



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1311

LCO No. 4640



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "approval" or "approved" means that a
4 person has been approved to adopt or provide foster care by a child-
5 placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149, (2) "licensed"
6 means a person holds a license to provide foster care issued by the
7 Department of Children and Families, [and] (3) "fictive kin caregiver"
8 means a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and who is
9 unrelated to a child by birth, adoption or marriage but who has an
10 emotionally significant relationship with such child or such child's
11 family amounting to a familial relationship, and (4) "emergency
12 placement" means the placement of a child by the Department of
13 Children and Families in the home of a relative or fictive kin caregiver
14 as a result of the sudden unavailability of such child's primary caretaker.

15 (b) (1) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and

16 Families shall be placed in foster care with any person, unless (A) (i)
17 such person is licensed for [that] such purpose by the department or the
18 Department of Developmental Services pursuant to the provisions of
19 section 17a-227, (ii) such person's home is approved by a child-placing
20 agency licensed by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-149, or (iii)
21 such person has received approval as provided in this section, and (B)
22 on and after January 1, 2017, for a child twelve years of age or older,
23 such child has received a foster family profile in accordance with the
24 provisions of section 17a-114e. [Any person licensed by the department
25 may be a prospective adoptive parent.] For the purpose of this section,
26 any prospective adoptive parent shall be licensed by the department.
27 The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
28 provisions of chapter 54, to establish the licensing procedures and
29 standards.

30 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
31 the commissioner shall require each applicant for licensure or approval
32 pursuant to this section and any person eighteen years of age or older
33 living in the household of such applicant to submit to state and national
34 criminal history records checks prior to issuing a license or approval to
35 such applicant to accept placement of a child for purposes of foster care
36 or adoption. Such criminal history records checks shall be conducted in
37 accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall check the (i)
38 state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section
39 17a-101k for the name of such applicant and for the name of any person
40 eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such applicant,
41 and (ii) child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which such
42 applicant or person resided in the preceding five years for the name of
43 such applicant or person.

44 (B) If an applicant for licensure or approval or any person eighteen
45 years of age or older living in the household of such applicant has
46 submitted to the state and national criminal history records checks
47 described in subsection (c) of this section within the previous twelve-
48 month period, the commissioner shall not require such applicant or

49 person to submit to the state and national criminal history records
50 checks described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision in connection
51 with the issuance of a license or approval.

52 (3) The commissioner shall require each individual licensed or
53 approved pursuant to this section and any person eighteen years of age
54 or older living in the household of such individual to submit to state and
55 national criminal history records checks prior to renewing a license or
56 approval for any individual providing foster care or adopting. Such
57 criminal history records checks shall be conducted in accordance with
58 section 29-17a. Prior to such renewal, the commissioner shall check the
59 (A) state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section
60 17a-101k for the name of such applicant and for the name of any person
61 eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such applicant,
62 and (B) child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which such
63 applicant or person resided in the preceding five years for the name of
64 such applicant or person.

65 (4) The commissioner shall comply with any request to check the
66 child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-
67 101k made by the child welfare agency of another state.

68 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b) of this
69 section, the commissioner may [place] make an emergency placement of
70 a child with a relative or fictive kin caregiver who has not been issued a
71 license or approval, when such emergency placement is in the best
72 interests of the child, provided a satisfactory home visit is conducted
73 and a basic assessment of the family is completed. When the
74 commissioner makes such [a] an emergency placement, the
75 commissioner shall (A) request a criminal justice agency to perform a
76 federal name-based criminal history search of such relative or fictive kin
77 caregiver and each person eighteen years of age or older residing in the
78 home, and (B) check the state child abuse and neglect registry
79 established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such relative or
80 fictive kin caregiver and each person eighteen years of age or older

81 residing in the home. The results of such name-based search shall be
82 provided to the commissioner.

83 (2) Not later than ten calendar days after a name-based search is
84 performed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
85 commissioner shall request the State Police Bureau of Identification to
86 perform a state and national criminal history records checks of such
87 relative or fictive kin caregiver and each person eighteen years of age or
88 older residing in the home, in accordance with section 29-17a. Such
89 criminal history records checks shall be deemed as required by this
90 section for the purposes of section 29-17a and the commissioner may
91 request that such criminal history records checks be performed in
92 accordance with subsection (c) of said section. The results of such
93 criminal history records checks shall be provided to the commissioner.
94 If any person refuses to provide fingerprints or other positive
95 identifying information for the purposes of such criminal history
96 records checks when requested, the commissioner shall immediately
97 remove the child from the home.

98 (3) If the commissioner denies [a] an emergency placement with a
99 relative or fictive kin caregiver or removes a child from such home based
100 on the results of a federal name-based criminal history search performed
101 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the person whose name-
102 based search was the basis for such denial or removal may contest such
103 denial or removal by requesting that state and national criminal history
104 records checks be performed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
105 subsection.

106 (4) Any such relative or fictive kin caregiver who accepts placement
107 of a child shall be subject to licensure by the commissioner, pursuant to
108 regulations adopted by the commissioner in accordance with the
109 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section or
110 approval by a child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149.
111 The commissioner may grant a waiver from such regulations, including
112 any standard regarding separate bedrooms or room-sharing

113 arrangements, for a child placed with a relative or fictive kin caregiver,
114 on a case-by-case basis, if such placement is otherwise in the best
115 interests of such child, provided no procedure or standard that is safety-
116 related may be so waived. The commissioner shall document, in writing,
117 the reason for granting any waiver from such regulations.

118 (d) Any individual who has been licensed or approved to adopt or
119 provide foster care and any relative or fictive kin caregiver with whom
120 a child has been placed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall
121 apply a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in
122 subsection (a) of section 17a-114d, on behalf of the child.

123 Sec. 2. Subdivision (6) of subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the
124 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
125 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

126 (6) (A) A youth who is committed to the commissioner pursuant to
127 this subsection and has reached eighteen years of age may remain in the
128 care of the commissioner, by consent of the youth and provided the
129 youth has not reached the age of twenty-one years of age, if the youth is
130 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) enrolled in a full-time approved secondary education program
131 or an approved program leading to an equivalent credential; ~~[(B)]~~ (ii)
132 enrolled full time in an institution which provides postsecondary or
133 vocational education; or ~~[(C)]~~ (iii) participating full time in a program or
134 activity approved by said commissioner that is designed to promote or
135 remove barriers to employment. The commissioner, in the
136 commissioner's discretion, may waive the provision of full-time
137 enrollment or participation based on compelling circumstances. Not
138 more than one hundred twenty days after the youth's eighteenth
139 birthday, the department shall file a motion in the superior court for
140 juvenile matters that had jurisdiction over the youth's case prior to the
141 youth's eighteenth birthday for a determination as to whether
142 continuation in care is in the youth's best interest and, if so, whether
143 there is an appropriate permanency plan. The court, in its discretion,
144 may hold a hearing on said motion.

145 (B) Any youth who was committed to the commissioner pursuant to
146 this subsection and, having declined to consent to remain in the care of
147 the commissioner, left such care once such youth turned eighteen years
148 of age, may request, in a form and manner prescribed by the
149 commissioner, not later than one hundred twenty days prior to the date
150 such youth turns twenty-one years of age, to reenter into the care of the
151 commissioner. Upon receipt of such request, the commissioner shall
152 determine whether such youth meets the requirements described in
153 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. If the commissioner determines
154 that such youth meets such requirements, the department may request
155 that such youth enter into a written agreement governing the terms of
156 his or her voluntary reentry into the care of the commissioner and
157 permit such youth to reenter care. Not more than one hundred twenty
158 days after the execution of such agreement, the commissioner shall file
159 a motion in the superior court for juvenile matters that had jurisdiction
160 over the youth's case prior to the youths eighteenth birthday for a
161 determination as to whether reentry into care is in the youth's best
162 interest and, if so, whether there is an appropriate permanency plan.
163 The court, in its discretion, may hold a hearing on said motion.

