

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1012  
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BACKGROUND CHECKS AND HOME  
**Title:** VISITS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.  
**Vote Date:** 2/28/2023  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 2/16/2023  
**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill updates certain statute language regarding background checks within DCF. These updates include exempting those 18 years or older living in applicants' homes from submitting criminal background in certain instances. Also changing the age of individuals in the homes of applicants for foster care licensure from requiring record checks and child abuse registry checks from sixteen to eighteen.

These changes help to streamline background checks and make the Department of Children and Families more dynamic when dealing with emergency placements. These changes will lessen the financial burden on families who no longer need to conduct two background checks.

The S language allows for virtual house visits in lieu of the declaration of a public health emergency and clarifies the conditions of emergency placement as a situation of sudden unavailability of the child's primary caretaker.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Commissioner, Vanessa Dorantes, adds that this bill updates language in statute regarding required background checks, including FBI fingerprinting process and emergency placements. When emergency placements occur all members of the household over the age of 16 must submit to a background check and fingerprinting. Combining these two statutes (DCF and FBI

background check) this would not only lower the burden of cost on families but also only members 18 years or older would need to perform a background check.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None expressed.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Christian Talarski**

**Date: 3/9/23**