



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5508

LCO No. 3076



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

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 sex 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 Committee, established pursuant to
58 section 2-137, as amended by this act, shall share information on gender
59 responsive practices and policies for youth involved with the child
60 welfare system with the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight
61 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 this
71 act, initiate and develop a reentry success plan for youth released from
72 the Department of Correction and facilities and programs under the
73 jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department.

74 (b) (1) Such plan shall be for the purpose of successfully reintegrating
75 youth into their communities. In the development of such plan, the
76 executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
77 Branch, or the executive director's designee, and the Commissioners of
78 Children and Families, Education and Correction, or their designees, in
79 consultation with the incarceration, community expertise and education
80 subcommittees of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee,

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

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

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

115 employment prior to release from such facility or program and sustaining
116 employment after such release.

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

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

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

129 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Chief
130 State's Attorney, or a designee; (2) the Chief Public Defender, or a
131 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
132 Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the Labor Commissioner,
133 or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services,
134 or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of Public Health,
135 or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of Mental Health
136 and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) the
137 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
138 designee; (9) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the
139 commissioner's designee; (10) the Commissioner of Developmental
140 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (11) the director of the Basic
141 Training Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council,
142 or the director's designee; (12) the Child Advocate, or the Child
143 Advocate's designee; (13) the Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's
144 designee; (14) a chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children,
145 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the chairperson's designee; (15) one
146 representative of the Office of Victim Services of the Judicial Branch
147 appointed by the Chief Court Administrator; (16) a municipal police

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

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

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

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

196 (f) (1) The council shall:

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

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

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

210 (D) Collaborate with the gender responsiveness subcommittee of the
211 Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee pursuant to subsection

212 (u) of section 46b-121n, as amended by this act; and

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

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

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

232 (h) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the council
233 shall submit a report of its activities, including any recommendations
234 for legislation, to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-
235 4a.

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

243 Sec. 4. Section 2-137 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is
244 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
245 *passage*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

274 section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

299 (16) One representative from each administrative services
300 organization under contract with the Department of Social Services to

301 provide such services for recipients of assistance under the HUSKY
302 Health program, who shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members.

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

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

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

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

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

324 (1) Any statutory and budgetary changes needed concerning the
325 behavioral health system of prevention, development and treatment
326 that the committee recommends to (A) improve developmental and
327 behavioral health outcomes for children; (B) improve transparency and
328 accountability with respect to state-funded services for children and
329 youth with an emphasis on goals identified by the committee for
330 community-based programs and facility-based interventions; and (C)
331 promote the efficient sharing of information by state and state-funded

332 agencies to ensure the regular collection and reporting of data regarding
333 children and families' access to, utilization of and benefit from services
334 necessary to promote public health and behavioral health outcomes for
335 children and youth and their families;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

362 (i) The committee shall be given access to data collected by the state
363 on matters related to children's behavioral health from the relevant state
364 agencies or directly from contracted administrative service
365 organizations, as applicable.

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

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

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

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

390 (m) The committee shall collaborate with the gender responsiveness
391 subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
392 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 Purpose:

To enact the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

[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.]