AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES’ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO ITS STATUTES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes numerous changes, mostly minor and technical, in statutes governing the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Principally, the bill:

1. allows other relatives, rather than just parents or guardians, of camp participants to be appointed to the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee (§ 6);

2. allows other relatives, rather than just parents, of individuals with intellectual disability to be members of DDS’s regional advisory and planning councils (§ 23); and

3. updates terminology to conform to existing practice by, among other things, (a) standardizing references to an individual’s “legal representative” in laws that currently reference specific types of such representatives (e.g., parent, guardian, or conservator) and (b) replacing certain other references to “parent” with “family.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

§ 6 — CAMP HARKNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By law, a 12-member advisory committee advises the DDS commissioner on issues concerning the health and safety of users of Camp Harkness facilities. Under current law, committee members include two parents or guardians of individuals who use the camp (one each appointed by the governor and Senate president pro tempore). The bill allows other relatives, not just parents or guardians,
to fill these positions.

§ 23 — REGIONAL ADVISORY AND PLANNING COUNCILS

By law, DDS’s regional advisory and planning councils each consist of at least 10 members appointed by the DDS commissioner. Current law requires at least two members of each council to be parents of individuals with intellectual disability. The bill allows other relatives, not just parents, to fill these positions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/09/2018)