



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 494

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5508

House of Representatives, April 15, 2024

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 46b-121n of the 2024 supplement to the general
2 statutes is amended by adding subsection (u) as follows (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (NEW) (u) (1) The committee shall appoint persons to a gender
5 responsiveness subcommittee for purposes of fulfilling the
6 responsibilities described in this subsection and any other task, as
7 directed by the committee.

8 (2) (A) The gender responsiveness subcommittee shall work in
9 partnership with the Trafficking in Persons Council, established
10 pursuant to section 46a-170, as amended by this act, for the purposes
11 described as follows:

12 (i) The completion, not later than January 1, 2025, of a landscape

13 analysis and gap assessment of gender responsive work in this state that
14 shall, as part of performing such analysis and assessment: (I) Define
15 "gender responsive" and "gender responsive practice"; (II) receive and
16 consider input from youth, families and communities directly impacted
17 by any gaps in gender responsive work; (III) review national best
18 practices, including approaches and types of services provided and
19 system considerations; (IV) review previous work and legislation
20 concerning gender responsive work; (V) identify any gaps in gender
21 responsive work resulting from system or programmatic changes; (VI)
22 review existing work and practices on gender responsiveness among
23 agencies and community providers; and (VII) review data, broken down
24 by race, ethnicity, gender, age, location and level of system involvement,
25 including the type of offenses committed by youth and how such
26 offenses are handled within the juvenile justice system.

27 (ii) The development, not later than January 1, 2025, of a framework
28 for reporting, collecting and distributing police data on human
29 trafficking for the purpose of generating annual reports concerning such
30 data.

31 (iii) The development of policy and legislative recommendations
32 based upon the data distributed and reported pursuant to this
33 subparagraph for consideration by the Juvenile Justice Policy and
34 Oversight Committee and the Trafficking in Persons Council. Such
35 recommendations shall address improvements to the continuum of care
36 to youth who identify as girls and are impacted by the juvenile justice
37 system, and provide for trauma-informed and culturally informed
38 approaches, services, treatment and permanency models for such youth,
39 including, at a minimum, recommendations concerning: (I) Continuity
40 of clinical support across a continuum of placement and treatment settings;
41 (II) specialized treatment in foster care for such youth who have
42 experienced sexual abuse or human trafficking, including youth with
43 intellectual and other developmental disabilities; (III) specialized
44 training for care providers and treatment providers; (IV) consistent and
45 constant sources of support, including peer mentoring and therapy for
46 such youth; (V) programs and practices that are developed with the

47 input of persons who are survivors of sexual abuse or human
48 trafficking; (VI) service and treatment setting options that specifically
49 address the needs of children with intellectual and other developmental
50 disabilities; (VII) successful treatment and support models from other
51 states to inform service enhancement in this state; (VIII) supports for
52 youth who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming; (IX)
53 diversion options such as the use of a juvenile review board or other
54 diversion models; and (X) a monitoring framework to ensure quality of
55 the continuum of care provided.

56 (B) The gender responsiveness subcommittee and the Transforming
57 Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee,
58 established pursuant to section 2-137, as amended by this act, shall share
59 information on gender responsive practices and policies for youth
60 involved with the child welfare system with the Juvenile Justice Policy
61 and Oversight Committee.

62 Sec. 2. Section 3 of public act 23-188 is repealed and the following is
63 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

64 (a) Not later than November 1, 2023, the executive director of the
65 Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive
66 director's designee, and the Commissioners of Children and Families,
67 Education and Correction, or their designees, shall, in consultation with
68 the incarceration, community expertise and education subcommittees of
69 the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, established
70 pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by
71 public act 23-188 and this act, develop and initiate a reentry success plan
72 for youth released from the Department of Correction and facilities and
73 programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial
74 Department.

75 (b) (1) Such plan shall be for the purpose of successfully reintegrating
76 youth into their communities. In the development of such plan, the
77 executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
78 Branch, or the executive director's designee, and the Commissioners of
79 Children and Families, Education and Correction, or their designees, in

80 consultation with the incarceration, community expertise and education
81 subcommittees of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee,
82 shall consider all aspects deemed necessary for successful
83 implementation of such plan, including, but not limited to: (A) Reentry
84 models and best practices around the country, including reentry hubs,
85 community-based enhanced reentry wraparound services and
86 transitional housing; and (B) expansion of community reentry
87 roundtables and welcome centers that focus on youth.

