

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5383

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SAFETY.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/5/2024

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes within the Department of Children and Families may increase the safety of children.

This would allow for the Department of Children and Families to provide more effective services in order to have better outcomes for children and their families. This would also allow the Department of Children and Families to see whether there are any abuses of power or discrimination by case workers.

S language establishes a working group to examine state agency practices and procedures for ensuring the care and protection of minors in Probate Court guardianship proceedings.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**NOTE: TESTIMONY MAY NOT REFLECT CURRENT LANGUAGE OF THE BILL**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Parent, Donald Livingston](#): states that DCF was notified of issues with their child, by the child's school, potentially having suicidal ideation which both DCF and the child's school later decided was incorrect. They state that DCF then claimed they declined services. When they were assigned a new case worker, after insisting on alcohol counseling for the mother, DCF filed a Petition of Neglect which they state is incorrect, irrelevant, and vague. They state that,

according to an anonymous source, 90% of Norwalk Case Workers have less than six months of experience and that DCF filed a Petition of Neglect because of an abuse of power and discrimination. They believe DCF must be held accountable.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Patrick Buckley**

**Date: 3/18/2024**