourteen years of age or
403 older, or youth, and to the parent or guardian of the child or youth
404 being transferred. If the department has previously filed a petition
405 with the Probate Court under subsection (c) of this section, the
406 commissioner shall provide notice of such petition to the court. The

407 Commissioner of Children and Families may continue to provide
408 services to the child or youth in collaboration with the department to
409 which the child or youth has been transferred or may terminate the
410 voluntary services if, in the commissioner's discretion, the department
411 to which the child or youth has been transferred provides adequate
412 services. The commissioner shall provide written notice of his or her
413 intention to terminate services following a transfer to another
414 department to a child fourteen years of age or older, or youth, and to
415 the parent or guardian of such child or youth. If the department has
416 previously filed a petition with the Probate Court under subsection (c)
417 of this section, the commissioner shall provide notice of such petition
418 to the court.

419 Sec. 18. Subsection (d) of section 17a-10a of the 2016 supplement to
420 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
421 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

422 (d) The commissioner shall include in each child's [plan of
423 treatment] case record information relating to the factors considered in
424 making visitation determinations pursuant to this section. If the
425 commissioner determines that such visits are not in the best interests of
426 the child, that the occurrence of, on average, not less than one visit per
427 week with his or her sibling is not in the best interests of each sibling,
428 or that the number, frequency or duration of the visits requested by the
429 child's attorney or guardian ad litem is not in the best interests of the
430 child, the commissioner shall include the reasons for such
431 determination in the child's [plan of treatment] case record.

432 Sec. 19. Subsection (k) of section 17a-112 of the 2016 supplement to
433 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
434 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

435 (k) Except in the case where termination is based on consent, in
436 determining whether to terminate parental rights under this section,
437 the court shall consider and shall make written findings regarding: (1)
438 The timeliness, nature and extent of services offered, provided and
439 made available to the parent and the child by an agency to facilitate the

440 reunion of the child with the parent; (2) whether the Department of
441 Children and Families has made reasonable efforts to reunite the
442 family pursuant to the federal [Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare
443 Act of 1980, as amended] Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, as
444 amended from time to time; (3) the terms of any applicable court order
445 entered into and agreed upon by any individual or agency and the
446 parent, and the extent to which all parties have fulfilled their
447 obligations under such order; (4) the feelings and emotional ties of the
448 child with respect to the child's parents, any guardian of such child's
449 person and any person who has exercised physical care, custody or
450 control of the child for at least one year and with whom the child has
451 developed significant emotional ties; (5) the age of the child; (6) the
452 efforts the parent has made to adjust such parent's circumstances,
453 conduct, or conditions to make it in the best interest of the child to
454 return such child home in the foreseeable future, including, but not
455 limited to, (A) the extent to which the parent has maintained contact
456 with the child as part of an effort to reunite the child with the parent,
457 provided the court may give weight to incidental visitations,
458 communications or contributions, and (B) the maintenance of regular
459 contact or communication with the guardian or other custodian of the
460 child; and (7) the extent to which a parent has been prevented from
461 maintaining a meaningful relationship with the child by the
462 unreasonable act or conduct of the other parent of the child, or the
463 unreasonable act of any other person or by the economic circumstances
464 of the parent.

465 Sec. 20. Section 17a-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
466 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

467 In accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive,
468 the Governor shall, after consultation with the Council on Children
469 and Families, appoint a Commissioner of Children and Families who
470 shall be the administrative head of the department. [He] The
471 commissioner shall devote his or her full time to the duties of his or
472 her office.

473 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 17a-8 of the general statutes is
474 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
475 *October 1, 2016*):

476 (b) If the commissioner finds that a child or youth committed to
477 [his] the commissioner's custody as delinquent who is fourteen years
478 of age or older cannot benefit from continued school attendance and if
479 the commissioner further finds that such person may benefit from part
480 or full-time employment at some useful occupation, the commissioner
481 may place the child or youth on vocational parole, under the
482 supervision of an employee of the department. For the purposes of this
483 section, the limitations of subsection (a) of section 31-23, on the
484 employment of minors under the age of sixteen years, shall not apply
485 for the duration of such vocational parole.