164 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is
165 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
166 *2025*):

167 (g) The department shall disclose records, subject to subsections (b)
168 and (c) of this section, without the consent of the person who is the
169 subject of the record, to:

170 (1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized
171 representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information
172 (A) contained in the record about such person or about such person's
173 biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's parental rights to
174 such child have not been terminated; and (B) identifying an individual
175 who reported abuse or neglect of the person, including any tape
176 recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-103, if a court

177 determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the reporter
178 knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice require
179 disclosure;

180 (2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably
181 related to the performance of such employee's duties;

182 (3) A guardian ad litem or attorney appointed to represent a child or
183 youth in litigation affecting the best interests of the child or youth;

184 (4) An attorney representing a parent, guardian or child in a petition
185 filed in the Superior Court pursuant to section 17a-112 or 46b-129, as
186 amended by this act, provided (A) if such records do not pertain to such
187 attorney's client or such client's child, such records shall not be further
188 disclosed to another individual or entity by such attorney except
189 pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, (B) if such
190 records are confidential pursuant to federal law, such records shall not
191 be disclosed to such attorney or such attorney's client unless such
192 attorney or such attorney's client is otherwise entitled to such records,
193 and (C) nothing in this subdivision shall limit the disclosure of records
194 under subdivision (3) of this subsection;

195 (5) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any other
196 legal counsel retained to represent the department during the course of
197 a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee of the
198 department;

199 (6) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

200 (7) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee
201 for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the attorneys
202 with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide legal and
203 guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and for
204 ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such attorneys;

205 (8) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's designee

206 for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation related to
207 child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false
208 report of suspected child abuse or neglect, (C) an allegation that a
209 mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in
210 accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such prosecuting authority
211 shall have access to records of a child charged with the commission of a
212 delinquent act, who is not being charged with an offense related to child
213 abuse, only while the case is being prosecuted and after obtaining a
214 release, or (D) an allegation of fraud in the receipt of public or private
215 benefits, provided no information identifying the subject of the record
216 is disclosed unless such information is essential to such investigation or
217 prosecution;

218 (9) A state or federal law enforcement officer, including a military law
219 enforcement authority under the United States Department of Defense,
220 for purposes of investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or
221 neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false report of
222 suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated
223 reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance
224 with section 17a-101a;

225 (10) A foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records pertain to
226 a child or youth currently placed with the foster or prospective adoptive
227 parent, or a child or youth being considered for placement with the
228 foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the records are necessary to
229 address the social, medical, psychological or educational needs of the
230 child or youth, provided no information identifying a biological parent
231 is disclosed without the permission of such biological parent;

232 (11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the
233 Governor's official functions, the joint standing committee of the
234 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
235 services, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
236 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing
237 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

238 relating to children, when requested in writing by any of such
239 committees in the course of such committee's official functions, and
240 upon a majority vote of such committee, provided no name or other
241 identifying information is disclosed unless such information is essential
242 to the gubernatorial or legislative purpose;

243 (12) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A) determining
244 the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed
245 pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80, 19a-87b or 19a-421; (B) determining
246 the suitability of such person for licensure; (C) determining the
247 suitability of a person to provide child care services to a child and
248 receive a child care subsidy pursuant to section 17b-749k; (D) an
249 investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (E) notifying the
250 office when the Department of Children and Families places an
251 individual licensed or certified by the office on the child abuse and
252 neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (F) notifying the office
253 when the Department of Children and Families possesses information
254 regarding an office regulatory violation committed by an individual
255 licensed or certified by the office;

256 (13) The Department of Developmental Services, (A) to allow said
257 department to determine eligibility, facilitate enrollment and plan for
258 the provision of services to a child who is a client of said department
259 and who is applying to enroll in or is enrolled in said department's
260 behavioral services program. At the time that a parent or guardian
261 completes an application for enrollment of a child in the Department of
262 Developmental Services' behavioral services program, or at the time that
263 said department updates a child's annual individualized plan of care,
264 said department shall notify such parent or guardian that the
265 Department of Children and Families may provide records to the
266 Department of Developmental Services for the purposes specified in this
267 subdivision without the consent of such parent or guardian; or (B) for
268 purposes of an investigation pursuant to section 46a-11c;

269 (14) Any individual or entity for the purposes of identifying resources

270 that will promote the permanency plan of a child or youth approved by
271 the court pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-111b and 46b-129, as amended
272 by this act;

273 (15) A state agency that licenses or certifies a person to educate, care
274 for or provide services to children or youths;

275 (16) A judge or employee of a Probate Court who requires access to
276 such records in order to perform such judge's or employee's official
277 duties;

278 (17) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of determining the
279 appropriate disposition of a child adjudicated as delinquent;

280 (18) A judge of the Superior Court in a criminal prosecution for
281 purposes of in camera inspection whenever (A) the court has ordered
282 that the record be provided to the court; or (B) a party to the proceeding
283 has issued a subpoena for the record;

284 (19) A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a
285 family violence proceeding when such records concern family violence
286 with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding or the
287 parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding;

288 (20) The Auditors of Public Accounts, or their representative,
289 provided no information identifying the subject of the record is
290 disclosed unless such information is essential to an audit conducted
291 pursuant to section 2-90;

292 (21) A local or regional board of education, provided the records are
293 limited to educational records created or obtained by the state or
294 Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section
295 17a-37;

296 (22) The superintendent of schools for any school district for the
297 purpose of determining the suitability of a person to be employed by
298 the local or regional board of education for such school district pursuant

299 to subsection (a) of section 10-221d;

300 (23) The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of criminal
301 history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44,
302 provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall be
303 limited to information included on the Department of Children and
304 Families child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section
305 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k
306 concerning the nondisclosure of findings of responsibility for abuse and
307 neglect;

308 (24) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the
309 purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have transitioned
310 from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

311 (25) The superintendent of a public school district or the executive
312 director or other head of a public or private institution for children
313 providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to sections
314 17a-11, 17a-101b, 17a-101c, 17a-101i, 17a-111b and 46b-129, as amended
315 by this act, or (B) when the Department of Children and Families places
316 an individual employed by such institution or school on the child abuse
317 and neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k;

318 (26) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A)
319 determining the suitability of a person for payment from the
320 Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting
321 the health, safety and welfare of a child or youth receiving services from
322 either department; or (C) investigating allegations of fraud provided no
323 information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such
324 information is essential to any such investigation;

325 (27) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, to
326 allow the division to determine the supervision and treatment needs of
327 a child or youth, and provide appropriate supervision and treatment
328 services to such child or youth, provided such disclosure shall be limited
329 to information that identifies the child or youth, or a member of such

330 child's or youth's immediate family, as being or having been (A)
331 committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families
332 as delinquent, (B) under the supervision of the Commissioner of
333 Children and Families, or (C) enrolled in the voluntary services program
334 operated by the Department of Children and Families;

335 (28) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch for
336 the purpose of sharing common case records to track recidivism of
337 juvenile offenders;

338 (29) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the purpose
339 of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for, and (C)
340 providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect
341 with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns impacted by
342 withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure;

343 (30) The Department of Public Health for (A) the purpose of
344 notification when the Commissioner of Children and Families places an
345 individual licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health on
346 the child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-
347 101k, and (B) purposes relating to the licensure of the Albert J. Solnit
348 Children's Center and the administration of licensing requirements
349 established pursuant to or set forth in sections 19a-134 and 19a-498;

350 (31) The Department of Correction, for the purpose of determining
351 the supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth, and providing
352 appropriate supervision and treatment services to such child or youth;

353 (32) Any child placing agency subject to licensure by the Department
354 of Children and Families, for the purpose of determining the suitability
355 of a person (A) for employment by such agency, or (B) to adopt or
356 provide foster care pursuant to sections 17a-114, as amended by this act,
357 and 17a-151;

358 (33) The Department of Administrative Services, for the purpose of
359 determining whether an applicant for employment with the state, who

360 would have contact with children in the course of such employment,
361 appears on the child abuse or neglect registry maintained pursuant to
362 section 17a-101k; [and]

363 (34) Any individual, upon the request of such individual, when the
364 information concerns an incident of abuse or neglect that resulted in the
365 fatality or near fatality of a child or youth, provided (A) such disclosure
366 shall be limited to (i) the cause and circumstances of such fatality or near
367 fatality, (ii) the age and gender of such child or youth, (iii) a description
368 of any previous reports of or investigations into child abuse or neglect
369 that are relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led to such fatality or
370 near fatality, (iv) the findings of any such investigations, and (v) a
371 description of any services provided and actions taken by the state on
372 behalf of such child or youth that are relevant to the child abuse or
373 neglect that led to such fatality or near fatality, and (B) the department
374 shall not make any disclosure that is prohibited by the provisions of any
375 relevant federal law, including, but not limited to, Titles IV-B and IV-E
376 of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time. The
377 department may withhold the disclosure of any records described in
378 this subdivision if the commissioner determines that such disclosure
379 may (i) result in harm to the safety or well-being of the child or youth
380 who is the subject of such records, the family of such child or youth, or
381 any individual who made a report of abuse or neglect pertaining to such
382 child or youth, or (ii) interfere with a pending criminal investigation;
383 and

384 (35) The Office of Policy and Management, for purposes of labor
385 relations investigations conducted on behalf of the Department of
386 Children and Families.

