



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 18

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 6109

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALBERT J. SOLNIT CHILDREN'S CENTER.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 19a-490 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective April*
3 *1, 2022*):

4 (a) "Institution" means a hospital, short-term hospital special hospice,
5 hospice inpatient facility, residential care home, nursing home facility,
6 home health care agency, home health aide agency, behavioral health
7 facility, assisted living services agency, substance abuse treatment
8 facility, outpatient surgical facility, outpatient clinic, an infirmary
9 operated by an educational institution for the care of students enrolled
10 in, and faculty and employees of, such institution; a facility engaged in
11 providing services for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or care of
12 human health conditions, including facilities operated and maintained
13 by any state agency; and a residential facility for persons with
14 intellectual disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified

15 to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care
16 facility for individuals with intellectual disability. "Institution" does not
17 include any facility for the care and treatment of persons with mental
18 illness or substance use disorder operated or maintained by any state
19 agency, except Whiting Forensic Hospital and the hospital and
20 psychiatric residential treatment facility units of the Albert J. Solnit
21 Children's Center;

22 Sec. 2. Section 19a-490 of the general statutes is amended by adding
23 subsection (q) as follows (*Effective April 1, 2022*):

24 (NEW) (q) "Psychiatric residential treatment facility" means a
25 nonhospital facility with a provider agreement with the Department of
26 Social Services to provide inpatient services to Medicaid-eligible
27 individuals under the age of twenty-one.

28 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Public
29 Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
30 chapter 54 of the general statutes, concerning licensure by the
31 Department of Public Health of the psychiatric residential treatment
32 facilities, as defined in subsection (q) of section 19a-490 of the general
33 statutes, as amended by this act, at the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center.

34 (b) The commissioner may implement policies and procedures
35 concerning the licensure of the psychiatric residential treatment
36 facilities of the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center while in the process of
37 adopting regulations pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided
38 (1) notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the eRegulations
39 System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation of
40 such policies and procedures, and (2) such policies and procedures are
41 consistent with the proposed regulations. Any policies and procedures
42 implemented under this subsection shall be valid until the time final
43 regulations are adopted.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
--

Section 1	<i>April 1, 2022</i>	19a-490(a)
Sec. 2	<i>April 1, 2022</i>	19a-490
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

KID *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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	1,079,754	879,754
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	89,656	89,656
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	408,025	408,025

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill, which requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to obtain licensure for the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center from the Department of Public Health (DPH), is anticipated to result in a cost to the state of approximately \$1,577,435 in FY 22 and \$1,377,435 in FY 23. This includes a cost to DPH of \$89,656 annually for a Nurse Consultant to implement licensure, and associated fringe benefits costs under the Office of the State Comptroller of \$37,736 annually.

The Solnit Center is currently certified through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and accredited by The Joint Commission. It has two physically separate campuses: Solnit North in East Windsor, and Solnit South in Middletown.

Solnit North consists of 38 Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) beds, in 4 cottages, for boys 13 - 17 years old. To meet anticipated

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

DPH licensure requirements at Solnit North, DCF will need to: 1) in FY 22 only, renovate Willow Cottage (e.g., replace its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system) at a cost of \$200,000, 2) hire 10 additional nurses with annual salaries of \$76,772, and 3) hire one psychologist with an annual salary of \$112,034. Fringe benefits for staff, supported under the Office of the State Comptroller, will cost approximately \$370,288 annually.

Solnit South includes a 50-bed psychiatric hospital, which provides acute, inpatient care to children and youth under 18 years of age. It also includes 24 PRTF beds, in 3 cottages, for girls 13 - 17 years old. Due to recent changes made at Solnit South, starting in 2018 in partnership with DPH, and pursuant to a Plan of Correction required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Solnit South currently meets anticipated DPH licensure requirements.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6109*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALBERT J. SOLNIT CHILDREN'S CENTER.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the (1) Albert J. Solnit Children's Center's hospital and psychiatric residential facility units ("South Campus") to obtain licensure from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and (2) DPH commissioner to adopt regulations regarding the licensure of psychiatric residential treatment facilities.

Under the bill, a "psychiatric residential treatment facility" (PRTF) is a nonhospital facility with a provider agreement with the Department of Social Services to provide inpatient services to Medicaid-eligible individuals under age 21.

The bill allows the DPH commissioner to implement policies and procedures about the licensure of the Solnit Center's PRTF facilities while it adopts the regulations, so long as (1) notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the eRegulations System within 20 days after the implementation date and (2) the policies and procedures are consistent with the proposed regulations. Under the bill, implemented policies and procedures are valid until final regulations are adopted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (02/25/2021)