486 Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 17a-10 of the general statutes is
487 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
488 *October 1, 2016*):

489 (c) When deemed in the best interests of a child in the custody of the
490 commissioner, the commissioner, [his] the commissioner's designee, a
491 superintendent or assistant superintendent or, when the child is in
492 transit between department facilities, a designee of the commissioner,
493 may authorize, on the advice of a physician licensed to practice in the
494 state, medical treatment, including surgery, to insure the continued
495 good health or life of the child. Any of said persons may, when he or
496 she deems it in the best interests of the child, authorize, on the advice
497 of a dentist licensed to practice in the state, dentistry, including dental
498 surgery, to insure the continued good health of the child. Upon such
499 authorization, the commissioner shall exercise due diligence to inform
500 the parents or guardian prior to taking such action, and in all cases
501 shall send notice to the parents or guardian by letter to their last-
502 known address informing them of the actions taken, of their necessity
503 and of the outcome, but in a case where the commissioner fails to
504 notify, such failure will not affect the validity of the authorization.

505 Sec. 23. Section 17a-13 of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes

506 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
507 *October 1, 2016*):

508 Any person committed to the Department of Children and Families
509 who is transferred to the John R. Manson Youth Institution, Cheshire,
510 or the York Correctional Institution, pursuant to section 17a-12, shall
511 be deemed, while so transferred, to be under the jurisdiction of the
512 Department of Correction except that the Commissioner of Children
513 and Families shall retain his or her powers to remove such person and
514 to place [him] such person in another facility or in the community or to
515 terminate the commitment. The jurisdiction of the Department of
516 Correction shall terminate upon the expiration of the commitment as
517 provided in subsection (a) of section 17a-8.

518 Sec. 24. Section 17a-14 of the general statutes is repealed and the
519 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

520 Each child or youth in the custody of the Commissioner of Children
521 and Families due to behavioral problems, and served by an approved
522 residential treatment facility with special education programs, may
523 continue in such facility beyond eighteen years of age until his or her
524 program is completed. The Commissioner of Mental Health and
525 Addiction Services shall be responsible for the payment of board and
526 care costs for any child or youth who remains in an approved
527 residential treatment facility with special education programs beyond
528 eighteen years of age pursuant to this section provided such child or
529 youth meets the eligibility requirements established by the
530 commissioner.

531 Sec. 25. Section 17a-15a of the general statutes is repealed and the
532 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

533 The Department of Children and Families shall include the
534 following information in each document of the department entitled
535 study in support of permanency plan and status report for
536 permanency planning team, except when otherwise directed by the
537 Juvenile Court: (1) A description of any problems or offenses that

538 necessitated the placement of the child with the department; (2) a
539 description of the type and an analysis of the effectiveness of the care,
540 treatment and supervision that the department has provided for the
541 child; (3) for each child in substitute care, the current visitation
542 schedule between the child and his or her parents and siblings; (4) a
543 description of every effort taken by the department to reunite the child
544 with a parent or to find a permanent placement for the child,
545 including, where applicable, every effort to assist each parent in
546 remedying factors that contributed to the removal of the child from the
547 home; (5) a proposed timetable for reunification of the child and a
548 parent, a permanent placement if continued substitute care is
549 recommended or a justification of why extended substitute care is
550 necessary; and (6) whether the child has been visited no less frequently
551 than every three months by a state or private agency if the child has
552 been placed in foster care outside this state.

553 Sec. 26. Section 17a-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
554 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

555 (a) No child or youth placed or treated under the direction of the
556 Commissioner of Children and Families in any public or private
557 facility shall be deprived of any personal, property or civil rights,
558 except in accordance with due process of law.

559 (b) Each child or youth placed or treated under the direction of the
560 Commissioner of Children and Families in any public or private
561 facility shall receive humane and dignified treatment at all times, with
562 full respect for his or her personal dignity and right to privacy,
563 consistent with his or her treatment plan as determined by the
564 commissioner.

565 (c) (1) Each child and youth shall be permitted to communicate with
566 any individual, group or agency, consistent with his or her treatment
567 objectives as determined by the Commissioner of Children and
568 Families.

569 (2) Each public or private facility under the direction of the

570 Commissioner of Children and Families shall furnish writing materials
571 and postage to any child or youth desiring them.

572 (3) A child or youth shall be permitted to make or receive telephone
573 calls to or from his or her attorneys at any reasonable time. Public
574 telephones shall be made available in appropriate locations.

