

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-93

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR CHANGES TO THE STATUTES OF THE

Title: DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Vote Date: 3/10/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill makes minor changes to statutes of the Department of Children and Families. This bill is needed to improve the efficiency of the Department of Children and Families.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Vanessa Dorantes, Commissioner, The Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families supports this bill because it includes technical changes that seek to improve efficiency. They support changes to several sections of this bill listed as follows. In section 1 they support the technical correction to remove an obsolete reference to DCF in C.G.S. Section 46b-127(f); this section refers to juveniles in detention or confinement within DCF. Section 2-6 would repeal or combine several obsolete reports that DCF has to submit to the General Assembly each year. The Department also supports Sections 2 and 3 which would amend C.G.S. sections 17a-3 and 17a-4 regarding reporting to the General Assembly on the Department's strategic plan and progress updates on achieving the plan. DCF Supports section 4 which eliminates a mandate to biennially submit a progress report on implementation of the Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan. This section also eliminates obsolete references to completed reports. Also proposed to be eliminated are one-time reporting mandates that have been met, including a plan to prevent or reduce the negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children and youth held in secure detention or correctional confinement (Oct. 2017) and recommendations for addressing any unmet mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of children that are attributed to an increased risk of involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems (Oct. 2018). Section 5 repeals a provision under C.G.S. section 46b-129 requiring the

Department to report on the number of cases in which an adult with a significant relationship with a child has been identified as a permanency resource. Section 6, supported by DCF, repeals a report required under C.G.S. section 17a-63 regarding administrative case reviews. Lastly, DCF respectfully request the Committee's consideration of substitute language that will establish qualified residential treatment programs (QRTP) in state statutes. The Department expresses that Connecticut must adopt a QRTP protocol in order to continue to claim federal Title IV-E reimbursement for the cost of a child's stay in a congregate care facility, pursuant to the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Ed Ford

Date: 4/4/2020