



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5454

LCO No. 2300



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
2 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Early Childhood,
3 Children and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall
4 create a strategic plan to maximize federal and state resources for mental
5 health services for children six years old and younger, their caregivers
6 and pregnant persons. The plan shall (1) augment an existing intensive,
7 evidence-based program offered at the homes of children five years old
8 and younger, and (2) to the extent permissible under federal law, utilize
9 funds from existing programs for such services, including, but not
10 limited to, the state medical assistance program, the temporary family
11 assistance program authorized under section 17b-112 of the general
12 statutes and federal grants administered by the Departments of Social
13 Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services.

14 (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social
15 Services shall file a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions

16 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing
17 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
18 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, children,
19 human services and public health. The report shall include existing
20 funding identified that could immediately support such mental health
21 services and recommendations for necessary appropriations to expand
22 such services for children up to the age of six, their caregivers and
23 pregnant persons.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To maximize federal resources for mental health services for young children, their caregivers and pregnant persons.

[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.]