

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1051

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

Vote Date: 2/28/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/21/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill is to require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to determine how policy and procedural changes may increase the effectiveness of services provided to children.

This bill along with other studies helps better understand the intricacies of DCF and to better craft legislation that has an effective foundation to better provide for the children of Connecticut.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Office of the Child Advocate, Acting Child Advocate, Sarah Healy Eagan, supports this bill and the states intention to protect and maintain to children and families. They acknowledge the "systemic gains" of DCF however, want to add that even after the exiting of federal court supervision we should still actively monitor and publicly review the agency. With that being said, OCA recommends the following:

1. Implement ongoing quality assurance regarding effective utilization of services to mitigate child safety concern.
2. Revival of the Children's Report Card (info from DCF regarding wellbeing, safety, and injury prevention) that had been previously codified within CG statutes.
3. The legislature should hold a public hearing to review services available to families with an opioid use disorder. The hearing should include OCA, DCF Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, and others. This hearing can aid in informing needed investments for upcoming budget sessions.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Policy Manager, Bridget Koestner, supports this bill and the need for studies to understand how to help the children of our state better effectively.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/8/23