



# Department of Children and Families **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

February 11, 2021

Update 2021-6

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## Governor's Budget Address

Governor Lamont gave his budget address on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. He shared his plans and vision for the state over the next two years embodied in his budget proposals. For a complete listing of his budget materials, please click the following link:

[portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/2021-Legislative-Proposals](https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/2021-Legislative-Proposals)

The Department's budget can be found on pages B-72 and B-73 of the budget. The Appropriations Committee will begin having hearings on the agency's budget proposals starting next week and finishing in the first week of March. DCF is scheduled for our budget presentation on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Refer to the Appropriations Committee website to see when other agency presentations are occurring.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

## BILLS OF INTEREST

A few more DCF relevant bills were available this week, including SB 872 that was proposed by DCF. Please see the list below.

<a href="#">HB-6399</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY.
<a href="#">HB-6417</a>	AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS.
<a href="#">HB-6423</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS.
<a href="#">SB-871</a>	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OMBUDSMAN.
<a href="#">SB-872</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING CHILDREN.
<a href="#">SB-881</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.
<a href="#">SB-888</a>	AN ACT RESPONSIBLY AND EQUITABLY REGULATING ADULT-USE CANNABIS.

## **PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION**

Public Hearings will take place virtually this year and each committee has a registration link in the Bulletin on the CT General Assembly webpage. The Committee on Children is conducting a public hearing on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. The DCF bill will be on the agenda and Commissioner Dorantes will be testifying. See the information about the public hearing below.

### **\*COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

The Committee on Children will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.** via **Zoom**. The public hearing can be viewed via [YouTube Live](#). In addition, the public hearing may be recorded and broadcast live on [CT-N.com](#). Individuals who wish to testify via Zoom must register using the [On-line Testimony Registration Form](#). The registration form must contain the name of the person who will be testifying. A unique email address must be provided for each person registered to speak. Registration will close on February 17, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the Committee for Children website on February 17, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony. If you do not have internet access, you may provide testimony via telephone. To register to testify by phone, call the Phone Registrant Line at (860) 240-0370 to leave your contact information. Please email written testimony to [KIDTestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:KIDTestimony@cga.ct.gov) in PDF format. Testimony should clearly state testifier name and bill they are testifying on. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Elected Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and index by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Children Committee Bills

\*Proposed S.B. No. 91 AN ACT CONCERNING RECIPROCAL TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN ADOPTED OUT OF FOSTER CARE IN NEIGHBORING STATES.

\*S.B. No. 871 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OMBUDSMAN.

\*S.B. No. 872 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING CHILDREN.

\*H.B. No. 6417 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS.

\*Proposed H.B. No. 5697 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BABY BONDS PROGRAM.

\*S.B. No. 92 (COMM) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS THAT MAKE PAYMENTS TOWARD CHILD CARE COSTS OF EMPLOYEES.

\*H.B. No. 6399 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY.

\*Proposed S.B. No. 651 AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION TRUST AND 529 PLANS.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS**

<b>Tues, Feb 16 - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Public Health Committee Public Hearing</b>
<b>Tues, Feb 16 - 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Appropriations Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Tues, Feb 16 - 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Alcohol &amp; Drug Oversight Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tues, Feb 16 - 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Human Services Committee Meeting &amp; Public Hearing</b>
<b>Tues, Feb 16 - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Committee on Children Meeting</b>
<b>Thur, Feb 18 - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Committee on Children Public Hearing</b>

Items on the CGA calendar are changing rapidly. Please follow the link to the General Assembly homepage below and scroll down to the calendar for a complete list of meetings and agendas. It is likely other committees will be meeting next week that are not yet scheduled.

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### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE**

For complete legislative information, visit the Connecticut General Assembly's website at - [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

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