575 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt
576 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, with respect to each facility
577 or institution under [his] the commissioner's jurisdiction, to specify the
578 following: (A) When a child or youth may be placed in restraint or
579 seclusion or when force may be used upon a child or youth; (B) when
580 the head of a facility may limit the use or receipt of mail by any child
581 or youth and a procedure for return of unopened mail; and (C) when
582 the head of a facility may restrict the use of a telephone by any child or
583 youth.

584 (2) A copy of any order placing a child or youth in restraint or
585 seclusion in accordance with the regulations adopted in subdivision (1)
586 of this subsection shall be made a part of the child's or youth's
587 permanent clinical record. Any special restriction on the use or receipt
588 of mail or telephone calls made in accordance with the regulations
589 adopted in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be noted in writing,
590 signed by the head of the facility, and made a part of the child's or
591 youth's permanent clinical record.

592 (e) (1) Each child or youth shall be permitted to receive visitors
593 subject to reasonable restrictions consistent with the child's or youth's
594 treatment objectives. The head of each facility shall establish visiting
595 hours and inform all children and youths and their families and other
596 visitors of these hours. Any special restriction shall be noted in writing,
597 signed by the head of the facility, and made a part of the child's or
598 youth's permanent clinical record.

599 (2) Each child or youth may receive his or her clergyman and
600 attorney at any reasonable time.

601 (f) No person shall be denied employment, housing, civil service
602 rank, any license or permit, including a professional license, or any
603 other civil or legal right, solely because of a present or past placement
604 with the Commissioner of Children and Families except as otherwise
605 provided by statute.

606 (g) Each child or youth under the supervision of the Commissioner
607 of Children and Families shall have the right to counsel of his or her
608 own choosing, and the right to receive visits from physicians and
609 mental health professionals as may be arranged by his or her counsel.

610 (h) Each child or youth shall have a right to a hearing pursuant to
611 procedures adopted by the commissioner, in accordance with sections
612 4-176e to 4-181a, inclusive, before he or she is involuntarily transferred
613 by the Commissioner of Children and Families to any facility outside
614 the state of Connecticut.

615 (i) Any child or youth aggrieved by a violation of subsections (a) to
616 (h), inclusive, of this section, may petition the superior court for the
617 venue district provided in section 46b-142 within which the child or
618 youth is or resides for appropriate relief, including temporary and
619 permanent injunctive relief. Such petition shall be treated as a juvenile
620 matter.

621 Sec. 27. Subsection (b) of section 17a-25 of the general statutes is
622 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
623 *October 1, 2016*):

624 (b) Each superintendent or director shall be the administrative head
625 of his or her respective institution or division and shall be responsible
626 for the organization of its work and for the direction and coordination
627 of its various activities. He or she shall appoint all members of the staff
628 subject to the approval of the commissioner and in accordance with the
629 general statutes.

630 Sec. 28. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 17a-77 of the general
631 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof

632 (Effective October 1, 2016):

633 (b) The court hearing the matter shall require a sworn certificate
634 from at least two impartial physicians selected by the court, one of
635 whom shall be a physician specializing in psychiatry. Both physicians
636 shall be licensed to practice medicine in this state and shall have
637 practiced medicine for at least one year. All appointments shall be
638 made in accordance with procedures adopted by the Judicial
639 Department. If such appointments have not already been made for a
640 case transferred from the Probate Court under subsections (b) and (c)
641 of section 17a-76, then such physicians shall be appointed as soon as
642 reasonably possible by the superior court to which such matter has
643 been transferred. Each physician shall make a report on a separate
644 form adopted for such purpose by the Probate Court Administrator or
645 the Superior Court. The certificates shall include a statement from each
646 physician that he or she has personally examined such child within ten
647 days of the hearing. The charges for such physicians shall be
648 established by the Judicial Department and shall be paid in accordance
649 with section 17a-82.

650 (c) If the child refuses to be examined by the court appointed
651 physicians as herein provided, the court may issue a warrant for the
652 apprehension of the child and a police officer for the town in which
653 such court is located or if there is no such police officer then the state
654 police shall deliver the child to a general hospital where [he] the child
655 shall be examined by two physicians one of whom shall be a
656 psychiatrist, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. If, as a
657 result of such examination, the child is committed under subsection (e)
658 of this section, transportation of the child to any such hospital shall be
659 in accordance with said subsection (e). If the child is not committed
660 under subsection (e) of this section, he or she shall be released and the
661 reports of such physicians shall be sent to the Court of Probate to
662 satisfy the requirement of examination of two physicians under
663 subsection (b) of this section.

