



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 75

February Session, 2018

House Bill No. 5331

House of Representatives, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Children reported through REP. URBAN of the 43rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILDREN'S REPORT CARD.

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

1 Section 1. Section 2-53m of the 2018 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

4 (a) The joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
5 cognizance of matters relating to children, in consultation with the
6 Office of Fiscal Analysis, the Office of Legislative Research and the
7 Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall maintain an
8 annual report card that evaluates the progress of state policies and
9 programs in promoting the result that all Connecticut children grow
10 up in a stable living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead
11 successful lives. Progress shall be measured by primary and secondary
12 indicators of progress, including, but not limited to, indicators
13 [established in the final report of the former Legislative Program
14 Review and Investigations Committee prepared pursuant to the
15 provisions of section 1 of public act 09-166,] of state-wide rates of child

16 abuse, child poverty, low birth weight [, third grade] and reading
17 proficiency. [, and the annual social health index developed pursuant
18 to section 46a-131a.] For each indicator, the data shall also be presented
19 according to ethnicity or race, gender, [geography and, where
20 appropriate,] age and other relevant characteristics where appropriate.
21 The joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
22 cognizance of matters relating to children shall prepare and make the
23 report card available to the public on the Internet web site of the
24 General Assembly on or before January 15, [2018] 2019, and annually
25 thereafter. [On or before January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, said
26 committee shall make the report card available to the public on the
27 Internet and on the web site of the General Assembly and shall
28 transmit the report card electronically to (1) members of the joint
29 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
30 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
31 and human services, (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families,
32 Education and Public Health, (3) the Child Advocate, (4) the Secretary
33 of the Office of Policy and Management, and (5) the Chief Court
34 Administrator.]

35 (b) On or before January 15, 2012, the [select] joint standing
36 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
37 relating to children, in consultation with a working group of
38 representatives of state agencies and departments, community
39 organizations, private provider agencies operating programs that
40 impact the well-being of children and families, parents and other
41 caretakers of children, child advocacy organizations, health care
42 professionals that serve children and families, schools, and child care
43 providers, shall identify or develop (1) an indicator for measuring
44 whether children are living with their families and have stability in
45 their living environments, (2) secondary indicators for measuring
46 progress within each area of children's well-being related to measuring
47 progress in their health, safety, stability, education and future success,
48 including, but not limited to, food security, and (3) key measures of
49 performance of the state child welfare system, including, but not
50 limited to, (A) rates of repeat maltreatment among victims of child

51 abuse and neglect; (B) placement in out-of-home care among children
52 at risk of abuse and neglect; (C) child fatalities involving child abuse or
53 neglect; (D) rates of reunification and permanency for children
54 removed from their homes; and (E) the developmental and health
55 status and educational progress of children served by the child welfare
56 system and other appropriate measures of well-being and preparation
57 for success in life. [Not less than annually]

58 (c) On or before January 15, 2019, and annually thereafter, the joint
59 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
60 matters relating to children shall, [: (i) With the assistance of the
61 working group] in consultation with a leadership committee
62 comprised of (1) the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint
63 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
64 matters relating to human services, education, the judiciary, public
65 health and appropriations, (2) the executive director of the
66 Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, or the executive
67 director's designee, (3) the Commissioners of Children and Families,
68 Education, Social Services, Public Health and Early Childhood, or the
69 commissioners' designees, (4) the Chief Court Administrator, or the
70 Chief Court Administrator's designee, (5) the Child Advocate, or the
71 Child Advocate's designee, (6) the Governor's Nonprofit Liaison, and
72 (7) representatives of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits,
73 Connecticut Voices for Children, Connecticut Association for Human
74 Services, Connecticut Community Providers Association, CT Parent
75 Power, Center for Children's Advocacy, Child Health and
76 Development Institute of Connecticut, Connecticut Association for
77 Community Action and Connecticut Chapter of the American
78 Academy of Pediatrics, review the adequacy of primary and secondary
79 indicators, system-level performance measures, and related data
80 resources for such indicators and measures, and determine whether
81 there are more appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress in
82 achieving the result that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable
83 living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead successful lives. [,
84 and (ii) in consultation with the results-based] Such leadership
85 committee shall be chaired by one member of such committee selected

86 by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one member of
87 such committee selected by the president pro tempore of the Senate.

