



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 636

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5433

House of Representatives, April 26, 2022

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AND OVERSIGHT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Behavioral and Mental Health Policy and Oversight Committee. The
3 committee shall evaluate the availability and efficacy of prevention,
4 early intervention, and mental health treatment services and options for
5 children from birth to age eighteen and make recommendations to the
6 General Assembly and executive agencies regarding the governance
7 and administration of the mental health care system for children.

8 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

9 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
10 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
11 relating to public health, human services, children and appropriations
12 and the budgets of state agencies, or their designees;

13 (2) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
14 one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of
15 whom shall be providers of mental, emotional or behavioral health
16 services for children in the state;

17 (3) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
18 of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of whom
19 shall be representatives of private advocacy groups that provide
20 services for children and families in the state;

21 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
22 Representatives, who shall be representatives of children's hospitals;

23 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
24 a representative of public school superintendents in the state;

25 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
26 Representatives, who shall be representatives of families with children
27 who have been diagnosed with mental, emotional or behavioral health
28 disorders;

29 (7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
30 providers of mental or behavioral health services;

31 (8) The Commissioners of Children and Families, Correction,
32 Developmental Services, Early Childhood, Education, Insurance,
33 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health and Social
34 Services, or their designees;

35 (9) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or the
36 executive director's designee;

37 (10) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

38 (11) The Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's
39 designee;

40 (12) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of
41 the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee;

42 (13) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
43 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;

44 (14) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
45 secretary's designee; and

46 (15) One representative from each administrative services
47 organization under contract with the Department of Social Services to
48 provide such services for recipients of assistance under the HUSKY
49 Health program, who shall be ex-officio nonvoting members.

50 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to
51 (7), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
52 General Assembly.

53 (d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

54 (e) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
55 secretary's designee, and a member of the General Assembly selected
56 jointly by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
57 pro tempore of the Senate from among the members serving pursuant
58 to subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of this section shall be co-
59 chairpersons of the committee. Such co-chairpersons shall schedule the
60 first meeting of the committee, which shall be held not later than sixty
61 days after May 4, 2022.

62 (f) Members of the committee shall serve without compensation,
63 except for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their
64 duties.

65 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the committee shall report, in
66 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
67 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
68 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
69 public health, human services and children, and the Secretary of the
70 Office of Policy and Management, regarding the following:

71 (1) Any statutory and budgetary changes needed concerning the

72 mental health system of prevention, development and treatment that
73 the committee recommends to (A) improve developmental, mental
74 health and behavioral health outcomes for children; (B) improve
75 transparency and accountability with respect to state-funded services
76 for children and youth with an emphasis on goals identified by the
77 committee for community-based programs and facility-based
78 interventions; and (C) promote the efficient sharing of information by
79 state and state-funded agencies to ensure the regular collection and
80 reporting of data regarding children and families' access to, utilization
81 of and benefit from services necessary to promote public health and
82 mental and behavioral health outcomes for children and youth and their
83 families;

84 (2) The gaps in services identified by the committee with respect to
85 children and families involved in the mental health system, and
86 recommendations to address such gaps in services;

87 (3) Strengths and barriers identified by the committee that support or
88 impede the mental health needs of children and youth with specific
89 recommendations for reforms;

90 (4) An examination of the way state agencies can work collaboratively
91 through school-based efforts and other processes to improve mental
92 health and developmental outcomes for children;

93 (5) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across
94 the mental health care system for children of color;

95 (6) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across
96 the mental health care system for children with developmental
97 disabilities;

98 (7) A plan to ensure a quality assurance framework for facilities and
99 programs that are part of the mental health care system and are operated
100 privately or by the state that includes data regarding efficacy and
101 outcomes; and

102 (8) A governance structure for the children's mental health system

103 that will best facilitate the public policy and healthcare goals of the state
104 to ensure that all children and families can access high-quality mental
105 health care.

106 (h) The committee shall complete its duties under this section after
107 consultation with one or more organizations that focus on the quality of
108 services for children or research related to the well-being of children,
109 including, but not limited to, The Child Health and Development
110 Institute or Connecticut Voices for Children. The committee may accept
111 administrative support and technical and research assistance from any
112 such organization. The committee shall work in collaboration with any
113 results-first initiative implemented pursuant to any section of the
114 general statutes or any public or special act. The committee shall have
115 allocated funds to provide staffing support for its work.

116 (i) The committee shall be given access to data collected by the state
117 on matters related to children's behavioral health from the relevant state
118 agencies or directly from contracted administrative service
119 organizations, as applicable.

120 (j) The committee shall include two or more subcommittees chaired
121 by a member of the committee to inform its recommendations. The
122 subcommittees may focus on: Workforce-related issues, school-based
123 health, prevention, and intermediate or acute care. All subcommittees
124 shall examine gaps, reimbursement rates, parity in the outcomes of
125 services and the efficacy of services.

126 (k) The committee shall establish a time frame for reviewing and
127 making follow-up reports on the status or progress of the committee's
128 recommendations and activities. Each report submitted by the
129 committee pursuant to this subsection shall include specific
130 recommendations to improve outcomes related to children's mental,
131 emotional or behavioral health and a timeline indicating dates by which
132 specific tasks or outcomes should be achieved.

133 (l) The committee shall develop a strategic plan that integrates the
134 recommendations identified pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

135 The plan may include short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. In
136 developing the plan, the committee shall collaborate with any state
137 agency with responsibilities relating to the mental health system.

138 (m) Not later than August 1, 2023, the committee shall report, in
139 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, such plan together
140 with an account of progress made toward the full implementation of
141 such plan and any recommendations concerning the implementation of
142 identified goals in the plan to the joint standing committees of the
143 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
144 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human
145 services and children, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
146 Management.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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: See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a Behavioral and Mental Health Policy and Oversight Committee to evaluate the availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and mental health treatment services and options for children, and make recommendations regarding the governance and administration of the mental health care system for children. While members of the committee serve without compensation, the bill allows for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of member duties and requires allocated funds to provide staffing support for the committee's work.

The Out Years

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

OFA Bill Analysis

HB 5433

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AND OVERSIGHT.

SUMMARY:

The bill establishes a Behavioral and Mental Health Policy and Oversight Committee to evaluate the availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and mental health treatment services and options for children.

The Committee must make recommendations regarding the governance and administration of the mental health care system for children and report to the Appropriations, Public Health, Social Services, and Children's Committees, and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) by January 1, 2023. The Committee must then develop a strategic plan that integrates such recommendations, and report on the progress made toward implementing the plan as well as recommendations related to implementing any goals identified in the plan, by August 1, 2023.

The bill requires the Committee to consult with one or more organizations that focus on the quality of services for children or research related to the well-being of children, and allows the Committee to accept administrative support and technical and research assistance from any such organization.

While members of the Committee serve without compensation, the bill allows for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of member duties and requires the Committee to have allocated funds to provide staffing support for the committee's work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)