



# House of Representatives

**File No. 720**

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 39)**

House Bill No. 6724  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 16, 2015

***AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (13) of section 17a-93 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2015*):

4 (13) "Foster family" means a person or persons, licensed [or  
5 certified] by the Department of Children and Families or approved by  
6 a licensed child-placing agency, for the care of a child or children in a  
7 private home;

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17a-111b of the general statutes is  
9 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
10 *October 1, 2015*):

11 (c) If the court determines that such efforts are not required, the  
12 court shall, at such hearing or at a hearing held not later than thirty  
13 days after such determination, approve a permanency plan for such

14 child. The plan may include (1) adoption and a requirement that the  
15 commissioner file a petition to terminate parental rights, (2) long-term  
16 foster care with a relative licensed as a foster parent, [or certified as a  
17 relative caregiver,] (3) transfer of guardianship, or (4) such other  
18 planned permanent living arrangement as may be ordered by the  
19 court, provided the commissioner has documented a compelling  
20 reason why it would not be in the best interests of the child for the  
21 permanency plan to include one of the options set forth in subdivisions  
22 (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection. The child's health and safety  
23 shall be of paramount concern in formulating such plan.

24 Sec. 3. Section 17a-114a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

26 A person licensed [or certified] pursuant to section 17a-114 shall be  
27 liable for any act or omission resulting in personal injury to a child  
28 placed in his care by the Commissioner of Children and Families to the  
29 same extent as a biological parent is liable for any act or omission  
30 resulting in personal injury to a biological child in his care.

31 Sec. 4. Section 17a-106e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
32 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

33 (a) (1) On and after October 1, 2013, the Department of Children and  
34 Families shall, within available appropriations, ensure that each child  
35 thirty-six months of age or younger who has been substantiated as a  
36 victim of abuse or neglect is screened for both developmental and  
37 social-emotional delays using validated assessment tools such as the  
38 Ages and Stages and the Ages and Stages-Social/Emotional  
39 Questionnaires, or their equivalents. The department shall ensure that  
40 such screenings are administered to any such child twice annually,  
41 unless such child has been found to be eligible for the birth-to-three  
42 program, established under section 17a-248b.

43 (2) On and after July 1, 2015, the department shall ensure that each  
44 child thirty-six months of age or younger who is being served through  
45 the department's [differential] family assessment response program,

46 established under section 17a-101g, is screened for both developmental  
47 and social-emotional delays using validated assessment tools such as  
48 the Ages and Stages and the Ages and Stages-Social/Emotional  
49 Questionnaires, or their equivalents, unless such child has been found  
50 to be eligible for the birth-to-three program.

51 (b) The department shall refer any child exhibiting developmental  
52 or social-emotional delays pursuant to such screenings to the birth-to-  
53 three program. The department shall refer any child who is not found  
54 eligible for services under the birth-to-three program to the Help Me  
55 Grow prevention program of the Children's Trust Fund or a similar  
56 program [which] that the department deems appropriate.

57 (c) Not later than July 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the  
58 department shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section  
59 11-4a, a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
60 having cognizance of matters relating to children for inclusion in the  
61 annual report card prepared pursuant to section 2-53m on the status of  
62 the screening and referral program authorized pursuant to subsection  
63 (a) of this section. Such report shall include: (1) The number of children  
64 thirty-six months of age or younger within the state who have been  
65 substantiated as victims of abuse or neglect within the preceding  
66 twelve months; (2) the number of children thirty-six months of age or  
67 younger within the state who have been served through the  
68 department's [differential] family assessment response program within  
69 the preceding twelve months; (3) the number of children who were  
70 screened for developmental and social-emotional delays pursuant to  
71 subsection (a) of this section by the department or by a provider  
72 contracted by the department within the preceding twelve months; (4)  
73 the number of children in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection  
74 referred for evaluation under the birth-to-three program within the  
75 preceding twelve months, the number of such children actually  
76 evaluated under such program, the number of such children found  
77 eligible for services under such program and the services for which  
78 such children were found eligible under such program; and (5) the  
79 number of children described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this

80 subsection receiving evidence-based developmental support services  
81 through the birth-to-three program or through a provider contracted  
82 by the department within the preceding twelve months.

83 Sec. 5. Section 17a-44 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

85 (a) The photo-listing service shall quarterly check the status of  
86 photo-listed children for whom inquiries have been received. Periodic  
87 checks shall be made by such service to determine the progress toward  
88 adoption of such children and the status of those children registered  
89 but never photo-listed because of placement in a preadoptive or  
90 adoptive home prior to or at the time of registration.

91 (b) The commissioner shall refer appropriate children to national  
92 adoption or permanency resource exchanges when an adoptive family  
93 has not been identified within one hundred eighty days of the  
94 termination of the parental rights. The commissioner shall establish  
95 criteria by which a determination may be made that a referral to  
96 national exchanges is not necessary, and the commissioner shall  
97 monitor the status of those children not referred.

98 Sec. 6. Section 17a-110b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
99 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

100 The Commissioner of Children and Families shall, within available  
101 appropriations, establish [an adoption] a permanency resource  
102 exchange in this state within the Department of Children and Families.  
103 The primary purpose of the exchange shall be to link children who are  
104 awaiting placement with permanent families by providing information  
105 and referral services and by the recruitment of potential adoptive  
106 families or families interested in pursuing guardianship of such  
107 children. The department and each child-placing agency shall register  
108 any child who is free for adoption with such [adoption] permanency  
109 resource exchange.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	17a-93(13)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	17a-111b(c)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	17a-114a
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17a-106e
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	17a-44
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	17a-110b

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.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). It makes minor and technical changes to statutes involving the agency.

House Amendment "A" removes section 1 of the underlying bill and does not result in a fiscal impact because the changes contained in the section are no longer the practice of DCF.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6724 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill renames the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) "adoption resource exchange" as the "permanency resource exchange," and it expands its purpose to include recruitment of families seeking to become guardians of children awaiting placement. Under current law, the adoption resource exchange links children with permanent families by providing information and referral services and recruiting potential adoptive families.

The bill replaces references to DCF's "differential response program" with references to the "family assessment response program" to reflect the program's current name.

It also eliminates certain statutory references to "certified relative caregivers." DCF stopped placing children with certified relatives in 2001 because those placements did not qualify for federal reimbursement.

\*House Amendment "A" restores a provision in current law allowing DCF to include long-term foster care with a certified relative caregiver as a permanency planning goal for some children or youth admitted voluntarily to DCF care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015, except the provision replacing the differential response program with the family assessment response program is effective on passage.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/26/2015)