88 (d) On or before January 15, 2019, the joint standing committee of
89 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
90 children and the accountability subcommittee of the joint standing
91 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
92 relating to appropriations [and the budgets of state agencies,] shall
93 identify programs within the child welfare system that make a
94 significant contribution to achieving such result and require the
95 entities administering such programs to prepare annual report cards
96 employing the results-based format developed by said subcommittee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2018	2-53m

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***

This bill establishes a 38-member leadership committee that the Children's Committee, beginning January 15, 2019, must consult with annually to review certain aspects of the children's report card and determine how to best measure progress towards achieving the desired results.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5331*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILDREN'S REPORT CARD.*****SUMMARY**

By law, the Children's Committee must maintain an annual children's report card that evaluates the progress of state policies and programs in promoting the result that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable living environment and are safe, healthy, and ready to lead successful lives. The committee must do this in consultation with the offices of Fiscal Analysis and Legislative Research and the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors.

This bill establishes a 38-member leadership committee that the Children's Committee, beginning January 15, 2019, must consult with annually to review certain aspects of the report card and determine how to best measure progress towards achieving the desired results. Currently, the Children's Committee must consult with a working group of representatives from various public and private entities that provide services and programs for children.

The bill also makes various minor changes to the report card's required indicators and the manner in which the committee must annually disseminate the report card.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE***Membership***

Under the bill, the leadership committee members are as follows:

1. the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors executive

- director or his designee;
2. the chief court administrator or his designee;
 3. the children and families, public health, education, social services, and early childhood commissioners or their designees;
 4. the child advocate or her designee;
 5. the governor's nonprofit liaison;
 6. the Appropriations, Education, Human Services, Judiciary, and Public Health committee chairpersons and ranking members; and
 7. one representative each from the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, Connecticut Voices for Children, Connecticut Association for Human Services, Connecticut Community Providers Association, CT Parent Power, Center for Children's Advocacy, Connecticut Association for Community Action, Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut.

The committee must be chaired by two members, one selected by the House speaker and one selected by the Senate president pro tempore.

Responsibilities

The bill requires the Children's Committee to consult with the leadership committee to (1) review the adequacy of the report card's primary and secondary indicators, system-level performance measures, and related data resources and (2) determine whether there are more appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress to achieve the desired results. Currently, the committee must perform these tasks with a working group's assistance.

The bill also requires the Children's Committee and the Appropriations Committee's Accountability Subcommittee, by January

15, 2019 instead of at least annually as under current law, to (1) identify programs in the child welfare system that make a significant contribution to achieving the above-stated result and (2) require these entities to prepare annual report cards using the results-based format the subcommittee developed.

REPORT CARD

Indicators

Currently, for each indicator on the report card, data must be presented in various ways, including according to geography and, where appropriate, age and other relevant characteristics. The bill (1) eliminates the geography breakdown requirement and (2) makes the breakdown by age required instead of only where appropriate. Additionally, the bill:

1. modifies a required report card indicator of statewide third grade reading proficiency rates to statewide reading proficiency rates (with no grade specified);
2. specifies that the committee must measure progress with secondary as well as primary indicators;
3. removes obsolete references to an annual social health index and a 2009 Program Review and Investigations report; and
4. makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes.

Disseminating the Report Card

As under current law, the committee must annually make the report card available to the public on the General Assembly's website. The bill eliminates requirements that the committee annually email the report card to Appropriations and Human Services committee members and the commissioners of the Department of Children and Families, State Department of Education, and Department of Public Health; child advocate; Office of Policy and Management secretary; and chief court administrator.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/15/2018)