

## DDS Legislative Update – May 30, 2013

### Legislative Session ends Wednesday, June 5, 2013

The 2013 legislative session comes to a close on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at midnight. This has been a very busy year for the General Assembly with gun violence legislation taking up a large part of the legislator's time and attention in the first three months of the session.

DDS's bill [S.B. No. 874 Public Act 13-20](#) - **An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Department of Developmental Services' Statutes** was signed by Governor Malloy on May 28, 2013. This bill creates a 23-member **Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council**, as a successor to an independent council established in connection with the previous autism pilot program, to advise the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) commissioner on autism issues. The council consists of nine state officials or their designees, six gubernatorial appointments, and eight members appointed by legislative leaders.

The bill's provisions also limit appointed members of the **State Interagency Birth-to-Three Coordinating Council** to two consecutive terms, although they may continue to serve until a successor is appointed. The bill eliminates the reference regarding a Department of Education representative, instead designating two members from the department for inclusion on the council: the state coordinators of (1) education for homeless children and youth and (2) early childhood special education.

DDS's other bill [H.B. No. 6388](#) - **An Act Concerning Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities** still is waiting for a vote in the Senate.

**Note:** The House and Senate will be in session most days from May 30<sup>th</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>. **The Connecticut Network (CT-N) streams both House and Senate sessions, so you may watch the debates on legislation as they happen in both chambers.** The link to CT-N is: <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/>.

### House and Senate Pass Southbury Training School Farm Bill

The House and the Senate have both passed [H.B. No. 6542](#) - **An Act Concerning the Preservation of Farmland at the Southbury Training School**. The bill transfers approximately 800 acres of state-owned agricultural land that is currently part of the Southbury Training School (STS) from the care of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to the Department of Agriculture (DAG), which must grant a permanent conservation easement on it to a nonprofit organization. The agricultural land being transferred from DDS is not being used by the residents of STS and a portion of this land has been leased to a local farmer for several years. The bill specifies that the conservation easement must (1) provide for conservation of the farm for agricultural use, conducted according to a federally prepared and DAG-approved conservation plan, and (2) allow the DAG commissioner to lease, permit, or license farm property for such use.

## **DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked as of May 27, 2013**

Below is a link to the list of bills DDS is tracking and assessing as of May 27, 2013 that may be of interest to or may have a potential impact on DDS consumers, families and guardians, DDS employees and DDS providers.

**[DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked – May 27, 2013](#)**

**[Link to all DDS Testimony](#)**

**[DDS Testimony for the Connecticut General Assembly](#)**

**[Link to the DDS Legislative Affairs Webpage](#)**

**<http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=2039&q=394202>**