



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 912

LCO No. 3478



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT OF FATHERHOOD INITIATIVES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an advisory
2 council to study and make recommendations concerning funding and
3 oversight of fatherhood initiatives, including, but not limited to, the
4 John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative established pursuant to section
5 17b-27a of the general statutes. Such study and recommendations shall
6 include, but not be limited to, (1) whether such initiatives should be
7 integrated with early childhood programs funded by the Office of Early
8 Childhood, and (2) whether the Office of Early Education or the
9 Department of Education should oversee such initiatives.

10 (b) The advisory council shall consist of the following members:

11 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
12 both of whom are involved in the John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative
13 established pursuant to section 17b-27a of the general statutes;

14 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of

15 whom shall be a father or family leader involved in the two-generational
16 initiative established pursuant to section 17b-112l of the general statutes
17 and one of whom is involved in a fatherhood initiative not affiliated
18 with the John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative established pursuant to
19 section 17b-27a of the general statutes;

20 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
21 Representatives;

22 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

23 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
24 Representatives;

25 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

26 (7) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
27 designee;

28 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
29 and

30 (9) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
31 designee.

32 (c) Any member of the advisory council appointed under subdivision
33 (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
34 General Assembly.

35 (d) All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made not
36 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
37 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

38 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
39 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the advisory
40 council from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
41 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
42 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

43 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
44 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
45 and early childhood programs shall serve as administrative staff of the
46 advisory council.

47 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the advisory council shall submit a
48 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
49 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
50 relating to children, education and human services, in accordance with
51 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The council shall
52 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022,
53 whichever is later.

54 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The sum of three million dollars is
55 appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General
56 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to provide increased
57 funding for fatherhood initiatives that promote the positive
58 involvement of fathers in their children's lives, including, but not
59 limited to, the John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative established
60 pursuant to section 17b-27a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an advisory council to make recommendations concerning fatherhood initiatives and provide state funding for fatherhood initiatives.

[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.]