88 (2) Such plan shall incorporate restorative and transformative justice
89 principles, including, but not limited to, the (A) provision of
90 individualized academic support and the role of school districts in
91 ensuring the provision of academic, vocational and transition support
92 services; (B) connection of youth to vocational and workforce
93 opportunities; (C) connection of youth to developmentally appropriate
94 housing; (D) delivery of trauma-informed mental health and substance
95 use treatments; (E) development of restorative justice reentry circles; (F)
96 use of credible messengers as mentors or transition support providers
97 for a period lasting up to twenty-four months following the release of a
98 youth from the Department of Correction and facilities and programs
99 under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department;
100 and (G) role of reentry coordinators.

101 (3) Such plan shall (A) include [(A)] (i) a proposed quality assurance
102 framework, including the collection of appropriate data, promulgation
103 of a public dashboard and monitoring framework to ensure the
104 successful discharge and reentry of incarcerated youth, and [(B)] (ii)
105 information concerning federal and state funding sources in support of
106 the comprehensive reentry model and identification of priorities and
107 appropriate timelines for implementation, and (B) ensure that (i) youth
108 released from the Department of Correction and facilities and programs
109 under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department
110 have started or, whenever possible, completed job readiness or career
111 training programs with imbedded industry-recognized credentials,
112 certifications or licenses, and (ii) the Department of Correction and any
113 programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial

114 Department collaborate with the youth and a transition support
115 provider to support the youth in seeking and, whenever possible,
116 finding employment prior to release from such facility or program and
117 sustaining employment after such release.

118 (c) Not later than [January] December 1, 2024, the executive director
119 of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the
120 executive director's designee, and the Commissioners of Children and
121 Families, Education and Correction, or their designees, shall report the
122 plan developed pursuant to this section to the Juvenile Justice Policy
123 and Oversight Committee.

124 Sec. 3. Section 46a-170 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
125 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
126 *passage*):

127 (a) There is established a Trafficking in Persons Council that shall be
128 within the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and
129 Opportunity for administrative purposes only.

130 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Chief
131 State's Attorney, or a designee; (2) the Chief Public Defender, or a
132 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
133 Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the Labor Commissioner,
134 or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services,
135 or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of Public Health,
136 or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of Mental Health
137 and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) the
138 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
139 designee; (9) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the
140 commissioner's designee; (10) the Commissioner of Developmental
141 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (11) the director of the Basic
142 Training Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council,
143 or the director's designee; (12) the Child Advocate, or the Child
144 Advocate's designee; (13) the Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's
145 designee; (14) a chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children,
146 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the chairperson's designee; (15) one

147 representative of the Office of Victim Services of the Judicial Branch
148 appointed by the Chief Court Administrator; (16) a municipal police
149 chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or a
150 designee; (17) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
151 designee; (18) an adult victim of trafficking, appointed by the Governor;
152 (19) a judge of the Superior Court, appointed by the Chief Court
153 Administrator; (20) a state's attorney appointed by the Chief State's
154 Attorney; (21) a public defender appointed by the Chief Public
155 Defender; and (22) fifteen public members appointed as follows: The
156 Governor shall appoint three members, one of whom shall represent
157 victims of commercial exploitation of children, one of whom shall
158 represent sex trafficking victims who are children and one of whom
159 shall represent a coalition of children's advocacy centers and
160 multidisciplinary teams that are dedicated to serving child abuse
161 victims and their families, the president pro tempore of the Senate shall
162 appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut
163 Alliance to End Sexual Violence and one of whom shall represent an
164 organization that provides civil legal services to low-income
165 individuals, the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
166 two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition
167 Against Domestic Violence and one of whom shall represent the
168 Connecticut Lodging Association, the majority leader of the Senate shall
169 appoint two members, one of whom shall represent an organization that
170 deals with behavioral health needs of women and children and one of
171 whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness,
172 the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two
173 members, one of whom shall represent an organization that advocates
174 on social justice and human rights issues and one of whom shall
175 represent the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the
176 minority leader of the Senate shall appoint two members, one of whom
177 shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition and
178 one of whom shall represent massage therapists, and the minority
179 leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members, one
180 of whom shall represent the Motor Transport Association of
181 Connecticut, Inc. and one of whom shall represent an organization that

182 works with adult victims of trafficking.