664 Sec. 29. Section 17a-92 of the general statutes is repealed and the

665 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

666 Effective at 12:01 a.m., April 1, 1975, the Commissioner of Children
667 and Families shall assume, and the Commissioner of Social Services
668 shall cease to have guardianship, as defined in subsection (a) of section
669 17a-90, over all children who on that date, by virtue of any order of the
670 Juvenile Court or Superior Court, are wards of or committed to the
671 state of Connecticut or the Commissioner of Social Services. The
672 Commissioner of Children and Families shall thereupon assume all
673 liability and responsibility for such children, and exercise such powers,
674 duties and functions regarding such children, as the Commissioner of
675 Social Services in his or her capacity as guardian may now or hereafter
676 have, except to the extent that the federal government may require that
677 any responsibility for children be retained by the Commissioner of
678 Social Services as a prerequisite to federal reimbursement of state
679 expenditures for such children under Title IV-A and B of the Social
680 Security Act. The Commissioner of Children and Families may
681 delegate any power, duty or function regarding such children, except
682 for consent for adoption, marriage and joining of the armed services
683 and except to the extent that the federal government may require that
684 any responsibility for children be retained by said commissioner as a
685 prerequisite to federal reimbursement of state expenditures for such
686 children.

687 Sec. 30. Subdivision (5) of section 17a-93 of the 2016 supplement to
688 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
689 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

690 (5) "Termination of parental rights" means the complete severance
691 by court order of the legal relationship, with all its rights and
692 responsibilities, between the child and [his] the child's parent or
693 parents so that the child is free for adoption except it shall not affect
694 the right of inheritance of such child or the religious affiliation of such
695 child;

696 Sec. 31. Section 17a-94 of the general statutes is repealed and the
697 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

698 The Commissioner of Children and Families may establish,
699 maintain and operate, throughout the state, at such locations as [he]
700 the commissioner finds suitable, receiving homes for children in his or
701 her guardianship or care. For such purposes [he] the commissioner
702 may purchase, lease, hold, sell or convey real and personal property,
703 subject to the provisions of section 4b-21, and contract for the
704 operation and maintenance of such receiving homes with any
705 nonprofit group or organization. Said contract may include
706 administrative, managerial and custodial services. The expense of
707 obtaining and maintaining the same shall be paid out of the
708 appropriation for the Department of Children and Families. The
709 commissioner may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, appoint
710 such supervisory and other personnel as [he] the commissioner finds
711 necessary for the management of such homes. The maximum charge to
712 be made for care of children in such homes shall be the same as the
713 charge for care of patients in state humane institutions.

714 Sec. 32. Section 17a-96 of the general statutes is repealed and the
715 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

716 The institutions having custody of such children and the agencies
717 and persons licensed by authority of sections 17a-90 to 17a-124,
718 inclusive, 17a-145 to 17a-153, inclusive, 17a-175 to 17a-182, inclusive,
719 and 17a-185 shall make such reports to the Commissioner of Children
720 and Families at such reasonable times and in such form and covering
721 such data as the commissioner directs. The commissioner and [his] the
722 commissioner's deputy and agents shall supervise the placing of such
723 children in foster homes. The commissioner may place children who
724 have not been properly placed in homes suitable for their care and
725 protection. In placing any child in a foster home, the commissioner
726 shall, if practicable, select a home of like religious faith to that of the
727 parent or parents of such child, if such faith is known or ascertainable
728 by the exercise of reasonable care.

729 Sec. 33. Section 17a-99 of the general statutes is repealed and the
730 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

731 The Commissioner of Children and Families may delegate to [his] a
732 deputy commissioner [his] the commissioner's authority as guardian of
733 children committed to [him] the commissioner by the Superior Court,
734 or whose guardianship is transferred to [him] the commissioner by a
735 court of probate, and the signature of either official on any document
736 pertaining to any such guardianship shall be valid.

