



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 181

February Session, 2018

House Bill No. 5255

House of Representatives, April 4, 2018

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-215d of the 2018 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) There is established the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory
5 Council. The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The
6 Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (2)
7 the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
8 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
9 designee; (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
10 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of
11 Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of
12 Rehabilitation Services, or the commissioner's designee; (7) the
13 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's
14 designee; (8) the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the

15 commissioner's designee; (9) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
16 Management, or the secretary's designee; (10) two persons with autism
17 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the
18 speaker of the House of Representatives; (11) two persons who are
19 parents or guardians of a child with autism spectrum disorder, one
20 each appointed by the Governor and the minority leader of the Senate;
21 (12) two persons who are parents or guardians of an adult with autism
22 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the president pro tempore
23 of the Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives;
24 (13) two persons who are advocates for persons with autism spectrum
25 disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the speaker of the
26 House of Representatives; (14) two persons who are licensed
27 professionals working in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one
28 each appointed by the Governor and the majority leader of the Senate;
29 (15) two persons who provide services for persons with autism
30 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the
31 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (16) two persons who
32 shall be representatives of an institution of higher education in the
33 state with experience in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one
34 each appointed by the Governor and the president pro tempore of the
35 Senate; (17) the executive director of the nonprofit entity designated by
36 the Governor in accordance with section 46a-10b to serve as the
37 Connecticut protection and advocacy system, or the director's
38 designee; and (18) one person who is a physician who treats or
39 diagnoses persons with autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the
40 Governor.

41 (b) The council shall have two chairpersons, one of whom shall be
42 the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee,
43 and one of whom shall be elected by the members of the council. The
44 council shall make rules for the conduct of its affairs. The council shall
45 meet not less than four times per year and at such other times as
46 requested by the chairpersons. Council members shall serve without
47 compensation.

48 (c) The council shall advise the Commissioner of Social Services

49 concerning: (1) Policies and programs for persons with autism
50 spectrum disorder; (2) services provided by the Department of Social
51 Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services; and (3)
52 implementation of the recommendations resulting from the autism
53 feasibility study. The council may make recommendations to the
54 commissioner for policy and program changes to improve support
55 services for persons with autism spectrum disorder.

56 [(d) The Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council shall
57 terminate on June 30, 2018.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-215d

HS *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***

PA 13-20 established the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council with a planned termination date of June 30, 2018. This bill eliminates the termination date of the council and will not result in a fiscal impact.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5255*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
ADVISORY COUNCIL.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes the Autism Spectrum Disorder Council permanent. Under current law, the council terminates June 30, 2018.

By law, the Autism Spectrum Disorder Council consists of 25 members, including persons with the disorder, their parents or guardians, and service providers appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The council must advise the Department of Social Services (DSS) on policies and programs for people with autism spectrum disorder, services provided by DSS's Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services, and implementing the autism feasibility study's recommendations. It can also recommend policy and program changes to the DSS commissioner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/22/2018)