387 Sec. 4. Section 17a-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the
388 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

389 As used in sections 17a-90 to 17a-121a, inclusive, section 17a-132 and
390 sections 17a-145 to 17a-153, inclusive:

391 (1) "Child" means any person under eighteen years of age, except as
392 otherwise specified, or any person under twenty-one years of age who
393 is in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a
394 college or a state-accredited job training program;

395 (2) "Parent" means natural or adoptive parent;

396 (3) "Adoption" means the establishment by court order of the legal
397 relationship of parent and child;

398 (4) "Guardianship" means guardianship, unless otherwise specified,
399 of the person of a minor and refers to the obligation of care and control,
400 the right to custody and the duty and authority to make major decisions
401 affecting such minor's welfare, including, but not limited to, consent
402 determinations regarding marriage, enlistment in the armed forces and
403 major medical, psychiatric or surgical treatment;

404 (5) "Termination of parental rights" means the complete severance by
405 court order of the legal relationship, with all its rights and
406 responsibilities, between the child and the child's parent or parents so
407 that the child is free for adoption except it shall not affect the right of
408 inheritance of such child or the religious affiliation of such child;

409 (6) "Statutory parent" means the Commissioner of Children and
410 Families or that child-placing agency appointed by the court for the
411 purpose of giving a minor child or minor children in adoption;

412 (7) "Child-placing agency" means any agency within or without the
413 state of Connecticut licensed or approved by the Commissioner of
414 Children and Families in accordance with sections 17a-149 and 17a-151,
415 and in accordance with such standards which shall be established by
416 regulations of the Department of Children and Families;

417 (8) "Child care facility" means a congregate residential setting
418 licensed by the Department of Children and Families for the out-of-
419 home placement of (A) children or youths under eighteen years of age,

420 [or] (B) any person under twenty-one years of age who is in full-time
421 attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a college or state
422 accredited job training program or is currently homeless or at risk of
423 homelessness, as defined in section 17a-484a, or (C) any person who
424 requires special education, until the end of the school year during which
425 such person reaches age twenty-two, in accordance with the provisions
426 of section 10-253;

427 (9) "Protective supervision" means a status created by court order
428 following adjudication of neglect whereby a child's place of abode is not
429 changed but assistance directed at correcting the neglect is provided at
430 the request of the court through the Department of Children and
431 Families or such other social agency as the court may specify;

432 (10) "Receiving home" means a facility operated by the Department
433 of Children and Families to receive and temporarily care for children in
434 the guardianship or care of the commissioner;

435 (11) "Protective services" means public welfare services provided
436 after complaints of abuse, neglect or abandonment, but in the absence
437 of an adjudication or assumption of jurisdiction by a court;

438 (12) "Person responsible for the health, welfare or care of a child or
439 youth" means a child's or a youth's parent, guardian or foster parent; an
440 employee of a public or private residential home, agency or institution
441 or other person legally responsible in a residential setting; or any staff
442 person providing out-of-home care, such as the provision of child care
443 services, as described in section 19a-77, in a child care center, group
444 child care home or family child care home;

445 (13) "Foster family" means a person or persons, licensed by the
446 Department of Children and Families or approved by a licensed child-
447 placing agency, for the care of a child or children in a private home;

448 (14) "Prospective adoptive family" means a person or persons,
449 licensed by the Department of Children and Families or approved by a

450 licensed child-placing agency, who is awaiting the placement of, or who
451 has a child or children placed in their home for the purposes of
452 adoption;

453 (15) "Person entrusted with the care of a child or youth" means a
454 person given access to a child or youth by a person responsible for the
455 health, welfare or care of a child or youth for the purpose of providing
456 education, child care, counseling, spiritual guidance, coaching, training,
457 instruction, tutoring or mentoring of such child or youth;

458 (16) "Qualified residential treatment program" has the same meaning
459 as provided in the Social Security Act, 42 USC 672(k)(4), as amended
460 from time to time; and

461 (17) "Qualified individual" has the same meaning as provided in the
462 Social Security Act, 42 USC 675a(c)(1), as amended from time to time.

463 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this section,
464 "caregiver" has the same meaning as provided in section 17a-114d of the
465 general statutes.

466 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Children and
467 Families shall, in consultation with caregivers, develop a foster parent
468 bill of rights and incorporate such bill of rights into department policy.
469 Such bill of rights shall be consistent with applicable federal and state
470 laws and include, but not be limited to, (1) a statement of the principles
471 and values that form the basis for such bill of rights, and (2) the rights
472 and obligations of caregivers, children in foster care and the Department
473 of Children and Families.

474 Sec. 6. Section 17a-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the
475 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective upon enactment of the*
476 *revised Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children by thirty-five*
477 *jurisdictions*):

478 [The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children is hereby

479 enacted into law and entered into with all other jurisdictions legally
480 joining therein in form substantially as follows:

481 INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

482 ARTICLE I. Purpose and Policy

483 It is the purpose and policy of the party states to cooperate with each
484 other in the interstate placement of children to the end that:

485 (a) Each child requiring placement shall receive the maximum
486 opportunity to be placed in a suitable environment and with persons or
487 institutions having appropriate qualifications and facilities to provide a
488 necessary and desirable degree and type of care.

489 (b) The appropriate authorities in a state where a child is to be placed
490 may have full opportunity to ascertain the circumstances of the
491 proposed placement, thereby promoting full compliance with
492 applicable requirements for the protection of the child.

493 (c) The proper authorities of the state from which the placement is
494 made may obtain the most complete information on the basis of which
495 to evaluate a projected placement before it is made.

496 (d) Appropriate jurisdictional arrangements for the care of children
497 will be promoted.

498 ARTICLE II. Definitions

499 As used in this compact:

500 (a) "Child" means a person who, by reason of minority, is legally
501 subject to parental, guardianship or similar control.

502 (b) "Sending agency" means a party state, officer or employee thereof;
503 a subdivision of a party state, or officer or employee thereof; a court of
504 a party state; a person, corporation, association, charitable agency or
505 other entity which sends, brings, or causes to be sent or brought any

506 child to another party state.

507 (c) "Receiving state" means the state to which a child is sent, brought,
508 or caused to be sent or brought, whether by public authorities or private
509 persons or agencies, and whether for placement with state or local
510 public authorities or for placement with private agencies or persons.

511 (d) "Placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in a
512 family free or boarding home or in a child-caring agency or institution
513 but does not include any institution caring for the mentally ill, mentally
514 defective or epileptic or any institution primarily educational in
515 character, and any hospital or other medical facility.

516 ARTICLE III. Conditions for Placement

517 (a) No sending state shall send, bring, or cause to be sent or brought
518 into any other party state any child for placement in foster care or as a
519 preliminary to a possible adoption unless the sending agency shall
520 comply with each and every requirement set forth in this article and
521 with the applicable laws of the receiving state governing the placement
522 of children therein.

523 (b) Prior to sending, bringing or causing any child to be sent or
524 brought into a receiving state for placement in foster care or as a
525 preliminary to a possible adoption, the sending agency shall furnish the
526 appropriate public authorities in the receiving state written notice of the
527 intention to send, bring, or place the child in the receiving state. The
528 notice shall contain:

529 (1) The name, date and place of birth of the child.

530 (2) The identity and address or addresses of the parents or legal
531 guardian.

532 (3) The name and address of the person, agency or institution to or
533 with which the sending agency proposes to send, bring, or place the
534 child.

535 (4) A full statement of the reasons for such proposed action and
536 evidence of the authority pursuant to which the placement is proposed
537 to be made.

538 (c) Any public officer or agency in a receiving state which is in receipt
539 of a notice pursuant to paragraph (b) of this article may request of the
540 sending agency, or any other appropriate officer or agency of or in the
541 sending agency's state, and shall be entitled to receive therefrom, such
542 supporting or additional information as it may deem necessary under
543 the circumstances to carry out the purpose and policy of this compact.

544 (d) The child shall not be sent, brought, or caused to be sent or
545 brought into the receiving state until the appropriate public authorities
546 in the receiving state shall notify the sending agency, in writing, to the
547 effect that the proposed placement does not appear to be contrary to the
548 interests of the child.

549 ARTICLE IV. Penalty for Illegal Placement

550 The sending, bringing, or causing to be sent or brought into any
551 receiving state of a child in violation of the terms of this compact shall
552 constitute a violation of the laws respecting the placement of children of
553 both the state in which the sending agency is located or from which it
554 sends or brings the child and of the receiving state. Such violation may
555 be punished or subjected to penalty in either jurisdiction in accordance
556 with its laws. In addition to liability for any such punishment or penalty,
557 any such violation shall constitute full and sufficient grounds for the
558 suspension or revocation of any license, permit, or other legal
559 authorization held by the sending agency which empowers or allows it
560 to place, or care for children.