737 Sec. 34. Section 17a-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the
738 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

739 (a) Any mandated reporter acting outside his or her professional
740 capacity and any other person having reasonable cause to suspect or
741 believe that any child under the age of eighteen is in danger of being
742 abused, or has been abused or neglected, as defined in section 46b-120,
743 may cause a written or oral report to be made to the Commissioner of
744 Children and Families or [his] the commissioner's representative or a
745 law enforcement agency. The Commissioner of Children and Families
746 or [his] the commissioner's representative shall use his or her best
747 efforts to obtain the name and address of a person who causes a report
748 to be made pursuant to this section. In the case of an oral report, such
749 report shall be recorded on tape and the commissioner or [his] the
750 commissioner's representative shall announce to the person making
751 such report that such report is being recorded and shall state the
752 penalty for knowingly making a false report of child abuse or neglect
753 under subsection (d) of section 17a-101e.

754 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17a-101k, if the
755 identity of any such person who made a report pursuant to subsection
756 (a) of this section is known, and the commissioner or [his] the
757 commissioner's representative suspects or knows that such person has
758 knowingly made a false report, such identity shall be disclosed to the
759 appropriate law enforcement agency and to the perpetrator of the
760 alleged abuse.

761 (c) If the Commissioner of Children and Families, or [his] the
762 commissioner's designee, receives a report alleging sexual abuse or
763 serious physical abuse, including, but not limited to, a report that: (1)

764 A child has died; (2) a child has been sexually assaulted; (3) a child has
765 suffered brain damage, loss or serious impairment of a bodily function
766 or organ; (4) a child has been sexually exploited; or (5) a child has
767 suffered serious nonaccidental physical injury, he or she shall, within
768 twenty-four hours of receipt of such report, notify the appropriate law
769 enforcement agency.

770 Sec. 35. Section 17a-106a of the general statutes is repealed and the
771 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

772 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families, as department head
773 of the lead agency, and the appropriate state's attorney may establish
774 multidisciplinary teams for the purpose of reviewing particular cases
775 or particular types of cases or to coordinate the prevention,
776 intervention and treatment in each judicial district or to review
777 selected cases of child abuse or neglect or cases involving the
778 trafficking, as defined in section 46a-170, of minor children. The
779 purpose of such multidisciplinary teams is to advance and coordinate
780 the prompt investigation of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect,
781 to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection
782 and treatment of the child. The head of the local law enforcement
783 agency or his or her designee may request the assistance of the
784 Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services
785 and Public Protection for such purposes.

786 (b) Each multidisciplinary team shall consist of at least one
787 representative of each of the following: (1) The state's attorney of the
788 judicial district of the team, or [his] such state's attorney's designee; (2)
789 the Commissioner of Children and Families, or [his] the
790 commissioner's designee; (3) the head of the local or state law
791 enforcement agencies, or his or her designee; (4) a health care
792 professional with substantial experience in the diagnosis and treatment
793 of abused or neglected children, who shall be designated by the team
794 members; (5) a member, where appropriate, of a youth service bureau;
795 (6) a mental health professional with substantial experience in the
796 treatment of abused or neglected children, who shall be designated by

797 the team members; and (7) any other appropriate individual with
798 expertise in the welfare of children that the members of the team deem
799 necessary. Each team shall select a chairperson. A team may invite
800 experts to participate in the review of any case and may invite any
801 other individual with particular information germane to the case to
802 participate in such review, provided the expert or individual shall
803 have the same protection and obligations under subsections (f) and (g)
804 of this section as members of the team.

805 (c) The Governor's task force for justice for abused children, through
806 the subcommittee comprised of individuals with expertise in the
807 investigation of child abuse and neglect, shall: (1) Establish and modify
808 standards to be observed by multidisciplinary teams; (2) review
809 protocols of the multidisciplinary teams; and (3) monitor and evaluate
810 multidisciplinary teams and make recommendations for modifications
811 to the system of multidisciplinary teams.

812 (d) All criminal investigative work of the multidisciplinary teams
813 shall be undertaken by members of the team who are law enforcement
814 officers and all child protection investigative work of the teams shall
815 be undertaken by members of the team who represent the Department
816 of Children and Families, provided representatives of the department
817 may coordinate all investigative work and rely upon information
818 generated by the team. The protocols, procedures and standards of the
819 multidisciplinary teams shall not supersede the protocols, procedures
820 and standards of the agencies who are on the multidisciplinary team.