183 (c) The chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors,
184 Equity and Opportunity, or a designee, shall serve as chairperson of the
185 council. The members of the council shall serve without compensation
186 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
187 performance of their duties.

188 (d) The council shall: (1) Hold meetings to provide updates and
189 progress reports, (2) coordinate the collection, analysis and
190 dissemination of data regarding human trafficking, and (3) consult with
191 governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing
192 recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent
193 trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute
194 traffickers. The council shall meet at least three times per year.

195 (e) The council may request data and other information from state
196 and local agencies to carry out its duties under this section.

197 (f) (1) The council shall:

198 (A) Develop a list of key indicators that a person is a victim of
199 trafficking;

200 (B) Develop a standardized curriculum and conduct training for
201 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, emergency medical
202 services personnel, teachers, school counselors, school administrators
203 and personnel from the Department of Children and Families and the
204 Department of Public Health to identify victims of human trafficking,
205 using the list of key indicators developed under subparagraph (A) of
206 this subdivision, and assist such victims;

207 (C) Develop and conduct training for personnel from the
208 Departments of Children and Families and Public Health on methods
209 for identifying children in foster care who may be at risk of becoming
210 victims of trafficking;

211 (D) Collaborate with the gender responsiveness subcommittee of the

212 Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee pursuant to subsection
213 (u) of section 46b-121n, as amended by this act; and

214 [(D)] (E) Develop a plan for mental health, support and substance
215 abuse programs for individuals identified as victims of trafficking and
216 those arrested for prostitution in violation of section 53a-82. The plan
217 shall provide for (i) the diversion of victims of trafficking and
218 prostitution offenders into community-based treatment and support
219 services, including, but not limited to, substance abuse recovery,
220 housing, healthcare, job training, treatment and mental health support,
221 and (ii) after the successful completion of the program, the dismissal of
222 any related criminal charges against the accused.

223 (2) The council shall include such plan and any recommendations for
224 legislation to implement the plan as part of any report submitted
225 pursuant of subsection (h) of this section not later than January 1, 2018.

226 (g) The council shall examine the challenges faced by victims of
227 trafficking who are persons without legal immigration status. The
228 council may recommend services that such persons could benefit from
229 and legislation to provide such services as part of any report submitted
230 pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

231 (h) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the council
232 shall submit a report of its activities, including any recommendations
233 for legislation, to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-
234 4a.

235 (i) For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts
236 involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer,
237 sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international
238 borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in
239 situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services,
240 such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude,
241 bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

242 Sec. 4. Section 2-137 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is

243 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
244 *passage*):

245 (a) There is established a Transforming Children's Behavioral Health
246 Policy and Planning Committee. The committee shall evaluate the
247 availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and
248 behavioral health treatment services and options for children from birth
249 to age eighteen and make recommendations to the General Assembly
250 and executive agencies regarding the governance and administration of
251 the behavioral health care system for children. The committee shall be
252 within the Legislative Department. For purposes of this section,
253 "behavioral health" means mental health and substance use disorders,
254 as well as overall psychological well-being.