561 ARTICLE V. Retention of Jurisdiction

562 (a) The sending agency shall retain jurisdiction over the child
563 sufficient to determine all matters in relation to the custody,
564 supervision, care, treatment and disposition of the child which it would

565 have had if the child had remained in the sending agency's state, until
566 the child is adopted, reaches majority, becomes self-supporting or is
567 discharged with the concurrence of the appropriate authority in the
568 receiving state. Such jurisdiction shall also include the power to effect
569 or cause the return of the child or its transfer to another location and
570 custody pursuant to law. The sending agency shall continue to have
571 financial responsibility for support and maintenance of the child during
572 the period of the placement. Nothing contained herein shall defeat a
573 claim of jurisdiction by a receiving state sufficient to deal with an act of
574 delinquency or crime committed therein.

575 (b) When the sending agency is a public agency, it may enter into an
576 agreement with an authorized public or private agency in the receiving
577 state providing for the performance of one or more services in respect
578 of such case by the latter as agent for the sending agency.

579 (c) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prevent a private
580 charitable agency authorized to place children in the receiving state
581 from performing services or acting as agent in that state for a private
582 charitable agency of the sending state; nor to prevent the agency in the
583 receiving state from discharging financial responsibility for the support
584 and maintenance of a child who has been placed on behalf of the
585 sending agency without relieving the responsibility set forth in
586 paragraph (a) hereof.

587 ARTICLE VI. Institutional Care of Delinquent Children

588 A child adjudicated delinquent may be placed in an institution in
589 another party jurisdiction pursuant to this compact but no such
590 placement shall be made unless the child is given a court hearing on
591 notice to the parent or guardian with opportunity to be heard, prior to
592 his being sent to such other party jurisdiction for institutional care and
593 the court finds that:

594 1. Equivalent facilities for the child are not available in the sending
595 agency's jurisdiction; and

596 2. Institutional care in the other jurisdiction is in the best interest of
597 the child and will not produce undue hardship.

598 ARTICLE VII. Compact Administrator

599 The executive head of each jurisdiction party to this compact shall
600 designate an officer who shall be general coordinator of activities under
601 this compact in his jurisdiction and who, acting jointly with like officers
602 of other party jurisdictions, shall have power to promulgate rules and
603 regulations to carry out more effectively the terms and provisions of this
604 compact.

605 ARTICLE VIII. Limitations

606 This compact shall not apply to:

607 (a) The sending or bringing of a child into a receiving state by his
608 parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or
609 aunt, or his guardian and leaving the child with any such relative or
610 nonagency guardian in the receiving state.

611 (b) Any placement, sending or bringing of a child into a receiving
612 state pursuant to any other interstate compact to which both the state
613 from which the child is sent or brought and the receiving state are party,
614 or to any other agreement between said states which has the force of
615 law.

616 ARTICLE IX. Enactment and Withdrawal

617 This compact shall be open to joinder by any state, territory or
618 possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the
619 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and, with the consent of Congress, the
620 Government of Canada or any province thereof. It shall become effective
621 with respect to any such jurisdiction when such jurisdiction has enacted
622 the same into law. Withdrawal from this compact shall be by the
623 enactment of a statute repealing the same, but shall not take effect until
624 two years after the effective date of such statute and until written notice

625 of the withdrawal has been given by the withdrawing state to the
626 governor of each other party jurisdiction. Withdrawal of a party state
627 shall not affect the rights, duties and obligations under this compact of
628 any sending agency therein with respect to a placement made prior to
629 the effective date of withdrawal.

630 ARTICLE X. Construction and Severability

631 The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to
632 effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be
633 severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this
634 compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state
635 or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government,
636 agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the
637 remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any
638 government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected
639 thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any
640 state party thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to
641 the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected
642 as to all severable matters.]

643 Compact. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children is
644 hereby enacted into law and entered into with all other jurisdictions
645 legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

646 INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

647 ARTICLE I. Purpose

648 The purpose of this Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children
649 is to:

650 (1) Provide a process through which children subject to this compact
651 are placed in safe and suitable homes in a timely manner;

652 (2) Facilitate ongoing supervision of a placement, the delivery of
653 services, and communication between the states;

654 (3) Provide operating procedures that will ensure that children are
655 placed in safe and suitable homes in a timely manner;

656 (4) Provide for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative
657 rules implementing the provisions of this compact and regulating the
658 covered activities of the member states;

659 (5) Provide for uniform data collection and information sharing
660 between member states under this compact;

661 (6) Promote coordination between this compact, the Interstate
662 Compact for Juveniles, the Interstate Compact on Adoption and
663 Medical Assistance and other compacts affecting the placement of and
664 that provide services to children otherwise subject to this compact;

665 (7) Provide for a state's continuing legal jurisdiction and
666 responsibility for placement and care of a child that it would have had
667 if the placement were intrastate; and

668 (8) Provide for the promulgation of guidelines, in collaboration with
669 Indian tribes, for interstate cases involving Indian children as is or may
670 be permitted by federal law.

671 ARTICLE II. Definitions

672 As used in this compact:

673 (1) "Approved placement" means the public child placing agency in
674 the receiving state has determined that the placement is both safe and
675 suitable for the child;

676 (2) "Assessment" means an evaluation of a prospective placement by
677 a public child placing agency in the receiving state to determine if the
678 placement meets the individualized needs of the child, including, but
679 not limited to, the child's safety and stability, health and well-being and
680 mental, emotional, and physical development. An assessment is only
681 applicable to a placement by a public child placing agency;

682 (3) "Child" means an individual who has not attained the age of
683 eighteen;

684 (4) "Certification" means to attest, declare or swear to before a judge
685 or notary public;

686 (5) "Default" means the failure of a member state to perform the
687 obligations or responsibilities imposed upon it by this compact, the
688 bylaws or rules of the Interstate Commission;

689 (6) "Home study" means an evaluation of a home environment
690 conducted in accordance with the applicable requirements of the state
691 in which the home is located, and documents the preparation and the
692 suitability of the placement resource for placement of a child in
693 accordance with the laws and requirements of the state in which the
694 home is located;

695 (7) "Indian tribe" means any Indian tribe, band, nation or other
696 organized group or community of Indians recognized as eligible for
697 services provided to Indians by the Secretary of the Interior because of
698 their status as Indians, including any native village, as defined in the
699 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 USC 1602 (c);

700 (8) "Interstate Commission for the Placement of Children" means the
701 commission that is created under Article VIII of this compact and which
702 is generally referred to as the Interstate Commission;

703 (9) "Jurisdiction" means the power and authority of a court to hear
704 and decide matters;

705 (10) "Legal risk placement" or "legal risk adoption" means a
706 placement made preliminary to an adoption where the prospective
707 adoptive parents acknowledge in writing that a child may be ordered
708 returned to the sending state or the birth mother's state of residence, if
709 different from the sending state, and a final decree of adoption shall not
710 be entered in any jurisdiction until all required consents are obtained or

711 are dispensed with in accordance with applicable law;

712 (11) "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact;

713 (12) "Noncustodial parent" means a person who, at the time of the
714 commencement of court proceedings in the sending state, does not have
715 sole legal custody of the child or has joint legal custody of a child, and
716 who is not the subject of allegations or findings of child abuse or neglect;

717 (13) "Nonmember state" means a state that has not enacted this
718 compact;

719 (14) "Notice of residential placement" means (A) information
720 regarding a placement into a residential facility provided to the
721 receiving state, including, but not limited to, the name, date and place
722 of birth of the child, the identity and address of the parent or legal
723 guardian, evidence of authority to make the placement, and the name
724 and address of the facility in which the child will be placed, and (B)
725 information regarding a discharge and any unauthorized absence from
726 the facility;

727 (15) "Placement" means the act by a public or private child placing
728 agency intended to arrange for the care or custody of a child in another
729 state;

730 (16) "Private child placing agency" means any private corporation,
731 agency, foundation, institution or charitable organization, or any
732 private person or attorney that facilitates, causes or is involved in the
733 placement of a child from one state to another and that is not an
734 instrumentality of the state or acting under color of state law;

735 (17) "Provisional placement" means a determination made by the
736 public child placing agency in the receiving state that the proposed
737 placement is safe and suitable, and, to the extent allowable, the receiving
738 state has temporarily waived its standards or requirements otherwise
739 applicable to prospective foster or adoptive parents so as to not delay

740 the placement. Completion of the receiving state requirements
741 regarding training for prospective foster or adoptive parents shall not
742 delay an otherwise safe and suitable placement;

