



Department of Children and Families

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 8, 2021

Update 2021-1

WELCOME TO DCF LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the first edition of the DCF Legislative Update for the 2021 session of the General Assembly. This unprecedented legislative session began on Wednesday, January 6th with the members of the General Assembly being sworn in and the Governor offering his *State of the State* address. His speech can be found by clicking on this link: [Governor Lamont's State of the State Address](#)

The General Assembly also adopted the rules for the biennial session. Due to the pandemic, the rules reflect changes in the procedures of the General Assembly to accommodate virtual meetings and public hearings. Testimony must be submitted online to the committee clerks and committees will develop procedures for the public to sign up to testify. Refer to the legislative Bulletin to discover how committees will be conducting public hearings. The links below are the rules for the 2021-2022 session.

House Rules: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/TOB/H/PDF/2021HR-00002-R00-HB.PDF>

Senate Rules: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/TOB/S/PDF/2021SR-00001-R00-SB.PDF>

Joint Rules: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/TOB/S/PDF/2021SJ-00001-R00-SB.PDF>

Updates will be issued periodically during the legislative session and will provide timely notice of bills, meetings and hearings of interest to the Department.

Governor's Budget Address in February: Governor Lamont will present his two-year budget proposal in early February. The Appropriations Committee will then be holding informational sessions with Department leadership and public hearings. I will provide highlights and dates of hearings once they are available.

Adjournment. The General Assembly adjourns on June 9th at midnight.

BILLS OF INTEREST

Bills that are of interest to child welfare will be posted in this section as they are publicly available. Please feel free to contact me with a question or concern about any specific bill.

<u>HB-5010</u>	AN ACT LIMITING THE NUMBER OF STATE AGENCY REGULATIONS.
<u>HB-5011</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.
<u>HB-5023</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNITY FROM ARREST FOR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR WHEN A PERSON UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE SEEKS ASSISTANCE FOR POSSIBLE ALCOHOL POISONING.
<u>SB-1</u>	AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC.
<u>SB-2</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL EQUITY OF CHILDREN IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC.
<u>SB-6</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, COMPASSIONATE RELEASE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICIES.
<u>SB-16</u>	AN ACT DESIGNATING CONNECTICUT RACE AMITY DAY.
<u>SB-18</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION WAIVERS FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF PERMANENTLY DISABLED VETERANS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
<u>SB-23</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.
<u>SB-30</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN, STEPCHILDREN AND OTHER DEPENDENT CHILDREN.
<u>SB-35</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ADOPTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.
<u>SB-42</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO IDENTITY DOCUMENTS BY HOMELESS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS.
<u>SB-48</u>	AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL HOUSING PROTECTIONS FOR A VICTIM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS – 2021 SESSION

Senator Martin Looney (D) – *Senate President Pro Tempore*
Senator Bob Duff (D) – [Senate Majority Leader](#)
Representative Matt Ritter (D) – *Speaker of the House*
Representative Jason Rojas (D) – [House Majority Leader](#)
Senator Kevin Kelly (R) – [Senate Republican Leader](#)
Representative Vincent Candelora (R) – [House Republican Leader](#)

The links above will bring you to the caucus pages where you will be able to find caucus membership and contact information.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – 2021 SESSION

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Children and Families, including institutions under its jurisdiction, and children.

Chairs: Sen. Saud Anwar (D), Rep. Liz Linehan (D)
Vice-Chairs: Sen. Dennis Bradley (D), Rep. Mary Welander (D)
Ranking Members: Sen. Henri Martin (R), Rep. Anne Dauphinais (R)

A complete list of members can be found on the committee webpage at www.cga.ct.gov/kid/

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Cognizance of all matters relating to appropriations and the operating budgets and all matters relating to state employees' salaries, benefits and retirement, teachers' retirement, veterans' pensions and collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards for state employees.

Chairs: Sen. Cathy Osten (D), Rep. Toni Walker (D)
Vice-Chairs: Sen. Joan Hartley (D), Rep. Lucy Dathan (D), Rep. Anthony Nolan (D)
Ranking Members: Sen. Craig Miner (R), Rep. Mike France (R)

A complete list of members can be found on the committee webpage at www.cga.ct.gov/app/

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Cognizance of all matters relating to (A) the Judicial Department, the Department of Correction and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, (B) courts, judicial procedures, criminal law, probate courts, probation, parole, wills, estates, adoption, divorce, bankruptcy, escheat, law libraries, deeds, mortgages, conveyancing, preservation of land records and other public documents, the law of business organizations, uniform laws, validations, authorizations to sue and to appeal, claims against the state, (C) all (i) judicial nominations, (ii) nominations of workers' compensation commissioners, and (iii) nominations of members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and (D) all bills carrying civil penalties that exceed the sum of, or that may exceed in the aggregate, five thousand dollars.

Chairs: Sen. Gary Winfield (D), Rep. Steve Stafstrom (D)

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Alex Kasser (D), Rep. Matt Blumenthal (D)

Ranking Members: Sen. John Kissel (R), Rep. Craig Fishbein (R)

A complete list of members can be found on the committee webpage at www.cga.ct.gov/iud/

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Mon, Jan 11 - 9:30 AM	Judiciary Committee Meeting and Public Hearing
Mon, Jan 11 - 10:00 AM	Public Health Committee Meeting
Mon, Jan 11 - 11:00 AM	Education Committee Meeting
Tues, Jan 12 - 1:00 PM	Human Services Committee Meeting
Wed, Jan 13 - 10:00 AM	Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
Wed, Jan 13 - 2:00 PM	Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council
Fri, Jan 15 - 10:00 AM	Education Committee Meeting
Fri, Jan 15 - 10:30 AM	Public Health Committee Meeting

Please follow the link to the General Assembly homepage below and scroll down to the calendar for a complete list of meetings.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

For complete legislative information, visit the Connecticut General Assembly's website at - www.cga.ct.gov

For additional information regarding legislative matters, contact Vincent Russo, DCF Legislative Program Director at 860-461-6689.
