



Department of Children and Families **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

February 29, 2024

Update 2024-3

WELCOME TO DCF LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the third edition of the DCF Legislative Update for the 2024 session of the General Assembly.

Next Committee on Children Deadline: With both the Committee and Raised Bill deadlines passing last Thursday February 22nd, the next important Committee on Children deadline date is today Thursday February 29th's deadline to petition the committee to draft proposed bills into committee bills and also for subject matter public hearings on proposed bills to be held.

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

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

BILLS OF INTEREST

Relevant bills to DCF noted below are up for a public hearing today Thursday February 29th at 10am in the Committee on Children. The Committee will also hold a committee meeting after Thursday's public hearing.

[H.B. No. 5259](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN COURT ORDERS PERTAINING TO CHILD CUSTODY', to permit the Superior Court to include in certain orders pertaining to child custody provisions concerning the identification of a neutral location where parents shall meet to drop off and pick up a child. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

[H.B. No. 5260](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF SHORT-TERM ASSESSMENT AND RESPITE GROUP HOMES FOR CHILDREN', to require the Commissioner of Children and Families to submit a report concerning short-term assessment and respite group homes for children that are operated or licensed by the Department of Children and Families. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

[H.B. No. 5262](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT SURVEY', to include a sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention survey as part of the state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program implemented by school districts. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

[H.B. No. 5263](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT REQUIRING A REPORT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN PURSUANT TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN', to require the Commissioner of Children and Families, administrator of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and Chief Court Administrator to submit a report concerning the

placement of children pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

[S.B. No. 216](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY REGARDING THE USE OF AN ONLINE SOFTWARE APPLICATION TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF STUDENTS', to require the Department of Education to conduct a study of the feasibility of using an online mental health needs software application in schools. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

[S.B. No. 217](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A UNIVERSAL PATIENT INTAKE FORM FOR RECIPIENTS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN', to require providers of behavioral health services for children to utilize a universal patient intake form. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

[S.B. No. 218](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATE-WIDE PROGRAM FOR THE DELIVERY OF BEREAVEMENT AND GRIEF COUNSELING SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES', to establish a task force to study the creation and administration of a state-wide program for the delivery of bereavement and grief counseling services to children and families. REF. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

The full hearing agenda can be found [here](#).

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

Last Wednesday February 21st the Appropriations committee met to hear presentations and ask questions of the Humans Services agencies in the morning regarding the Governor's Proposed FY 25 Budget Adjustments.

This meeting was followed by a near 12-hour public that ended just shy of 2am and can be viewed [here](#). Testimony from the public is also available [here](#), in addition to the 260+ person speaker [listing/order](#).

DCF also had its Appropriations Committee Subcommittee Work Session with other State Agencies yesterday via ZOOM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Thu, Feb 29 - 10:00 AM	Children Committee Public Hearing followed by a Committee Meeting	Room 1C
Tue, Mar 5 - 12:00 PM	Children Committee Public Hearing followed by a Committee Meeting	Room 1E
Wed, Mar 6 - 12:00 PM	Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee Meeting	Room 2D

*Thursday February 29th's Children's Committee meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

The Committee on Children will hold a public hearing, followed by a committee meeting, on **Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.** in **Room 1C** 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**. Registration will close on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be posted on the Committee on Children website on Wednesday, February 28, 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

S.B. No. 216 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY REGARDING THE USE OF AN ONLINE SOFTWARE APPLICATION TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF STUDENTS.

S.B. No. 215 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH CAMPS.

S.B. No. 218 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATE-WIDE PROGRAM FOR THE DELIVERY OF BEREAVEMENT AND GRIEF COUNSELING SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

S.B. No. 217 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A UNIVERSAL PATIENT INTAKE FORM FOR RECIPIENTS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

H.B. No. 5263 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING A REPORT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN PURSUANT TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN.

H.B. No. 5262 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT SURVEY.

H.B. No. 5261 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF ENERGY DRINKS TO INDIVIDUALS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

H.B. No. 5260 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF SHORT-TERM ASSESSMENT AND RESPITE GROUP HOMES FOR CHILDREN.

H.B. No. 5259 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN COURT ORDERS PERTAINING TO CHILD CUSTODY.

[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.