



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6902

LCO No. 5749



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:
(APP)

***AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUVENILE DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Children and Families and the Chief Court Administrator shall develop,
3 in consultation with The Consultation Center at Yale, a program to
4 divert from the juvenile justice and court system juveniles who (1) have
5 committed a first or second criminal offense, (2) have been charged with
6 a minor criminal offense, or (3) are chronically absent from school.

7 (b) Such program shall be administered by the Commissioner of
8 Children and Families and the Chief Court Administrator and shall be
9 known as the Diversion First program. The program shall first be
10 implemented in one or more municipalities in the state having a
11 population of ninety thousand or more. The program shall: (1) Serve as
12 a single point of contact for program participants seeking services
13 provided by a network of community-based agencies; and (2) include a
14 centralized decision-making process regarding program eligibility,
15 service coordination, referrals for services to such agencies and tracking

16 of program participant outcomes. Such agencies shall provide services
17 that include, but need not be limited to, (A) anger management, (B)
18 family counseling, (C) substance abuse education, (D) assessment and
19 treatment for substance abuse, (E) domestic violence identification and
20 prevention, and (F) community service opportunities. The
21 Commissioner of Children and Families and the Chief Court
22 Administrator shall collaborate with school districts in the
23 municipalities in which the program operates to provide program
24 participants with tutoring services, special education and truancy
25 prevention services.

26 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the Chief Court
27 Administrator shall develop the program to utilize existing community
28 services in the municipality in which the program operates. Said
29 commissioner and administrator, in consultation with municipal police
30 departments and youth service bureaus, as described in section 10-19m
31 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, serving the municipality
32 in which the program operates, shall identify (1) all community services
33 that are available to children who are referred to the program and
34 members of their families; and (2) gaps in such services. Said
35 commissioner and administrator, in consultation with such municipal
36 police departments and youth service bureaus, shall take steps to
37 eliminate such service gaps.

38 (d) Municipal police departments in which the Diversion First
39 program operates shall consider referring to the program juveniles
40 involved in criminal activity or who are chronically absent from school.
41 The program shall provide opportunities for victim input utilizing a
42 restorative justice model and allow for identification of measurable
43 outcomes.

44 Sec. 2. Section 10-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

46 (a) For the purposes of this section, "youth" means a person from birth
47 to eighteen years of age. Any one or more municipalities having a

48 population of less than seventy thousand or any one or more private
49 youth-serving organizations, designated to act as agents of one or more
50 municipalities [, may] having a population of less than seventy
51 thousand, shall establish a multipurpose youth service bureau for the
52 purposes of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of
53 services, including prevention and intervention programs for
54 delinquent, predelinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youths
55 referred to such bureau by schools, police, juvenile courts, adult courts,
56 local youth-serving agencies, parents and self-referrals. A youth service
57 bureau shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services to
58 provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment
59 and follow-up services.

60 (b) A youth service bureau established pursuant to subsection (a) of
61 this section may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the
62 following services: (1) [Individual] Screening using a validated risk and
63 needs assessment screening tool to develop a plan for services; (2)
64 comprehensive case management and coordination services; (3)
65 individual and group counseling; [(2)] (4) parent training and family
66 therapy; [(3)] (5) restorative justice practices; (6) work placement and
67 employment counseling; [(4)] (7) educational advocacy and educational
68 supports; (8) alternative and special educational opportunities; [(5)] (9)
69 recreational and youth enrichment programs; [(6)] (10) outreach
70 programs to [insure] ensure participation and planning by the entire
71 community for the development of regional and community-based
72 youth services; [(7)] (11) preventive programs, including youth
73 pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and
74 [(8)] (12) programs that develop positive youth involvement. Such
75 services shall be designed to [meet the needs of youths by the diversion
76 of troubled] divert youths from the justice system [as well as by the
77 provision of] and provide opportunities for all youths to function as
78 responsible members of their communities. If the youth service bureau
79 has identified services that are needed by a youth but cannot be
80 provided by the youth service bureau, the youth service bureau shall
81 refer such youth to an appropriate service provider in the community

82 who can provide the needed services. Not later than fifteen days after
83 such referral, the referring youth service bureau shall consult with the
84 provider to whom it referred such youth for a service status report. If
85 the youth service bureau determines that the diversion to community
86 services was unsuccessful, the youth service bureau shall refer such
87 youth back to the juvenile justice and court system.

88 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt
89 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
90 establishing minimum performance standards for such youth service
91 bureaus and the criteria for qualifying for state cost-sharing grants,
92 including, but not limited to, allowable sources of funds covering the
93 local share of the costs of operating such bureaus, acceptable in-kind
94 contributions and application procedures. The commissioner shall, [on
95 December 1, 2011] not later than December 1, 2024, and biennially
96 thereafter, submit a state-wide performance report to the [General
97 Assembly] Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established
98 pursuant to section 46b-121n on the referral or diversion of children and
99 youth under the age of eighteen years from the juvenile justice system
100 and the court system. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (1)
101 demographic data on age, race, ethnicity and gender of children and
102 youth receiving services from youth service bureaus, (2) results of any
103 screenings conducted, (3) data on the types of services provided, (4) data
104 on program completion and outcomes, (5) the number of times any child
105 or youth is so diverted, (6) the number of children and youth diverted,
106 (7) the type of service provided to any such child [by whom,] or youth,
107 (8) identification of the juvenile justice or court system from which such
108 child or youth was diverted, (9) the ages of the children and youth
109 diverted, (10) identification of any youth service bureau not meeting
110 established minimum performance standards, established by the
111 commissioner pursuant to this subsection, and (11) an outline of a
112 performance improvement plan, developed in accordance with
113 subsection (d) of this section, for such youth service bureau, and such
114 other information and statistics as the General Assembly may request
115 from time to time. Any such report shall contain no identifying

116 information about any particular child or youth.

117 (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and
118 implement a performance improvement plan for each youth service
119 bureau not meeting the minimum performance standards established
120 by the commissioner and shall offer technical and other needed
121 assistance to such youth service bureau directly or through a third party
122 to comply with such performance standards.

123 (e) Each youth service bureau shall, not later than September 1, 2024,
124 and annually thereafter, report the following information to the
125 Commissioner of Children and Families: (1) Demographic data on
126 children and youth served, including age, race, ethnicity and gender; (2)
127 results of any screening conducted; (3) services provided; (4) service
128 completion; and (5) outcome data. Any such report shall not contain
129 identifying information about any particular child or youth.

130 (f) For purposes of this section, "divert" means to provide an
131 alternative to a court referral for a juvenile arrested for the first or second
132 time of an infraction or misdemeanor, including, but not limited to: (1)
133 Simple trespass under section 53a-110a; (2) creating a public disturbance
134 under section 53a-181a; (3) disorderly conduct under section 53a-182; (4)
135 fifth degree larceny under section 53a-125a; (5) sixth degree larceny
136 under section 53a-125b; and (6) breach of the peace under section 53a-
137 181.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	January 1, 2024	10-19m

Statement of Purpose:

To require the development of a juvenile diversionary program and make changes to the statute concerning youth service bureaus.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

