

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-199
AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPENING OR SETTING ASIDE OF A
Title: PARENTAGE JUDGMENT.
Vote Date: 3/24/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/8/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

S.B. 199 will establish conditions for when the opening of parentage judgement or the setting aside of such judgement is appropriate. This bill lays out the specific instances in which claims for parentage can be set aside to be revisited when the situation changes. This bill will ensure all individuals genetically or otherwise related to a child are made aware of all scheduled court hearings. Ultimately, this bill will serve to protect and ensure the child is cared for in times of uncertain guardianship, left to the care of the appropriate parent.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language for this bill deletes section 2 which concerns parentage judgments under Probate Court. This section is deleted due to conflict with Probate Court procedures.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, Deidre Gifford, supports this bill. In the instance where an adjudicated parent is seeking to open a judgment of parentages could claim there is no legal basis for taking the child's best interests into consideration when deciding whether the previous judgement should be set aside. Therefore, a challenger of these previous judgements could argue that only biology matters when determining parentage, a position Connecticut rejects through passage of the Connecticut Parentage Act. DSS believes that courts should be required to apply the same standard in these situations that it applies when parentage was established by an acknowledgment of parentage.

Administrator of the Office of the Probate Court, Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, supports the bill but has recommended changes. In section 2, they oppose the language used because it will conflict with two statutory provisions. The Office of the Probate Court supports the bill without section 2 which has been addressed in the substitute language.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

No additional support expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Molly Lukiwsky

Date: 3/28/2022