



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Substitute Bill No. 5508**



**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*