821 (e) Each multidisciplinary team shall have access to and may copy
822 any record, transcript, document, photograph or other data pertaining
823 to an alleged child victim within the possession of the Department of
824 Children and Families, any public or private medical facility or any
825 public or private health professional provided, in the case of
826 confidential information, the coordinator of the team, or [his] such
827 coordinator's designee, identifies the record in writing and certifies,
828 under oath, that the record sought is necessary to investigate child
829 abuse or neglect and that the team will maintain the record as

830 confidential. No person who provides access to or copies of such
831 record upon delivery of certification under this section shall be liable
832 to any third party for such action. The multidisciplinary team shall not
833 be deemed to be a public agency under the Freedom of Information
834 Act.

835 (f) No person shall disclose information obtained from a meeting of
836 the multidisciplinary team without the consent of the participant of the
837 meeting who provided such information unless disclosure is ordered
838 by a court of competent jurisdiction or is necessary to comply with the
839 provisions of the Constitution of the state of Connecticut.

840 (g) Each multidisciplinary team shall maintain records of meetings
841 that include, but are not limited to, the name of the alleged victim and
842 perpetrator, the names of the members of the multidisciplinary team
843 and their positions, the decision or recommendation of the team and
844 support services provided. In any proceeding to gain access to such
845 records or testimony concerning matters discussed at a meeting, the
846 privileges from disclosure applicable to the information provided by
847 each of the participants at the meeting shall apply to all participants.

848 Sec. 36. Section 17a-114a of the 2016 supplement to the general
849 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
850 (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

851 A person licensed pursuant to section 17a-114 shall be liable for any
852 act or omission resulting in personal injury to a child placed in his or
853 her care by the Commissioner of Children and Families to the same
854 extent as a biological parent is liable for any act or omission resulting
855 in personal injury to a biological child in his or her care.

856 Sec. 37. Subsection (a) of section 17a-120 of the 2016 supplement to
857 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
858 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

859 (a) Any child who is blind or physically disabled as defined by
860 section 1-1f, mentally disabled, seriously emotionally maladjusted or

861 has a recognized high risk of physical or mental disability as defined in
862 the regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Children and Families
863 pursuant to section 17a-118, who is to be given or has been given in
864 adoption by a statutory parent, as defined in section 45a-707, shall be
865 eligible for a one hundred per cent medical expense subsidy in
866 accordance with the fee schedule and payment procedures under the
867 state Medicaid program administered by the Department of Social
868 Services where such condition existed prior to such adoption,
869 provided such expenses are not reimbursed by health insurance, or
870 federal or state payments for health care. Application for such subsidy
871 shall be made to the Commissioner of Children and Families by such
872 child's adopting or adoptive parent or parents. Said commissioner
873 shall adopt regulations governing the procedures for application and
874 criteria for determination of the existence of such condition. A written
875 determination of eligibility shall be made by said commissioner and
876 may be made prior to or after identification of the adopting parent or
877 parents. Upon a finding of eligibility, an application for such medical
878 expense subsidy by the adopting or adoptive parent or parents on
879 behalf of the child shall be granted, and such adopting or adoptive
880 parent or parents shall be issued a medical identification card for such
881 child by the Department of Children and Families for the purpose of
882 providing for payment for the medical expense subsidy. The subsidy
883 set forth in this section shall not preclude the granting of either
884 subsidy set forth in section 17a-117, as amended by this act, except, if
885 the child is eligible for subsidy under this section, [his] the child's
886 adopting parent or parents shall not be granted a subsidy or subsidies
887 set forth in section 17a-117, as amended by this act, that would be
888 granted for the same purposes as the child's subsidy.

889 Sec. 38. Section 17a-121 of the general statutes is repealed and the
890 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

891 Nothing in sections 17a-116 to 17a-120, inclusive, as amended by
892 this act, as amended by public act 86-330, shall affect any subsidy
893 granted under the provisions of sections 17a-116, 17a-117, as amended
894 by this act, 17a-118, 17a-119 and 17a-120, as amended by this act, prior

895 to April 1, 1987, except that any adopting parent may apply for an
896 increase in such subsidy in accordance with the provisions of this
897 section. All subsidies granted on and after April 1, 1987, under said
898 sections, shall be subject to the review provisions of sections 17a-118
899 and 17a-120, as amended by this act. Any adopting parent who
900 received a subsidy under said sections, prior to April 1, 1987, may
901 apply to have said subsidy increased or modified in accordance with
902 the provisions of said sections as amended by public act 86-330. The
903 Commissioner of Children and Families shall notify such adopting
904 parent of the provisions of sections 17a-116 to 17a-120, inclusive, as
905 amended by this act, as amended by said public act and of his or her
906 right to seek an increase in such subsidy in accordance with said
907 sections.