255 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

256 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
257 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
258 relating to public health, human services, children and appropriations
259 and the budgets of state agencies, or their designees;

260 (2) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
261 one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of
262 whom shall be providers of behavioral health services for children in the
263 state;

264 (3) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
265 of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of whom
266 shall be representatives of private advocacy groups that provide
267 services for children and families in the state;

268 (4) (A) Two appointed by the chairperson of the committee selected
269 by the speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to subsection
270 (e) of this section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate; and
271 (B) two appointed by the chairperson of the committee selected by the
272 president pro tempore of the Senate pursuant to subsection (e) of this
273 section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate;

274 (5) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
275 Representatives, who shall be representatives of children's hospitals;

276 (6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
277 a representative of public school superintendents in the state;

278 (7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
279 Representatives, who shall be representatives of families with children
280 who have been diagnosed with behavioral health disorders;

281 (8) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
282 providers of behavioral health services;

283 (9) The Commissioners of Children and Families, Correction,
284 Developmental Services, Early Childhood, Education, Insurance,
285 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health and Social
286 Services, or their designees;

287 (10) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or the
288 executive director's designee;

289 (11) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

290 (12) The Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's
291 designee;

292 (13) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of
293 the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee;

294 (14) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
295 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;

296 (15) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
297 secretary's designee; and

298 (16) One representative from each administrative services
299 organization under contract with the Department of Social Services to
300 provide such services for recipients of assistance under the HUSKY
301 Health program, who shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members.

302 (c) Any member of the committee appointed under subdivisions (1)
303 to (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
304 General Assembly.

305 (d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

306 (e) The chairpersons of the committee shall be (1) the Secretary of the
307 Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, and (2)
308 two members of the General Assembly, one each selected by the speaker
309 of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the
310 Senate from among the members serving pursuant to subdivision (1),
311 (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of this section. The three chairpersons shall
312 schedule the first meeting of the committee, which shall be held not later
313 than September 1, 2023.

314 (f) Members of the committee shall serve without compensation,
315 except for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their
316 duties.

317 (g) Not later than December 1, 2023, the committee shall report, in
318 accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
319 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
320 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human
321 services and children, and the Office of Policy and Management,
322 regarding the following:

323 (1) Any statutory and budgetary changes needed concerning the
324 behavioral health system of prevention, development and treatment
325 that the committee recommends to (A) improve developmental and
326 behavioral health outcomes for children; (B) improve transparency and
327 accountability with respect to state-funded services for children and
328 youth with an emphasis on goals identified by the committee for
329 community-based programs and facility-based interventions; and (C)
330 promote the efficient sharing of information by state and state-funded
331 agencies to ensure the regular collection and reporting of data regarding
332 children and families' access to, utilization of and benefit from services
333 necessary to promote public health and behavioral health outcomes for

334 children and youth and their families;

335 (2) The gaps in services identified by the committee with respect to
336 children and families involved in the behavioral health system, and
337 recommendations to address such gaps in services;

338 (3) Strengths and barriers identified by the committee that support or
339 impede the behavioral health needs of children and youth with specific
340 recommendations for reforms;

341 (4) An examination of the way state agencies can work collaboratively
342 through school-based efforts and other processes to improve
343 developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children;

344 (5) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across
345 the behavioral health care system for children of color;

346 (6) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across
347 the behavioral health care system for children with developmental
348 disabilities;

349 (7) A plan to ensure a quality assurance framework for facilities and
350 programs that are part of the behavioral health care system and are
351 operated privately or by the state that includes data regarding efficacy
352 and outcomes; and

353 (8) A governance structure for the children's behavioral health system
354 that will best facilitate the public policy and healthcare goals of the state
355 to ensure that all children and families, in urban, rural and all other
356 areas of the state, can access high-quality behavioral health care.

357 (h) The committee may complete its duties under this section after
358 requesting consultation with one or more organizations that focus on
359 children's behavioral health. The committee may accept administrative
360 support and technical and research assistance from any organization.

361 (i) The committee shall be given access to data collected by the state
362 on matters related to children's behavioral health from the relevant state

363 agencies or directly from contracted administrative service
364 organizations, as applicable.

365 (j) The committee may include two or more subcommittees chaired
366 by a member of the committee to inform its recommendations. The
367 subcommittees may focus on: Workforce-related issues, school-based
368 health, prevention, and intermediate or acute care. Any subcommittees
369 may examine gaps, reimbursement rates, parity in the outcomes of
370 services or the efficacy of services.

