

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-955

AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDATED DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Title: STATUTES.

Vote Date: 3/31/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 955 corrects outdated or obsolete provisions of statutes concerning the Department of Social Services. Over the years, statutes have been passed to address the concerns of various stakeholders, thereby generating some conflict with existing statute. This bill is an attempt to correct these conflicts and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the affected agencies.

Substitute language removes Section 2 of the original raised bill, which would have repealed Subsection c of Section 17a-485d of the general statutes. Section 2 addressed Medicaid coverage of rehabilitation services for adults with significant mental health or substance use disorders.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deidre Gifford, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Social Services

The language in this bill addresses many issues and the Department of Social Services would like changes to, or removal of, multiple sections, specified in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Some of the reasons are conflicts with current statute, definitions lacking clarity, lack of recognition of changes in agency responsibility for certain programs, or simply language that updates or eliminates provisions that are no longer relevant.

DSS is in general agreement with the recommendations of Section 9, which repeals General Statutes §§ 17b-184 (created a client advisory board to further the ability of recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) to become self-sufficient), 17b-274a (requires a state “Maximum Allowable Cost” (MAC) list for multi-source drugs reimbursed under Medicaid), and 17b-610 (requires that DSS and the Department of Labor provide an ongoing assessment of the needs of the business community and the ways persons with disabilities could fill such needs).

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: David Rackliffe

Date: April 7, 2021