743 (18) "Public child placing agency" means any government child
744 welfare agency or child protection agency or a private entity under
745 contract with such an agency, regardless of whether such agency acts on
746 behalf of a state, county, municipality or other governmental unit and
747 that facilitates, causes or is involved in the placement of a child from one
748 state to another;

749 (19) "Receiving state" means the state to which a child is sent, brought
750 or caused to be sent or brought;

751 (20) "Relative" means a person who is related to the child as a parent,
752 step parent, sibling by half or whole blood or by adoption, grandparent,
753 aunt, uncle or first cousin or a nonrelative with such significant ties to
754 the child that such person may be regarded as relatives as determined
755 by the court in the sending state;

756 (21) "Residential facility" means a facility providing a level of care
757 that is sufficient to substitute for parental responsibility or foster care,
758 and is beyond what is needed for assessment or treatment of an acute
759 condition. "Residential facility" does not include institutions primarily
760 educational in character, hospitals or other medical facilities;

761 (22) "Rule" means a written directive, mandate, standard or principle
762 issued by the Interstate Commission promulgated pursuant to Article
763 XI of this compact that is of general applicability and that implements,
764 interprets or prescribes a policy or provision of this compact. "Rule" has
765 the force and effect of an administrative rule in a member state, and
766 includes the amendment, repeal or suspension of an existing rule;

767 (23) "Sending state" means the state from which the placement of a
768 child is initiated;

769 (24) "Service member's permanent duty station" means the military
770 installation where an active duty armed services member is currently
771 assigned and is physically located under competent orders that do not
772 specify the duty as temporary;

773 (25) "Service member's state of legal residence" means the state in
774 which the active duty armed services member is considered a resident
775 for tax and voting purposes;

776 (26) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
777 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands,
778 Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and any other
779 territory of the United States;

780 (27) "State court" means a judicial body of a state that is vested by law
781 with responsibility for adjudicating cases involving abuse, neglect,
782 deprivation, delinquency or status offenses of individuals who have not
783 attained the age of eighteen; and

784 (28) "Supervision" means monitoring provided by the receiving state
785 once a child has been placed in a receiving state pursuant to this
786 compact.

787 ARTICLE III. Applicability

788 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this article, this
789 compact shall apply to:

790 (1) The interstate placement of a child subject to ongoing court
791 jurisdiction in the sending state, due to allegations or findings that the
792 child has been abused, neglected or deprived as defined by the laws of
793 the sending state, provided that the placement of such a child into a
794 residential facility shall only require notice of residential placement to
795 the receiving state prior to placement.

796 (2) The interstate placement of a child adjudicated delinquent or
797 unmanageable based on the laws of the sending state and subject to

798 ongoing court jurisdiction of the sending state if:

799 (A) The child is being placed in a residential facility in another
800 member state and is not covered under another compact; or

801 (B) The child is being placed in another member state and the
802 determination of safety and suitability of the placement and services
803 required is not provided through another compact.

804 (3) The interstate placement of any child by a public child placing
805 agency or private child placing agency as a preliminary step to a
806 possible adoption.

807 (b) The provisions of this compact shall not apply to:

808 (1) The interstate placement of a child in a custody proceeding in
809 which a public child placing agency is not a party, provided that the
810 placement is not intended to effectuate an adoption;

811 (2) The interstate placement of a child with a nonrelative in a
812 receiving state by a parent with the legal authority to make such a
813 placement, provided the placement is not intended to effectuate an
814 adoption;

815 (3) The interstate placement of a child by one relative with the lawful
816 authority to make such a placement directly with a relative in a
817 receiving state;

818 (4) The placement of a child not subject to subsection (a) of this article
819 into a residential facility by his parent;

820 (5) The placement of a child with a noncustodial parent, provided:

821 (A) The noncustodial parent proves to the satisfaction of a court in
822 the sending state the existence of a substantial relationship with the
823 child;

824 (B) The court in the sending state makes a written finding that

825 placement with the noncustodial parent is in the best interests of the
826 child; and

827 (C) The court in the sending state dismisses its jurisdiction in
828 interstate placements in which the public child placing agency is a party
829 to the proceeding;

830 (6) A child entering the United States from a foreign country for the
831 purpose of adoption or leaving the United States to go to a foreign
832 country for the purpose of adoption in that country;

833 (7) Cases in which a United States citizen child living overseas with
834 his or her family, at least one of whom is in the United States armed
835 services, and who is stationed overseas, is removed and placed in a state;
836 or

837 (8) The sending of a child by a public child placing agency or a private
838 child placing agency for a visit as defined by the rules of the Interstate
839 Commission.

840 (c) For purposes of determining the applicability of this compact to
841 the placement of a child with a family in the United States armed
842 services, the public child placing agency or private child placing agency
843 may choose the state of the armed service member's permanent duty
844 station or the armed service member's declared legal residence.

845 (d) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prohibit the
846 concurrent application of the provisions of this compact with other
847 applicable interstate compacts, including the Interstate Compact for
848 Juveniles and the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical
849 Assistance. The Interstate Commission may, in cooperation with other
850 interstate compact commissions having responsibility for the interstate
851 movement, placement or transfer of children, promulgate like rules to
852 ensure the coordination of services, timely placement of children and
853 the reduction of unnecessary or duplicative administrative or
854 procedural requirements.

855 ARTICLE IV. Jurisdiction

856 (a) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this article and
857 subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (b) of article V of this compact
858 concerning private and independent adoptions, and in interstate
859 placements in which the public child placing agency is not a party to a
860 custody proceeding, the sending state shall retain jurisdiction over a
861 child with respect to all matters of custody and disposition of the child
862 that it would have had if the child had remained in the sending state.
863 Such jurisdiction shall also include the power to order the return of the
864 child to the sending state.

865 (b) When an issue of child protection or custody is brought before a
866 court in the receiving state, such court shall confer with the court of the
867 sending state to determine the most appropriate forum for adjudication.

868 (c) In cases that are before courts and subject to this compact, the
869 taking of testimony for hearings before any judicial officer may occur in
870 person or by telephone, audio-video conference or such other means as
871 approved by the rules of the Interstate Commission, and judicial officers
872 may communicate with other judicial officers and persons involved in
873 the interstate process as may be permitted by their Canons of Judicial
874 Conduct and any rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

875 (d) In accordance with its own laws, the court in the sending state
876 shall have authority to terminate its jurisdiction if:

877 (1) The child is reunified with the parent in the receiving state who is
878 the subject of allegations or findings of abuse or neglect, only with the
879 concurrence of the public child placing agency in the receiving state;

880 (2) The child is adopted;

881 (3) The child reaches the age of majority under the laws of the sending
882 state;

883 (4) The child achieves legal independence pursuant to the laws of the

884 sending state;

885 (5) A guardianship is created by a court in the receiving state with the
886 concurrence of the court in the sending state;

887 (6) An Indian tribe has petitioned for and received jurisdiction from
888 the court in the sending state; or

889 (7) The public child placing agency of the sending state requests
890 termination and has obtained the concurrence of the public child placing
891 agency in the receiving state.

892 (e) When a sending state court terminates its jurisdiction, the
893 receiving state child placing agency shall be notified.

894 (f) Nothing in this article shall defeat a claim of jurisdiction by a
895 receiving state court sufficient to deal with an act of truancy,
896 delinquency, crime or behavior involving a child as defined by the laws
897 of the receiving state committed by the child in the receiving state that
898 would be a violation of its laws.

899 (g) Nothing in this article shall limit the receiving state's ability to take
900 emergency jurisdiction for the protection of the child.

901 (h) The substantive laws of the state in which an adoption will be
902 finalized shall solely govern all issues relating to the adoption of the
903 child and the court in which the adoption proceeding is filed shall have
904 subject matter jurisdiction regarding all substantive issues relating to
905 the adoption, except when:

906 (1) The child is a ward of another court that established jurisdiction
907 over the child prior to the placement;

908 (2) The child is in the legal custody of a public agency in the sending
909 state; or

910 (3) A court in the sending state has otherwise appropriately assumed

911 jurisdiction over the child, prior to the submission of the request for
912 approval of placement.

913 (i) A final decree of adoption shall not be entered in any jurisdiction
914 until the placement is authorized as an approved placement by the
915 public child placing agency in the receiving state.

916 ARTICLE V. Placement Evaluation

917 (a) Prior to sending, bringing or causing a child to be sent or brought
918 into a receiving state, the public child placing agency shall provide a
919 written request for assessment to the receiving state.

