

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6112

**Title:** AN ACT REQUIRING A SURVEY OF COURT-INVOLVED YOUTHS.

**Vote Date:** 2/25/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/4/2021

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would require the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to conduct a survey of court-involved youths focusing on the matter of sexuality amongst court involved youths. The goal of this bill is to get the responses from the inmates and analyze if any changes must be made to the services offered to court-involved youths who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer.

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

**Judicial Branch:** The Judicial Branch is concerned that the definition of “court-involved youths,” includes juveniles who have been transferred to adult court and this might represent a significant implementation issue for them. It is also requested that the implementation date be pushed back, so that they may have enough time to implement a plan to survey juveniles who are under the supervision of juvenile probation. It is stated that there was a survey called the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identify Expression Survey (SOGIE) which even though its pilot ended in September 2019, its results are still being utilized in their detention centers and some detention policies were changed considering this survey’s outcome.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Kelly McConney Moore, Interim Senior Policy Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut:** She is in support of the bill. She states that the criminal legal system disproportionately harms LGBTQ people, it also perpetrates the same harms against justice-involved

young people so she believes that this survey will help determine what harms the Connecticut criminal legal system are visiting on Connecticut young people.

**Melissa Keilty, student; Master's of Social Work student at UConn on behalf of National Association of Social Workers:** She is in favor of this bill. She states that NASW-CT supports investment in programs, practices, and policies which seek to enhance equitable service provisions for LGBTQ+ youths. By offering their services they ensure a holistic, gender-responsive care, and promote collaborative relationships with affected populations. She also states that the national NASW 2021 Social Policy Priorities cite the need for uniform data collection standards which incorporate sexual orientation and gender identity into survey practices.

**Kathleen Callahan, Community Programming and Development Lead at the Connecticut Women's Consortium in Hamden:** She strongly supports this bill. The CT Women's Consortium puts its emphasis on a holistic approach when it comes to the kind of care they offer, working collaboratively with many other agencies to provide appropriate environments for people. She mentioned the Trevor Project's 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, which provided some recommendations specific to LGBTQ youth. Of the two reports submitted, both highlighted the immediacy for behavioral health service delivery, from that she believes that it is essential to provide care and services that address the special circumstances of court and justice involved lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No opposition to this bill was expressed

**Reported by:** Gabriela Dos Santos

**Date:** March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021