371 (k) The committee shall, annually, establish a work plan for
372 reviewing and making follow-up reports on the status or progress of the
373 committee's recommendations and activities. The work plan shall
374 include specific recommendations to improve outcomes related to
375 children's behavioral health and a timeline indicating dates by which
376 specific tasks or outcomes should be achieved.

377 (l) (1) The committee shall develop a strategic plan that integrates the
378 recommendations identified pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.
379 In developing the plan, the committee may collaborate with any state
380 agency with responsibilities relating to the behavioral health system.

381 ~~[(m)]~~ (2) Not later than December 1, 2024, the committee shall report,
382 in accordance with section 11-4a, such plan, together with an account of
383 progress made toward the full implementation of such plan, and any
384 recommendations concerning the implementation of identified goals in
385 the plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
386 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets
387 of state agencies, public health, human services and children, and the
388 Office of Policy and Management.

389 (m) The committee shall collaborate with the gender responsiveness
390 subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
391 pursuant to subsection (u) of section 46b-121n, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	46b-121n(u)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	PA 23-188, Sec. 3
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	46a-170
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	2-137

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sections 1, 2 and 3, conforming and clarifying changes were made.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	up to \$1 million	up to \$2 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Judicial Department to initiate a re-entry success plan for juveniles under the custody of the Department of Correction (DOC) and the Judicial Department and requires that access to re-entry services be provided up to 24 months after a juvenile leaves custody.¹ This results in a potential cost of up to \$1 million in FY 25 and a potential cost of up to \$2 million annually thereafter.

It is expected that program costs may double in the second year, due to the possible length of time that a juvenile may receive services. The actual cost of re-entry programs depends on the number of juveniles in need of re-entry services, selection and development of re-entry services by the Judicial Department, and the length of time that re-entering juveniles continue to receive services. It is expected that the work for these programs will be done by private providers.

The bill also creates a gender responsiveness subcommittee. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or to municipalities as agencies have the expertise and resources to accomplish these

¹In FY 23, it is estimated that less than 110 juveniles left a Judicial Department residential facility and/or a DOC facility.

requirements.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of juveniles completing re-entry and the Judicial Department's choices in initiation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5508*****AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes in laws related to youth gender responsiveness, human trafficking data analysis, and the reentry success plan for juveniles being released from the Department of Correction (DOC) and the judicial branch's facilities and programs.

Specifically, regarding youth gender responsiveness and human trafficking data, the bill does the following:

1. requires the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) to establish a gender responsiveness subcommittee by January 1, 2025 (§ 1);
2. requires the subcommittee to work with the Trafficking in Persons Council to, among other things, develop a framework for reporting, collecting, and distributing human trafficking police data to generate annual reports and make legislative and policy recommendations (§ 1); and
3. requires the Trafficking in Persons Council and the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (see BACKGROUND) to collaborate with the JJPOC gender responsiveness subcommittee in carrying out its responsibilities (§§ 3 & 4).

Regarding the reentry success plan, the bill requires the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) executive director, the DOC commissioner, and the commissioners of the Children and

Families (DCF) and Education (SDE) departments to initiate the plan that current law requires them to develop (§ 2). It also requires the reentry plan to include youths being released from programs that are contracted with the judicial branch, not just programs under the branch's jurisdiction or DOC facilities as is required under current law. It also:

1. establishes requirements regarding job readiness and career training programs;
2. expands the principles that the plan must incorporate; and
3. delays a related reporting requirement by 11 months, until December 1, 2024 (§ 2).

Lastly, the bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — JJPOC'S GENDER RESPONSIVENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

The bill requires JJPOC to appoint members to a gender responsiveness subcommittee to carry out the responsibilities the bill charges it with and any other task the committee directs.

Subcommittee's Charge

Under the bill, by January 1, 2025, the subcommittee must work with the Trafficking in Persons Council to (1) complete a landscape analysis and gap assessment of gender responsive work in the state and (2) develop a framework for reporting, collecting, and distributing human trafficking police data to generate annual reports on the data.

The bill also charges the subcommittee with developing policy and legislative recommendations based on the human trafficking data for JJPOC's and the Trafficking in Persons Council's consideration.