920 (b) For placements by a private child placing agency, a child may be
921 sent or brought, or caused to be sent or brought, into a receiving state,
922 upon receipt and immediate review of the required content in a request
923 for approval of a placement in both the sending and receiving state
924 public child placing agency. The required content to accompany a
925 request for approval shall include all of the following:

926 (1) A request for approval identifying the child, one or both birth
927 parents, one or both of the prospective adoptive parents and the
928 supervising agency, signed by the person requesting approval;

929 (2) The appropriate consents or relinquishments signed by the birth
930 parents in accordance with the laws of the sending state, or where
931 permitted under the laws of the state where the adoption will be
932 finalized;

933 (3) Certification by a licensed attorney or authorized agent of a
934 private adoption agency that the consent or relinquishment is in
935 compliance with the applicable laws of the sending state, or where
936 permitted under the laws of the state where finalization of the adoption
937 will occur;

938 (4) A home study; and

939 (5) An acknowledgment of legal risk signed by the prospective
940 adoptive parents.

941 (c) The sending state and the receiving state may request additional
942 information or documents prior to finalization of an approved
943 placement, but such states may not delay travel by the prospective
944 adoptive parents with the child if the required content for approval has
945 been submitted, received and reviewed by the public child placing
946 agency in both the sending state and the receiving state.

947 (d) Approval from the public child placing agency in the receiving
948 state for a provisional or approved placement is required as provided
949 for in the rules of the Interstate Commission.

950 (e) The procedures for making an assessment of the proposed
951 placement and the request for such an assessment shall contain all
952 information and be in such form as provided for in the rules of the
953 Interstate Commission.

954 (f) Upon receipt of a request from the public child placing agency of
955 the sending state, the receiving state shall initiate an assessment of the
956 proposed placement to determine its safety and suitability. If the
957 proposed placement is a placement with a relative, the public child
958 placing agency of the sending state may request a determination for a
959 provisional placement.

960 (g) The public child placing agency in the receiving state may request
961 from the public child placing agency or the private child placing agency
962 in the sending state, and shall be entitled to receive supporting or
963 additional information necessary to complete the assessment or approve
964 the placement.

965 (h) The public child placing agency in the receiving state shall
966 approve a provisional placement and complete or arrange for the
967 completion of the assessment within the timeframes established by the
968 rules of the Interstate Commission.

969 (i) For a placement by a private child placing agency, the sending
970 state shall not impose any additional requirements to complete the
971 home study that are not required by the receiving state, unless the
972 adoption is finalized in the sending state.

973 (j) The Interstate Commission may develop uniform standards for the
974 assessment of the safety and suitability of interstate placements.

975 ARTICLE VI. Placement Authority

976 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this compact, no child subject to
977 this compact shall be placed into a receiving state until approval for such
978 placement is obtained.

979 (b) If the public child placing agency in the receiving state does not
980 approve the proposed placement, the child shall not be placed. The
981 receiving state shall provide written documentation of any such
982 determination in accordance with the rules promulgated by the
983 Interstate Commission. Such determination shall not be subject to
984 judicial review in the sending state.

985 (c) If the proposed placement is not approved, any interested party
986 shall have standing to seek an administrative review of the receiving
987 state's determination.

988 (1) The administrative review and any further judicial review
989 associated with the determination shall be conducted in the receiving
990 state pursuant to its applicable Administrative Procedures Act.

991 (2) If a determination not to approve the placement of the child in the
992 receiving state is overturned upon review, the placement shall be
993 deemed approved, provided that all administrative or judicial remedies
994 have been exhausted or the time for such remedies has passed.

995 ARTICLE VII. Placing Agency Responsibility

996 (a) For the interstate placement of a child made by a public child

997 placing agency or state court:

998 (1) The public child placing agency in the sending state shall have
999 financial responsibility for:

1000 (A) The ongoing support and maintenance for the child during the
1001 period of the placement, unless otherwise provided for in the receiving
1002 state; and

1003 (B) As determined by the public child placing agency in the sending
1004 state, services for the child beyond the public services for which the
1005 child is eligible in the receiving state.

1006 (2) The receiving state shall only have financial responsibility for:

1007 (A) Any assessment conducted by the receiving state; and

1008 (B) Supervision conducted by the receiving state at the level
1009 necessary to support the placement as agreed upon by the public child
1010 placing agencies of the receiving and sending state.

1011 (3) Nothing in this provision shall prohibit public child placing
1012 agencies in the sending state from entering into agreements with
1013 licensed agencies or persons in the receiving state to conduct
1014 assessments and provide supervision.

1015 (b) For the placement of a child by a private child placing agency
1016 preliminary to a possible adoption, the private child placing agency
1017 shall be:

1018 (1) Legally responsible for the child during the period of placement
1019 as provided for in the law of the sending state until the finalization of
1020 the adoption; and

1021 (2) Financially responsible for the child absent a contractual
1022 agreement to the contrary.

1023 (c) The public child placing agency in the receiving state shall provide

1024 timely assessments, as provided for in the rules of the Interstate
1025 Commission.

1026 (d) The public child placing agency in the receiving state shall
1027 provide, or arrange for the provision of, supervision and services for the
1028 child, including timely reports, during the period of the placement.

1029 (e) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit the authority
1030 of the public child placing agency in the receiving state from contracting
1031 with a licensed agency or person in the receiving state for an assessment
1032 or the provision of supervision or services for the child or otherwise
1033 authorizing the provision of supervision or services by a licensed
1034 agency during the period of placement.

1035 (f) Each member state shall provide for coordination among its
1036 branches of government concerning the state's participation in, and
1037 compliance with, this compact and Interstate Commission activities
1038 through the creation of an advisory council or use of an existing body
1039 or board.

1040 (g) Each member state shall establish a central state compact office
1041 that shall be responsible for state compliance with this compact and the
1042 rules of the Interstate Commission.

1043 (h) The public child placing agency in the sending state shall oversee
1044 compliance with the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 USC
1045 1901 et seq., as amended from time to time, for placements subject to the
1046 provisions of this compact prior to placement.

1047 (i) With the consent of the Interstate Commission, states may enter
1048 into limited agreements that facilitate the timely assessment and
1049 provision of services and supervision of placements under this compact.

1050 ARTICLE VIII. Interstate Commission for the Placement of Children

1051 (a) The member states hereby establish, by way of this compact, a
1052 commission known as the "Interstate Commission for the Placement of

1053 Children". The activities of the Interstate Commission are the formation
1054 of public policy and are a discretionary state function. The Interstate
1055 Commission shall:

1056 (1) Be a joint commission of the member states and shall have the
1057 responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein, and such additional
1058 powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent concurrent action of
1059 the respective legislatures of the member states; and

1060 (2) Consist of one commissioner from each member state who shall
1061 be appointed by the executive head of the state human services
1062 administration with ultimate responsibility for the child welfare
1063 program. The appointed commissioner shall have the legal authority to
1064 vote on policy related matters governed by this compact binding the
1065 state.

1066 (b) Each member state represented at a meeting of the Interstate
1067 Commission shall be entitled to one vote.

1068 (c) A majority of the member states shall constitute a quorum for the
1069 transaction of business at a meeting of the Interstate Commission, unless
1070 a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the Interstate Commission.

1071 (d) A representative shall not delegate a vote to another member state
1072 at a meeting of the Interstate Commission.

1073 (e) A representative may delegate voting authority to another person
1074 from their state for a specified meeting of the Interstate Commission.

1075 (f) In addition to the commissioners of each member state, the
1076 Interstate Commission shall include persons who are members of
1077 interested organizations as defined in the bylaws or rules of the
1078 Interstate Commission. Such members shall be ex officio and shall not
1079 be entitled to vote on any matter before the Interstate Commission.

1080 (g) The Interstate Commission shall establish an executive committee
1081 that shall have the authority to administer the day-to-day operations

1082 and administration of the Interstate Commission. Such committee shall
1083 not have the power to engage in rulemaking.

