



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 27**

February Session, 2010

Senate Bill No. 140

*Senate, March 11, 2010*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH TRANSITIONING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of  
2 Children and Families shall provide all necessary and appropriate  
3 services to a youth who is transitioning between the custody of the  
4 Department of Children and Families and the custody of the  
5 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services until the  
6 Commissioners of Children and Families and Mental Health and  
7 Addiction Services agree that all elements of the youth's transition plan  
8 have been successfully completed. For purposes of this section, "youth"  
9 means any person sixteen years of age or older.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 10</b>	<b>FY 11</b>
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost & Revenue Gain	Potential Significant	Potential Significant
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Savings	Potential Indeterminate	Potential Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Prohibiting the transfer of any client from the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) until such time that each agency agrees that he or she has successfully completed all elements of a transition plan may result in extended lengths of stay in DCF care, and significant costs for the department.

Actual costs would depend upon: (1) the number of cases on which agreement would not be reached within current time frames for transition<sup>1</sup>; (2) the length of time that would elapse before final agreement is reached; and (3) services provided during the interim period.

In addition to the potential for increased utilization of existing services, development of new programming to accommodate the

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<sup>1</sup> Under current policy, as well as an inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement, DCF serves youth in its care until age 21 provided the client was in DCF's care on his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, remains in school or a work-training program, and is willing to accept DCF services voluntarily. Youth failing to meet any of these conditions are referred

unique needs of this population and address service gaps in the present continuum of care may be required. Further significant costs would be associated with such program development.

It should be noted that a significant portion of transitioning youth are served in high cost, intensive out-of-homes settings, such as therapeutic group homes (at about \$190,000 per year), or residential treatment centers (at about \$105,000 per year).<sup>2</sup>

The bill could also result in a shift of DMHAS costs to the extent that youth transition to DMHAS later than they otherwise would have.

Various programs of the Department of Social Services may experience indeterminate savings to the extent that better preparing a client for transitioning reduces the frequency of use of publicly funded health care, such as inpatient hospitalization.

Federal reimbursements would be affected to the extent that enactment of this bill changes the values of claims submitted under either the Medicaid or Title IV-E programs.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

*Sources: Memorandum of Agreement on Client Transition from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Mental Health; DCF Comprehensive Financial Status Report; DMHAS Transition Action Plan Team Meeting Minutes Form*

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to DMHAS and the DCF case is closed after receipt of the referral.

<sup>2</sup> An estimated 340 referrals from DCF to DMHAS are expected in FY 11. Almost all of these clients would be anticipated to be deemed eligible for DMHAS' Young Adult Services program.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 140*****AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH TRANSITIONING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide all services “necessary and appropriate” to a youth (anyone age 16 or older) transitioning between its custody and the custody of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). DCF must provide these services until it and DMHAS agree that all elements in the youth’s transition plan have been completed successfully.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Related Bill***

sHB 5067, reported by the Human Services Committee, requires DCF and DMHAS to report annually on the transition process for youths moving from DCF to DMHAS care.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15    Nay 4    (02/25/2010)