Landscape Analysis and Gap Assessment

Under the bill, as part of the landscape analysis and gap assessment, the subcommittee must:

1. define “gender responsive” and “gender responsive practice”;
2. receive and consider input from youth, families, and communities directly impacted by any gaps in gender responsive work;
3. review national best practices, including approaches and types of services provided and system considerations;
4. review previous work and legislation concerning gender responsive work;
5. identify any gaps in gender responsive work resulting from system or programmatic changes;
6. review existing work and practices on gender responsiveness among agencies and community providers; and
7. review data, broken down by race, ethnicity, gender, age, location, and level of system involvement, including the type of offenses committed by youth and how the offenses are handled in the juvenile justice system.

Policy and Legislative Recommendations

The bill also requires the subcommittee to develop policy and legislative recommendations that are based on the human trafficking police data that it distributes and reports to JJPOC and the Trafficking in Persons Council for their consideration.

Under the bill, the recommendations must (1) address improvements to the range of care to youth who identify as girls and are impacted by the juvenile justice system; and (2) provide for culturally- and trauma-informed approaches, services, treatment, and permanency models for the youth.

The recommendations must include the following:

1. continuity of clinical support across a range of placement and

- treatment settings;
2. specialized treatment in foster care for the youth who have experienced sexual abuse or sex trafficking, including youth with intellectual and other developmental disabilities;
 3. specialized training for care providers and treatment providers;
 4. consistent and constant sources of support, including peer mentoring and therapy for the youth;
 5. programs and practices that are developed with the input of individuals who are survivors of sexual abuse or human trafficking;
 6. service and treatment setting options that specifically address the needs of children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities;
 7. successful treatment and support models from other states to inform service enhancement in Connecticut;
 8. supports for youth who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming;
 9. diversion options, such as the use of a juvenile review board or other diversion models; and
 10. a monitoring framework to ensure quality of the continuum of care provided.

Information Sharing

The bill requires the gender responsiveness subcommittee and the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (see below) to share information with JJPOC on gender responsive practices and policies for youth involved with the child welfare system.

§ 2 — REENTRY SUCCESS PLAN FOR YOUTHS RELEASED FROM DOC FACILITIES***Plan Development and Initiation***

Current law requires the CSSD executive director and the DCF, SDE, and DOC commissioners, or their designees, by November 1, 2023, to develop a reentry success plan for youth released from DOC and the judicial branch's facilities and programs. The bill requires the executive director and commissioners to also initiate the reentry plan and specifies that the judicial branch's programs also include those that are contracted with the branch. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the plan's purpose is to successfully reintegrate youth into their communities.

Restorative and Transformative Justice Principles

Under existing law, the reentry plan must incorporate at least seven specific restorative and transformative justice principles, including use of credible messengers as mentors or transition support providers. The bill specifies that the use of credible messengers must be for up to 24 months following the youth's release from DOC facilities and programs under the judicial branch's jurisdiction or contract.

Job Readiness and Career Training

Current law requires that the plan include a proposed quality assurance framework and information on federal and state funding sources. The bill further requires that the plan ensure that:

1. youth released from DOC facilities and judicial branch programs have started or, whenever possible, completed job readiness or career training programs with imbedded industry-recognized credentials, certifications, or licenses; and
2. DOC and the judicial branch programs collaborate with the youth and a transition support provider is given to support the youth in seeking and, whenever possible, finding employment before he or she is released from the facility or program, and sustaining employment after release.

Report to JJPOC

The bill also extends, by 11 months, the date by which the CSSD executive director and the commissioners, or their designees, must report the reentry plan to JJPOC, from January 1, 2024, to December 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Trafficking in Persons Council

By law, among other things, the Trafficking in Persons Council coordinates human trafficking data collection and consults with government and nongovernment organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and help victims, and prosecute traffickers (CGS § 46a-170).

Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

By law, the Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee is charged with (1) evaluating the availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health treatment services and options for children (birth to age 18) and (2) making recommendations to the legislature and executive branch agencies on the governance and administration of the mental health care system for children (CGS § 2-137).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 2 (03/26/2024)