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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 1080**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A TWO-GENERATIONAL INITIATIVE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to the two-generational initiative, to advance family economic self-sufficiency. Most notably, the bill replaces the initiative's current advisory council with a board of similar composition and adds an executive-level cabinet that it charges with increasing the impact of state programs on families, reducing redundancies, finding cost savings, and advancing racial and socio-economic equity. It also makes minor changes to the initiative's duties, objectives, and purpose.

Finally, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

#### **FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS CABINET**

The bill establishes a Two-Generational Family Economic Success Cabinet within the executive branch. It requires the cabinet to work to achieve measurable results for families through coordinated interagency action to (1) drive savings, (2) reduce redundancy, (3) boost impact, and (4) advance racial and socio-economic equity in and through the initiative.

Under the bill, the cabinet consists of the following members:

1. OPM secretary, or the secretary's designee, who must serve as its chairperson;
2. commissioners of Administrative Services, Children and Families, Correction, Early Childhood, Economic and Community Development, Education, Housing, Labor, Public Health, Social Services, and Transportation, or each

commissioner's designee; and

3. the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities president, or designee. The bill requires the cabinet to meet at least quarterly and report to the governor.

The cabinet, informed by advisory board recommendations, must:

1. remove institutional barriers to successful initiative implementation;
2. share data to facilitate the initiative;
3. coordinate and leverage existing resources to assist families to overcome common barriers to economic success while generating state savings;
4. pursue innovative approaches based on parental and community input to increase the initiative's impact while advancing racial and socio-economic equity; and
5. annually establish shared indicators and goals for interagency collaboration to achieve quantifiable and verifiable systems change to disrupt cycles of intergenerational poverty and advance family economic self-sufficiency, using indicators and goals that include (a) improvements to service coordination and delivery across one or more programs for early learning, adult education, child care, housing, job training, transportation, financial literacy, and health and mental health services and (b) efforts to sufficiently support pathways to family-sustaining workforce opportunities.

The bill also requires the cabinet to develop and present a long-term interagency plan to the governor to further coordinate, align, and optimize statewide service delivery of relevant two-generational programs. Such plan may include (1) state incentives for public and private entities that develop such two-generational programming; (2) streamlined resource, practice, and data sharing within and between agencies that serve families; and (3) the development and assessment

of two-generational programming outcomes.

### **ADVISORY BOARD**

The bill changes the initiative's advisory council under current law to an advisory board but retains most of its membership. It charges the board with (1) advising the state, legislature, and the Two-Generational Family Economic Success Cabinet and (2) working in partnership with available philanthropic organizations to provide support, technical assistance, guidance, and best practices to the initiative's participating communities. Whereas under current law the commissioners of Correction, Early Childhood, Education, Housing, Labor, Public Health, Social Services, and Transportation, or their designees, served on the council, they do not serve on the board. The bill requires the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors to select parent or family leaders representing low income households to constitute one quarter of the board's membership (compared to one council member under current law). The bill also adds to the board the chairperson of the cabinet, or his or her designee, as established under the bill.

The bill requires, by July 1, 2020, the attorney general's office to develop a uniform interagency data-sharing protocol to promote cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration to the fullest extent permitted by state and federal laws. The office must consult with the advisory board and cabinet, Office of Policy and Management, and the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network (P20 WIN). (Current law required the advisory council to consult with similar stakeholders to develop a uniform approach to facilitate data sharing among the initiative's partner agencies in accordance with state and federal laws by September 1, 2018.)

### **INITIATIVE DUTIES, OBJECTIVES, AND PURPOSE**

Under current law, the statewide initiative's objective is to foster family economic self-sufficiency in low-income households through a comprehensive two-generational service delivery approach. The bill replaces this objective with disrupting poverty cycles and advancing family economic self-sufficiency. It directs the initiative to achieve

these goals by collaborating across public and private sectors, rather than promoting systemic change to create conditions across local and state public and private sector agencies and the private sector, as is required under current law.

The bill also makes numerous modifications to the areas the initiative may review and consider. Among other things, it (1) narrows the focus of such review and consideration to attaining family and economic mobility and success and (2) eliminates the development of a long-term plan to optimize program service delivery statewide. (The bill requires the cabinet to develop a similar long-term plan.)

Whereas current law requires the initiative to be informed by members of low-income households within its participating communities, the bill requires implementation in partnership with parent and family leaders to determine the challenges of such households.

The bill expands the Office of Early Childhood's (OEC) role as the initiative's coordinating agency for the executive branch under current law to statewide coordination for the initiative. It retains the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors as administrative staff to the initiative's learning communities as under current law; however, it no longer requires the staff to provide organizational support to such communities.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

By December 31, 2020, and annually thereafter, the bill requires the board, in collaboration with the cabinet, to report to the Appropriations, Education, Housing, Human Services, Labor, Public Health, and Transportation committees. The report must include opportunities and challenges in working with a two-generational service delivery model and recommendations to:

1. develop methods that ensure two-generational initiative approaches are based on continuous feedback from family leaders regarding the priorities and challenges of low-income

households;

2. improve systems, policy, culture, program, budget, or communications issues among agencies and service providers on the local and state levels to achieve two-generational outcomes;
3. eliminate barriers to two-generational success; and
4. improve data sharing across two-generational initiative agencies.

The bill also requires the cabinet to file a report in the same manner on its progress in developing the long-term interagency plan required under the bill.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18    Nay 1    (03/26/2019)