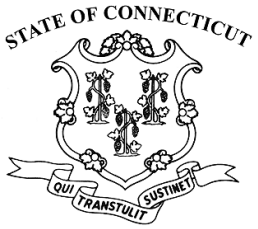

Senate Bill No. 1213

Public Act No. 25-60

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17a-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The council shall meet quarterly, and more often upon the call of the chair or a majority of the members. The council's meetings shall be held at locations that facilitate participation by members of the public, and its agenda and minutes shall be posted on the department's Internet web site. A majority of the members in office, but not less than six members, shall constitute a quorum. The council shall have complete access to all records of the institutions and facilities of the department in furtherance of its duties, while at all times protecting the right of privacy of all individuals involved, as provided in section 17a-28, as amended by this act.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (j) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(j) (1) Any person or individual aggrieved by a violation of subsection (b) or (d) of this section, subsections (f) to (h), inclusive, of this section or subsection (k) of this section, or a person's authorized representative, may seek judicial relief in the manner prescribed in section 52-146j.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(4) Any such relative or fictive kin caregiver who accepts placement of a child shall be subject to licensure by the commissioner, pursuant to regulations adopted by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section or approval by a child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149. The commissioner may grant a waiver from such regulations, including any standard regarding separate bedrooms or room-sharing arrangements, for a child placed with a relative or fictive kin caregiver, on a case-by-case basis, if such placement is otherwise in the best interests of such child, provided no procedure or standard that is safety-related may be so waived. The commissioner shall document, in writing, the reason for granting any waiver from such regulations.

Sec. 4. Subdivision (5) of subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(5) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has been legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical education and

career school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable foster home or in the home of a fictive kin caregiver, relative caregiver, or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except for good cause and unless the **[**parents**]** parent or guardian of such child are notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the commissioner. When placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall provide written notification of the placement, including the name, address and other relevant contact information relating to the placement, to any attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent the child or youth pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The commissioner shall provide written notification to such attorney or guardian ad litem of any change in placement of such child or youth, including a hospitalization or respite placement, and if the child or youth absconds from care. The commissioner shall provide such written notification not later than ten business days prior to the date of change of placement in a nonemergency situation, or not later than two business days following the date of a change of placement in an emergency situation. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall, if possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home conforms to the standards of the commissioner and the commissioner shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. At least ten days prior to transferring a child or youth to a second or subsequent placement, the commissioner shall give written notice to such child or youth and such child's or youth's attorney of said commissioner's intention to make such transfer, unless an emergency or

risk to such child's or youth's well-being necessitates the immediate transfer of such child or youth and renders such notice impossible. Upon the issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the commissioner, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall determine whether the department made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her **[**parents**]** parent or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health and safety.

Sec. 5. Subsection (r) of section 46b-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(r) The provisions of section 17a-152, regarding placement of a child or youth from another state, and section 17a-175, regarding the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, shall apply to placements pursuant to this section. In any proceeding under this section involving the placement of a child or youth in another state where the provisions of section 17a-175 are applicable, the court shall, before ordering or approving such placement, state for the record the court's finding concerning compliance with the provisions of section 17a-175. The court's statement shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A finding that the state has received notice in writing from the receiving state, in accordance with subsection (d) of Article III of section 17a-175, indicating that the proposed placement does not appear contrary to the interests of the child or youth, (2) the court has reviewed such notice, (3) whether or not an interstate compact study or other home study has been completed by the receiving state, and (4) if such a study has been completed, whether the conclusions reached by the receiving state as a result of such study support the placement.

Sec. 6. Subsection (v) of section 46b-129 of the general statutes is

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(v) In any proceeding to review, modify, terminate or extend an order of protective supervision, the Department of Children and Families shall file with the court information concerning (1) whether the department has received or obtained the most up-to-date information concerning the child's medical, dental, developmental, educational and treatment needs from any relevant service providers; (2) whether the child has received services recommended by any such providers and a description of any concerns identified by such providers; (3) a description of (A) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining to the child or a parent <u>or guardian</u> of the child received pursuant to section 17a-103a, (B) whether such report resulted in an investigation, and (C) the findings of any such investigation; (4) any new criminal charges pending against any such parent <u>or guardian</u>; and (5) for any child under three years of age, whether the child was screened for developmental and social-emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-106e, whether any such delays were identified and, if so, whether the child was referred to the birth-to-three program pursuant to said section.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 10, 2025