

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5575

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF DELINQUENCY

**Title:** PROCEEDINGS FOR FIRE STARTING BEHAVIOR TREATMENT.

**Vote Date:** 2/21/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/14/2019

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Liz Linehan, 103<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

Rep. Patrick S. Boyd, 50<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Ben McGorty, 122<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To permit the court to suspend a delinquency proceeding for up to a year for certain fire starting offenses and order a child to participate in a behavior treatment program that addresses relevant behavioral issues.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

The Office of the Child Advocate supports HB 5575 on the basis that the bill seeks to ensure the appropriate service delivery of a treatment program for children who come to the attention of the court while also supporting public safety.

The Office of the Chief Public Defender supports HB 5575 on the grounds that the bill would allow a child involved in a delinquency case involving fire setting to be evaluated for the purposes of treatment. The bill would also authorize the court to suspend delinquency proceedings for said child for up to a year in order to allow the child to participate in such a treatment program.

Connecticut Voices for Children supports HB 5575 because it would increase the number of children with behavioral health challenges receiving the treatment they need and reduce the number of children entering the justice system when alternative methods could better reduce recidivism.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

See the above responses from the Office of the Child Advocate, the Office of the Public Defender, and Connecticut Voices for Children.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Hayden Schwarm**

**Date: 2/25/19**