



PA 18-71—sSB 312
Committee on Children

AN ACT CONCERNING RISK ASSESSMENT PRACTICES AND THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner, in collaboration with the early childhood, developmental services, and social services commissioners, to develop investigation, assessment, and case-planning procedures that are responsive to the needs of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The DCF commissioner must submit to the Children’s Committee, by February 1, 2019, a report that describes the procedures developed and includes any legislative recommendations resulting from the collaboration.

The act also requires DCF to add information on its risk and safety assessment practices to the Children’s Report Card (see BACKGROUND). By law, DCF must annually report certain information to the Children’s Committee for inclusion in the Children’s Report Card. The act requires the report to additionally include an analysis of the efficacy of DCF’s risk and safety assessment practices, including information about the (1) methodology used to determine the practices’ reliability, (2) use of evidence-based practices and tools, and (3) effectiveness of these practices for identifying children at risk of abuse or neglect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

BACKGROUND

Children's Report Card

By law, the Children’s Committee, in collaboration with the offices of Fiscal Analysis and Legislative Research and the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, must maintain an annual 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, safe, healthy, and ready to lead successful lives. The report must use data and indicators to measure the progress towards this goal in a variety of areas (e.g., state-wide rates of child abuse and child poverty) (CGS § 2-53m).