1084 ARTICLE IX. Powers and Duties of the Interstate Commission

1085 The Interstate Commission shall have the following powers:

1086 (1) To promulgate rules and take all necessary actions to effect the
1087 goals, purposes and obligations as enumerated in this compact;

1088 (2) To provide for dispute resolution among member states;

1089 (3) To issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions
1090 concerning the meaning or interpretation of this interstate compact, its
1091 bylaws, rules or actions;

1092 (4) To enforce compliance with this interstate compact, its bylaws,
1093 rules or actions or the rules of the commission pursuant to Article XII of
1094 this compact;

1095 (5) Collect standardized data concerning the interstate placement of
1096 children subject to this compact as directed through the commission's
1097 rules, which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection
1098 and data exchange and reporting requirements;

1099 (6) To establish and maintain offices as may be necessary for the
1100 transacting of its business;

1101 (7) To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

1102 (8) To hire or contract for services of personnel or consultants as
1103 necessary to carry out the commission's functions under this compact
1104 and establish personnel qualification policies, and rates of
1105 compensation;

1106 (9) To establish and appoint committees and officers including, but
1107 not limited to, an executive committee as required by Article X of this
1108 compact;

1109 (10) To accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment,
1110 supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose
1111 thereof;

1112 (11) To lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of or
1113 otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or
1114 mixed;

1115 (12) To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or
1116 otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed;

1117 (13) To establish a budget and make expenditures;

1118 (14) To adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and
1119 operation of the Interstate Commission;

1120 (15) To report annually to the legislatures, governors, the judiciary
1121 and state advisory councils of the member states concerning the
1122 activities of the Interstate Commission during the preceding year,
1123 including, but not limited to, any recommendations that may have been
1124 adopted by the Interstate Commission;

1125 (16) To coordinate and provide education, training and public
1126 awareness regarding the interstate movement of children for officials
1127 involved in such activity;

1128 (17) To maintain books and records in accordance with the bylaws of
1129 the Interstate Commission; and

1130 (18) To perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to
1131 achieve the purposes of this compact.

1132 ARTICLE X. Organization and Operation of the Interstate
1133 Commission

1134 (a) Bylaws

1135 (1) Not later than twelve months after the first Interstate Commission

1136 meeting, the Interstate Commission shall adopt bylaws to govern its
1137 conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of
1138 this compact.

1139 (2) The Interstate Commission's bylaws and rules shall establish
1140 conditions and procedures under which the Interstate Commission shall
1141 make its information and official records available to the public for
1142 inspection or copying. The Interstate Commission may exempt from
1143 disclosure information or official records to the extent such information
1144 or records would adversely affect personal privacy rights or proprietary
1145 interests.

1146 (b) Meetings

1147 (1) The Interstate Commission shall meet at least once each calendar
1148 year. The chairperson may call additional meetings and, upon the
1149 request of a simple majority of the member states, shall call additional
1150 meetings.

1151 (2) Public notice shall be given by the Interstate Commission of all
1152 meetings and all meetings shall be open to the public, except as set forth
1153 in the rules or as otherwise provided in this compact. The Interstate
1154 Commission and its committees may close a meeting, or portion thereof,
1155 where it determines by two-thirds vote that an open meeting would be
1156 likely to:

1157 (A) Relate solely to the Interstate Commission's internal personnel
1158 practices and procedures;

1159 (B) Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal
1160 law;

1161 (C) Disclose financial or commercial information that is privileged,
1162 proprietary or confidential in nature;

1163 (D) Involve accusing a person of a crime, or formally censuring a
1164 person;

1165 (E) Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would
1166 constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or
1167 physically endanger one or more persons;

1168 (F) Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement
1169 purposes; or

1170 (G) Specifically relate to the Interstate Commission's participation in
1171 a civil action or other legal proceeding.

1172 (3) For a meeting, or portion of a meeting, closed pursuant to
1173 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the Interstate Commission's legal
1174 counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and
1175 shall reference each relevant exemption provision. The Interstate
1176 Commission shall keep minutes that shall fully and clearly describe all
1177 matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate
1178 summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a
1179 description of the views expressed and the record of a roll call vote. All
1180 documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified
1181 in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall
1182 remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the Interstate
1183 Commission or by court order.

1184 (4) The bylaws may provide for meetings of the Interstate
1185 Commission to be conducted by telecommunication or other electronic
1186 communication.

1187 (c) Officers and Staff

1188 (1) The Interstate Commission may, through its executive committee,
1189 appoint or retain a staff director for such period, upon such terms and
1190 conditions and for such compensation as the Interstate Commission
1191 may deem appropriate. The staff director shall serve as secretary to the
1192 Interstate Commission, but shall not have a vote. The staff director may
1193 hire and supervise such other staff as may be authorized by the
1194 Interstate Commission.

1195 (2) The Interstate Commission shall elect, from among its members, a
1196 chairperson and a vice chairperson of the executive committee and other
1197 necessary officers, each of whom shall have such authority and duties
1198 as may be specified in the bylaws.

1199 (d) Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification

1200 (1) The Interstate Commission's staff director and its employees shall
1201 be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official
1202 capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury
1203 or other civil liability caused, or arising out of, or relating to an actual or
1204 alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that such person had a
1205 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission
1206 employment, duties or responsibilities, provided such person shall not
1207 be protected from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury or liability
1208 caused by a criminal act or the intentional or wilful and wanton
1209 misconduct of such person.

1210 (A) The liability of the Interstate Commission's staff director and
1211 employees or Interstate Commission representatives, acting within the
1212 scope of such person's employment or duties for acts, errors or
1213 omissions occurring within such person's state may not exceed the
1214 limits of liability set forth under the Constitution and laws of that state
1215 for state officials, employees and agents. The Interstate Commission
1216 shall be an instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any such
1217 action. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect such
1218 person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury or liability caused
1219 by a criminal act or the intentional or wilful and wanton misconduct of
1220 such person.

1221 (B) The Interstate Commission shall defend the staff director and its
1222 employees and, subject to the approval of the Attorney General or other
1223 appropriate legal counsel of the member state, shall defend the
1224 commissioner of a member state in a civil action seeking to impose
1225 liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that

1226 occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties
1227 or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for
1228 believing occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission
1229 employment, duties or responsibilities, provided the actual or alleged
1230 act, error or omission did not result from intentional or wilful and
1231 wanton misconduct on the part of such person.

1232 (C) To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state or
1233 the Interstate Commission, the representatives or employees of the
1234 Interstate Commission shall be held harmless in the amount of a
1235 settlement or judgment, including attorney's fees and costs, obtained
1236 against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or
1237 omission that occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission
1238 employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such persons had a
1239 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Interstate
1240 Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided the
1241 actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from intentional or
1242 wilful and wanton misconduct on the part of such persons.

1243 ARTICLE XI. Rulemaking Functions of the Interstate Commission

1244 (a) The Interstate Commission shall promulgate and publish rules in
1245 order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of this compact.

1246 (b) Rulemaking shall occur pursuant to the criteria set forth in this
1247 article and the bylaws and rules adopted pursuant thereto. Such
1248 rulemaking shall substantially conform to the principles of the "Model
1249 State Administrative Procedures Act," 1981 Act, Uniform Laws
1250 Annotated, Vol. 15, p.1 (2000), or such other administrative procedure
1251 acts as the Interstate Commission deems appropriate consistent with
1252 due process requirements under the United States Constitution as now
1253 or hereafter interpreted by the United States Supreme Court. All rules
1254 and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified, as
1255 published with the final version of the rule as approved by the Interstate
1256 Commission.

1257 (c) When promulgating a rule, the Interstate Commission shall, at a
1258 minimum:

1259 (1) Publish the proposed rule's entire text stating each reason for such
1260 proposed rule;

1261 (2) Allow and invite any and all persons to submit written data, facts,
1262 opinions and arguments, all of which shall be added to the record and
1263 made publicly available; and

1264 (3) Promulgate a final rule and its effective date, if appropriate, based
1265 on input from state or local officials or interested parties.

1266 (d) Rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission shall have the
1267 force and effect of administrative rules and shall be binding in the
1268 compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided for in this
1269 compact.

1270 (e) Not later than sixty days after a rule is promulgated, an interested
1271 party may file a petition in the United States District Court for the
1272 District of Columbia or in the federal district where the Interstate
1273 Commission's principal office is located for judicial review of such rule.
1274 If the court finds that the Interstate Commission's action is not
1275 supported by substantial evidence in the rulemaking record, the court
1276 shall hold the rule unlawful and set it aside.

1277 (f) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule,
1278 such states may, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same
1279 manner used to adopt this compact, cause such rule to have no further
1280 force and effect in any member state.

1281 (g) The existing rules governing the operation of the Interstate
1282 Compact on the Placement of Children superseded by this act shall be
1283 null and void not less than, but not more than twenty-four months, after
1284 the first meeting of the Interstate Commission created hereunder, as
1285 determined by the members during the first meeting.

1286 (h) Within the first twelve months of operation, the Interstate
1287 Commission shall promulgate rules addressing the following:

1288 (1) Transition rules;

1289 (2) Forms and procedures;

1290 (3) Time lines;

1291 (4) Data collection and reporting;

1292 (5) Rulemaking;

1293 (6) Visitation;

1294 (7) Progress reports and supervision;

1295 (8) Sharing of information and confidentiality of information;

1296 (9) Financing of the Interstate Commission;

1297 (10) Mediation, arbitration and dispute resolution;

1298 (11) Education, training and technical assistance;

1299 (12) Enforcement; and

1300 (13) Coordination with other interstate compacts.

