



Department of Children and Families

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 20, 2024

Update 2024-2

WELCOME TO DCF LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the second edition of the DCF Legislative Update for the 2024 session of the General Assembly. The legislative session is well underway with the Appropriations Committee holding meetings and hearings for state agencies daily to go along with the other various committee meetings and hearings.

DCF will have its Appropriations Committee meeting and public hearing on Wednesday February 21st along with the other Human Services agencies.

Next Committee on Children Deadline: With the proposed bill deadline passing on last Friday February 9th, the next important Committee on Children deadline date is Thursday February 22nd with both the Committee and Raised Bill deadlines.

All Committee deadlines can be found [here](#).

Adjournment. The General Assembly Adjourns on May 8th at midnight.

BILLS OF INTEREST

All the bills mentioned below are up for a public hearing this Thursday February 22nd in the Committee on Children.

Our two agency bills are below:

[S.B. No. 125](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RELATIVE TO IDENTIFIED ADOPTIONS AND REVISIONS TO CERTAIN TERMINOLOGY.

[S.B. No. 127](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS, CERTAIN SUBSIDIES, URGENT CRISIS CENTERS, DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS AND SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS.

Other bills of interest:

[H.B. No. 5159](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE RESPONSIVENESS OF STATE AGENCIES TO ISSUES CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE. Sponsored by the Committee on Children.

[H.B. No. 5162](#) AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN AGENCIES TO REPORT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Sponsored by the Committee on Children.

[S.B. No. 126](#) AN ACT CONCERNING IN-PERSON HOME VISITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS – 2024 SESSION

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

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – 2024 SESSION

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

www.cga.ct.gov/kid/

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

Chairs: Sen. Ceci Maher (D), Rep. Liz Linehan (D)

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Julie Kushner (D), Rep. Sarah Keitt (D)

Ranking Members: Sen. Lisa Seminara (R), Rep. Anne Dauphinais (R)

Members:

Rep. Pat Boyd (D)	Rep. Robin Comey (D)	Rep. Kadeem Roberts (D)
Rep. Robert Sanchez (D)	Rep. Rick Hayes (R)	Sen. Saud Anwar (D)
Sen. Christine Cohen (D)	Rep. Brian Lanoue (R)	Rep. Mary Welander (D)
Rep. Gale Mastrofrancesco (R)	Rep. Ronald Napoli (D)	
Rep. William Pizzuto (R)	Rep. Tom Arnone (D)	

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee met and held their public hearing Friday after the initial hearing was postponed from Tuesday due to weather.

We are happy to report that the Senate Resolution for Commissioner-Designate Hill-Lilly to be Commissioner of Children and Families was unanimously approved!

The Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee met on Thursday, where DCF presented its Juvenile Justice Education Unit School Accountability Report.

The results of that report and slides used in DCF's presentation can be found [here starting on slide 32.](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Tue, Feb 20 - 1:00 PM	*Children Committee Meeting	Room 2D
Wed, Feb 21 - 10:00 AM	*Appropriations Committee Meeting State Agency Budget Presentations - Human Services Agencies	Room 2C
Wed, Feb 21 - 2:00 PM	*Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY 25 Budget Adjustments for Human Services Agencies	Room 2C
Thu, Feb 22 - 1:00 PM	*Children Committee Public Hearing	Room 1E
Thu, Feb 22 - 2:30 PM	Human Services & Appropriations Committees Informational Briefing re Medicaid Rates Study Interim Report	Room 2C

*Tuesday February 20th's Children's Committee meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

***APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 2024 SCHEDULE OF STATE AGENCY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Human Services

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.	Department of Aging and Disability Services
10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	Department of Social Services
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Department of Children and Families

Public Hearing - 2:00 P.M.

Public testimony will be heard on the following state agencies:

Department of Social Services
Department of Children and Families
Department of Aging and Disability Services

***COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

The Committee on Children will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 1E** of the LOB and 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 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 Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the Committee on Children website on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 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 860-240-0441 to leave your contact information. Please submit written testimony using the **On-line Testimony Submission Form**. 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 Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal 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 indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Committee on Children Bills

H.B. No. 5159 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE RESPONSIVENESS OF STATE AGENCIES TO ISSUES CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

H.B. No. 5160 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING CHILD CARE CENTERS, GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES TO MAINTAIN LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE.

H.B. No. 5161 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.

H.B. No. 5162 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN AGENCIES TO REPORT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

H.B. No. 5163 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

S.B. No. 125 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RELATIVE TO IDENTIFIED ADOPTIONS AND REVISIONS TO CERTAIN TERMINOLOGY.

S.B. No. 126 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING IN-PERSON HOME VISITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

S.B. No. 127 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS, CERTAIN SUBSIDIES, URGENT CRISIS CENTERS, DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS AND SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS.

S.B. No. 128 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

[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 Michael Carone, DCF Legislative Program Director, at 860-936-6353 or Vincent Russo, DCF Chief Administrator of Government Relations & Policy, at (860) 461-6689.