

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5162

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN AGENCIES TO REPORT COSTS

Title: ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Vote Date: 2/29/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/22/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require the Departments of Children and Families, Social Services and Developmental Services to submit reports describing current costs associated with programs servicing children and families and the anticipated costs associated with utilizing different eligibility criteria for participation.

The S language gives greater detail on when the report from DSS and DDS should be submitted (1/1/25) and to what the report should feature.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

NOTE: TESTIMONY MAY NOT REFLECT CURRENT LANGUAGE OF THE BILL

[Connecticut Department of Social Services, Legislative Analyst, Matthew Festa](#), opposes this bill. The administrative work to assemble such a report would require a significant amount of time, requiring additional staffing within the agency to conduct this assessment. They point out that some DSS programs have federally mandated income limits that cannot be changed, and they have concerns about having sufficient time and resources to assemble the information and complete the report. DSS has been working to address some of the concerns that are contemplated by the proposal. Because the expansions and improvements have increased the services the DSS is able to provide and the significant complexity and corresponding cost in time and resources needed to conduct the work proposed in this bill they cannot give their support.

[Department of Children and Families, Commissioner-designate, Jodi Hill-Lilly](#), supports the intent of the bill but the way DCF funds service provision for children and families does not align with the reporting requirement for this bill as currently drafted. They point out that service is not predicated on that or any sliding fee scale. If a child needs the service, the service is provided. This language is geared toward other cost models not employed by DCF.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut's Children](#), supports this bill, they pointed out that the pandemic shined a light on many of the existing socio-economic challenges that families were facing before COVID-19. It is critical that legislators prioritize the programs and services that keep children healthy.

[Adoptive mom and professional, Ms. Abbe Steers](#), supports this bill as an adoptive mom. She believes that all involved should have an open and equal voice and representation to negotiate this life changing event.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Richard Ferrari

Date: 3/11/2024