OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 806

AN ACT PROHIBITING A FINDING OF NEGLECT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

SUMMARY
This bill expands the statutory definition of child neglect. Under the bill, neglect includes allowing a child, for reasons other than impoverishment, to engage in unsupervised independent activities due to the parent’s or guardian’s unreasonable belief that such child is of sufficient maturity, physical condition, or mental ability to avoid engaging in conduct that carries a substantial risk of harm.

Under current law, neglect of a child is defined as any of the following for reasons other than impoverishment: (1) abandonment; (2) denial of proper care and attention physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally; or (3) allowing the child to live under conditions or associations injurious to the child’s well-being.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND
Department of Children and Families (DCF) Policy
Under existing DCF policy, evidence of physical neglect includes, among other things, inadequate supervision or failure to provide reasonable and proper supervision, given the child’s age and cognitive abilities.

COMMITTEE ACTION
Committee on Children
Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 14  Nay 0  (03/07/2019)