1301 (i) Upon determination by a majority of the members of the Interstate
1302 Commission that an emergency exists:

1303 (1) The Interstate Commission may promulgate an emergency rule
1304 only if it is required to:

1305 (A) Protect the children covered by this compact from an imminent
1306 threat to such children's health, safety and well-being;

1307 (B) Prevent loss of federal or state funds; or

1308 (C) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule
1309 required by federal law.

1310 (2) An emergency rule shall become effective immediately upon
1311 adoption, provided the usual rulemaking procedures provided
1312 hereunder shall be retroactively applied to said rule as soon as
1313 reasonably possible, but not later than ninety days after the effective
1314 date of the emergency rule.

1315 (3) An emergency rule shall be promulgated as provided for in the
1316 rules of the Interstate Commission.

1317 ARTICLE XII. Oversight, Dispute Resolution, Enforcement

1318 (a) Oversight

1319 (1) The Interstate Commission shall oversee the administration and
1320 operation of this compact.

1321 (2) The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state
1322 government in each member state shall enforce this compact and the
1323 rules of the Interstate Commission and shall take all actions necessary
1324 and appropriate to effectuate this compact's purposes and intent. This
1325 compact and its rules shall be binding in the compacting states to the
1326 extent and in the manner provided for in this compact.

1327 (3) All courts shall take judicial notice of this compact and the rules
1328 in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state
1329 pertaining to the subject matter of this compact.

1330 (4) The Interstate Commission shall be entitled to receive service of
1331 process in any action in which the validity of a compact provision or
1332 rule is the issue for which a judicial determination has been sought and
1333 shall have standing to intervene in any proceedings. Failure to provide
1334 service of process to the Interstate Commission shall render any
1335 judgment, order or other determination, however so captioned or
1336 classified, void as to the Interstate Commission, this compact, its bylaws

1337 or rules of the Interstate Commission.

1338 (b) Dispute Resolution

1339 (1) The Interstate Commission shall attempt, upon the request of a
1340 member state, to resolve disputes that are subject to this compact and
1341 that may arise among member states and between member and
1342 nonmember states.

1343 (2) The Interstate Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for
1344 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes among
1345 compacting states. The costs of such mediation or dispute resolution
1346 shall be the responsibility of the parties to the dispute.

1347 (c) Enforcement

1348 (1) If the Interstate Commission determines that a member state has
1349 defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under
1350 this compact, its bylaws or rules, the Interstate Commission may:

1351 (A) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance;

1352 (B) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member
1353 states, of the nature of the default and the means of curing the default.
1354 The Interstate Commission shall specify the conditions by which the
1355 defaulting state shall cure its default;

1356 (C) By majority vote of the members, initiate against a defaulting
1357 member state legal action in the United States District Court for the
1358 District of Columbia or, at the discretion of the Interstate Commission,
1359 in the federal district where the Interstate Commission has its principal
1360 office, to enforce compliance with the provisions of this compact, or the
1361 commission's bylaws or rules. The relief sought may include both
1362 injunctive relief and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the
1363 prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including
1364 reasonable attorney's fees; or

1365 (D) Avail itself of any other remedies available under state law or the
1366 regulation of official or professional conduct.

1367 ARTICLE XIII. Financing of the Commission

1368 (a) The Interstate Commission shall pay or provide for the payment
1369 of the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and
1370 ongoing activities.

1371 (b) The Interstate Commission may levy on and collect an annual
1372 assessment from each member state to cover the cost of the operations
1373 and activities of the Interstate Commission and its staff, which shall be
1374 in a total amount sufficient to cover the Interstate Commission's annual
1375 budget as approved by its members each year. The aggregate annual
1376 assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be
1377 determined by the Interstate Commission, which shall promulgate a
1378 rule binding upon all member states.

1379 (c) The Interstate Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind
1380 prior to securing the funds adequate to meet such obligations or pledge
1381 the credit of any member state, except by and with the authority of the
1382 member state.

1383 (d) The Interstate Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all
1384 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the
1385 Interstate Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
1386 procedures established under its bylaws, provided all receipts and
1387 disbursements of funds handled by the Interstate Commission shall be
1388 audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the
1389 report of any such audit shall be included in and become part of the
1390 annual report of the Interstate Commission.

1391 ARTICLE XIV. Member States, Effective Date and Amendment

1392 (a) Any state shall be eligible to become a member state.

1393 (b) This compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative

1394 enactment of this compact into law by not less than thirty-five states.
1395 The effective date shall be the later of July 1, 2007, or upon enactment of
1396 this compact into law by the thirty-fifth state. Thereafter it shall become
1397 effective and binding as to any other member state upon enactment of
1398 this compact into law by that state. The executive heads of the state
1399 human services administration with ultimate responsibility for the child
1400 welfare program of nonmember states or their designees shall be invited
1401 to participate in the activities of the Interstate Commission on a
1402 nonvoting basis prior to adoption of this compact by all states.

1403 (c) The Interstate Commission may propose amendments to this
1404 compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment shall
1405 become effective and binding on the member states unless and until it
1406 is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the member states.

1407 ARTICLE XV. Withdrawal and Dissolution

1408 (a) Withdrawal

1409 (1) Once effective, this compact shall continue in force and remain
1410 binding upon each and every member state, provided a member state
1411 may withdraw from this compact by repealing the statute that enacted
1412 this compact into law.

1413 (2) Withdrawal from this compact shall be by the enactment of a
1414 statute repealing this compact. The effective date of withdrawal shall be
1415 the effective date of the repeal of the statute.

1416 (3) The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the president of
1417 the Interstate Commission in writing upon the introduction of
1418 legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The
1419 Interstate Commission shall notify the other member states of the
1420 withdrawing state's intent to withdraw.

1421 (4) The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments,
1422 obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of

1423 withdrawal.

1424 (5) Reinstatement of this compact following withdrawal of a member
1425 state shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting this compact or
1426 upon such later date as determined by the members of the Interstate
1427 Commission.

1428 (b) Dissolution of Compact

1429 (1) This compact shall dissolve effective upon the date of the
1430 withdrawal or default of the member state that reduces the membership
1431 in this compact to one member state.

1432 (2) Upon the dissolution of this compact, this compact shall become
1433 null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business
1434 and affairs of the Interstate Commission shall be concluded and surplus
1435 funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

1436 ARTICLE XVI. Severability and Construction

1437 (a) The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any
1438 phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the
1439 remaining provisions of this compact shall be enforceable.

1440 (b) The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to
1441 effectuate its purposes.

1442 (c) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prohibit the
1443 concurrent applicability of other interstate compacts to which the states
1444 are members.

1445 ARTICLE XVII. Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

1446 (a) Other Laws

1447 (1) Nothing herein shall prevent the enforcement of any other law of
1448 a member state that is not inconsistent with this compact.

1449 (b) Binding Effect of this Compact

1450 (1) All lawful actions of the Interstate Commission, including all rules
1451 and bylaws promulgated by the Interstate Commission, shall be binding
1452 upon the member states.

1453 (2) All agreements between the Interstate Commission and the
1454 member states shall be binding in accordance with the terms of such
1455 agreements.

1456 (3) If any provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits
1457 imposed on the legislature of any member state, such provision shall be
1458 ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision
1459 in question in such member state.

1460 ARTICLE XVIII. Indian Tribes

1461 Notwithstanding any other provision in this compact, the Interstate
1462 Commission may promulgate guidelines to permit Indian tribes to
1463 utilize this compact to achieve any or all of the purposes of this compact
1464 as specified in Article I of this compact. The Interstate Commission shall
1465 make reasonable efforts to consult with Indian tribes in promulgating
1466 guidelines to reflect the diverse circumstances of the various Indian
1467 tribes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-114
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46b-129(j)(6)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-28(g)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-93
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>upon enactment of the revised Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children by thirty-five jurisdictions</i>	17a-175

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require criminal history searches and records checks for relative and fictive kin caregivers upon emergency placement of children with such caregivers by the Department of Children and Families, (2) permit certain youths previously committed to the care and custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families to reenter care, (3) require disclosure of Department of Children and Families records to the Department of Developmental Services and the Office of Policy and Management for certain purposes, (4) expand the definition of "child care facility" for purposes of licensure by the Department of Children and Families to include certain congregate care settings for individuals who require special education, until the end of the school year in which such individuals turn twenty-two years of age, (5) require the Department of Children and Families to develop a Foster Parent Bill of Rights and incorporate such bill of rights into department policy, and (6) revise the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

[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.]