

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-158

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALBERT J. SOLNIT CHILDREN'S CENTER.

Vote Date: 3/10/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/25/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center to obtain licensure from the Department of Public Health

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, Commissioner; Department of Public Health

Due to language in the Governors budget proposal, the Department of Public Health does not think that this bill is necessary. That language would provide for licensing of the Solnit Center, in accordance with the recommendations of a working group formed last year pursuant to Special Act 19-16. The proposed budget language also provides DPH with one additional Nurse Consultant needed to conduct licensure and complaint investigation activities.

Vannessa Dorantes, Commissioner; Department of Children and Families

Supports the intent of the bill but considers it redundant. There is language in the Governor's proposed budget that goes beyond the language in this bill by requiring DPH to promulgate regulations on licensing the psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF) at both the north and south campuses, as well requiring licensure of the psychiatric hospital located at Solnit South. It also allows for 6 additional nurses and 1 more clinician to be employed at Solnit North, positions that are needed to meet the staffing requirements for licensure. The Department does not believe this bill is necessary.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano

The Senator testified in support of this proposed bill. This proposal would require that the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center - South Campus obtain licensure from the Department of Public Health, and enable the Department of Public Health to license, regulate and inspect the center.

Sarah Eagan; Office of the Child Advocate

Supports the intent of the bill which provides greater oversight transparency regarding the safety and operation of a state-licensed psychiatric and therapeutic treatment setting for children but suggests amending the language to match the Governor's proposed language. This would provide greater clarity going forward.

Dr. Jessica Guite; Connecticut Psychological Association

The Connecticut Psychological Association supports SB 158 which that require Solnit to obtain licensure as an Institution and maintain appropriate standards/requirements set by the CT Department of Public Health. This would help protect those in Solnit's care.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Peter Murszewski

Date: 3/22/2020