908 Sec. 39. Section 17a-149 of the general statutes is repealed and the
909 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

910 No person or entity except a parent, an adult relative as specified by
911 section 17b-75 or guardian of any child shall place a child without a
912 license obtained from the Commissioner of Children and Families.
913 Application for a child-placing license shall be in a form furnished by
914 the commissioner, and shall state the location of the principal place of
915 business of the applicant, its organization or corporate name, its
916 purposes and the name, title and degree of professional training of
917 each of its staff members engaged in carrying out its stated purposes.
918 Any such applicant shall consent to such inspection, review and
919 supervision of all acts in relation to child placing as are reasonably
920 necessary to enable the commissioner to perform his or her duties
921 under section 17a-151. The provisions of this section with regard to the
922 commissioner's authority to inspect, review and supervise all acts in
923 relation to child placing under section 17a-151 shall be limited to
924 inspection, review and supervision of the applicant under this section
925 and shall not include inspection, review or supervision of the homes in
926 which a child is placed.

927 Sec. 40. Section 17a-178 of the general statutes is repealed and the

928 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

929 (a) As used in Article III of section 17a-175, "appropriate public
930 authorities", with reference to this state, means the Commissioner of
931 Children and Families or [his] the commissioner's designee and said
932 commissioner shall receive and act with reference to notices required
933 by said Article III.

934 (b) As used in Article V(a) of section 17a-175, "appropriate authority
935 in the receiving state", with reference to this state, means the
936 Commissioner of Children and Families or [his] the commissioner's
937 designee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-3(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-6b(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	17a-6c
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17a-10c
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	17a-20a
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	17a-22m
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	17a-62
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	17a-63a
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	4-68s
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	SA 14-7, Sec. 1
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	SA 14-7, Sec. 2
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	SA 14-7, Sec. 3
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	45a-715(o)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	17a-117(a)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	17a-126(a)
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	17a-10b(b)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	17a-11(b)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17a-10a(d)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17a-112(k)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17a-5
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-8(b)
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-10(c)
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-13
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-14

Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-15a
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-16
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-25(b)
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-77(b) and (c)
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-92
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-93(5)
Sec. 31	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-94
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-96
Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-99
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-103
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-106a
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-114a
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-120(a)
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-121
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-149
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	17a-178

KID *Joint Favorable*

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***

The bill, which makes technical changes to statutes affecting the Department of Children and Families, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state, or municipalities.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 185*****AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes various minor changes to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) statutes. Among its changes, it:

1. specifies that DCF must annually report to the Children's Committee, in addition to the Governor and General Assembly as currently required, on progress in achieving its strategic plan for meeting the needs of children and families it serves (§ 1);
2. eliminates requirements that DCF include the Human Services Committee among the recipients of various reports the department must submit and adds the Children's Committee as a recipient of those reports if it is not already designated as such (§§ 2, 3, 5, 8, 10-12);
3. adds the Children's Committee as a recipient of the program inventory DCF, the departments of Correction and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division must biennially submit to the Appropriations and Finance Committees (§ 9);
4. requires DCF to include information about sibling visitation determinations in a child's case record, rather than in his or her treatment plan as is currently required (the treatment plan is a component of the case record) (§ 18); and
5. makes numerous minor technical changes, including updating

an obsolete federal law reference and making numerous masculine pronoun references gender neutral (§§ 4,13-17, 19, 20-40).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the provisions that make changes to DCF reporting requirements and some of the provisions that make technical changes (§§ 1-17); July 1, 2016 for another provision that makes technical changes and the provisions that change the requirement pertaining to a child's case plan and update the federal law reference (§§ 18-20); and October 1, 2016 for the rest of the provisions that make technical changes (§§ 21-40).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/25/2016)