



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 2**

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5162

*House of Representatives, March 12, 2024*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN AGENCIES TO REPORT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
2 Department of Social Services shall submit a report, in accordance with  
3 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
4 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
5 matters relating to children, human services and appropriations. Such  
6 report shall (1) describe each program administered by the department  
7 that serves children or families pursuant to a sliding fee scale or at no  
8 cost to such children and families, where eligibility for participation in  
9 such program or the sliding fee for participation in such program is  
10 based on a comparison between annual family income and the federal  
11 poverty level, (2) list the total cost associated with the administration of  
12 each such program, (3) list the anticipated total cost associated with the  
13 administration of each such program if eligibility for participation was  
14 expanded to include children and families with an annual family

15 income above the federal poverty level and below the ALICE Threshold  
 16 of Financial Survival for the state, as determined by the United Way of  
 17 Connecticut, (4) list how many additional children or families would be  
 18 eligible for participation in each such program if participation was  
 19 expanded in the manner described in subdivision (3) of this section, and  
 20 (5) discuss the feasibility of adopting the ALICE Threshold of Financial  
 21 Survival in making eligibility determinations for each such program.

22 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
 23 Department of Developmental Services shall submit a report, in  
 24 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
 25 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
 26 cognizance of matters relating to children, public health and  
 27 appropriations. Such report shall (1) describe each program  
 28 administered by the department that serves children or families  
 29 pursuant to a sliding fee scale or at no cost to such children and families,  
 30 where eligibility for participation in such program or the sliding fee for  
 31 participation in such program is based on a comparison between annual  
 32 family income and the federal poverty level, (2) list the total cost  
 33 associated with the administration of each such program, (3) list the  
 34 anticipated total cost associated with the administration of each such  
 35 program if eligibility for participation was expanded to include children  
 36 and families with an annual family income above the federal poverty  
 37 level and below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival for the state,  
 38 as determined by the United Way of Connecticut, (4) list how many  
 39 additional children or families would be eligible for participation in  
 40 each such program if participation was expanded in the manner  
 41 described in subdivision (3) of this section, and (5) discuss the feasibility  
 42 of adopting the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in making  
 43 eligibility determinations for each such program.

|   |                     |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |             |
| Section 1   | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1, "social services" was changed to "human services" and in Section 2, "social services" was changed to "public health", for accuracy.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

| Agency Affected  | Fund-Effect         | FY 25 \$        | FY 26 \$ |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Social Services, Dept.; Department of Developmental Services | GF - Potential Cost | up to \$100,000 | None     |

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill could result in a cost of up to \$100,000 in FY 25 to the Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Developmental Services (DDS) due to requiring a report related to agency programs serving children or families.

The bill requires the agencies to detail each program administered by the departments that (1) serves children or families, (2) uses a sliding fee scale or is no cost clients, and (3) bases eligibility on a comparison between annual family income and the federal poverty level. The report must include an assessment of costs for expanding eligibility for each program related to the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival for the state, as well as the feasibility of adopting such a threshold. Given the data and analysis required in the report, the agencies may need temporary or contracted staff to complete the report by January 1, 2025.

**The Out Years**

The bill has no fiscal impact in the out years as the report is due by January 1, 2025.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5162**

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**SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (02/29/2024)