



Department of Children and Families LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 1, 2019

Update 2019-2

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE DORANTES

The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, for Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management Melissa McCaw and DCF Commissioner Designate Vanessa Dorantes. The hearing will be held in Room 1A of the Legislative Office Building (LOB) and is expected to begin at 11:00 AM. See the Legislative Bulletin notice below:

EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee will hold a public hearing followed by a committee meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. in Room 1A of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 10:00 A.M. in Room 1A of the LOB. Please submit 30 copies of written testimony to the Committee staff, any time prior to but no later than 10:45 A.M., in Room 1A of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to EXNtestimony@cga.ct.gov. Testimony should clearly state testifier name and related Resolutions. 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 Nominees. 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. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. 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: Nominations:

Senate Resolutions:

James C. Rovella of Old Saybrook, to be Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protections

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon of Meriden, to be Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services

House Resolutions:

Melissa McCaw of Middletown, to be Secretary of the Office of Policy Management

Vanessa Dorantes of Bristol, to be Commissioner of Children and Families

Katherine Scharf Dykes of West Hartford, to be Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

The Committee on Children will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. in Room 1B of the LOB. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Please submit 20 copies of written testimony to the Committee staff at 11:00 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to KIDtestimony@cga.ct.gov. 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 and State Agency Heads. 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. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. 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: Miscellaneous Children's Bills

- S.B. No. 797** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SAFETY. (KID)
- S.B. No. 798** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S HEALTH. (KID)
- H.B. No. 6999** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7000** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7001** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYERS OF THE PLACEMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE ON THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7002** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF CAMERA, COMPUTER AND CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE REPAIR PERSONNEL AS MANDATED REPORTERS. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7003** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF RECYCLED TIRE RUBBER AT MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7004** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CONCUSSION EDUCATION FOR COACHES OF YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7005** (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION BY SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7006** (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN BEVERAGES ON CHILDREN'S MENUS. (KID)
- H.B. No. 7007** (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF ENERGY DRINKS TO PERSONS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. (KID)

BILLS OF INTEREST

Proposed HB-6401 AN ACT RECOGNIZING PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME AS A FORM OF EMOTIONAL CHILD ABUSE. To amend the general statutes to (1) define "parental alienation syndrome", (2) recognize parental alienation syndrome as a form of emotional child abuse, and (3) provide adequate remedies when a parent is the victim of parental alienation syndrome.

Proposed HB-6402 AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATED REPORTERS TO REPORT SUSPECTED INSTANCES OF PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME. To require mandated reporters to report suspected instances of parental alienation syndrome.

Proposed HB-6403 AN ACT CONCERNING A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR ADOLESCENTS IN FOSTER CARE. To update and codify a bill of rights for adolescents in foster care developed by the Youth Advisory Board of the Department of Children and Families.

Proposed HB-6405 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. To establish an independent Department of Children and Families Office of the Ombudsman.

Proposed HB-6411 AN ACT CONCERNING SAFE SCHOOL TRANSFERS. To allow parents and guardians of bullied students that option of transferring to a new school for safety purposes.

Proposed HB-6489 AN ACT ENSURING THAT THE PRIVACY OF MINOR CHILDREN IS PROTECTED IN COURT DOCUMENTS. To ensure that the privacy of minor children is protected in court documents.

Proposed HB-6490 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILING OF A CUSTODY EVALUATION IN A FAMILY RELATIONS MATTER. To ensure that the parties to a family relations matter have expeditious access to a report relating to custody evaluation.

Proposed HB-6496 AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRETIONARY TRANSFERS FROM THE DOCKET FOR JUVENILE MATTERS TO THE REGULAR CRIMINAL DOCKET. To provide the court more discretion when determining whether to transfer a case from the docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket.

Proposed HB-6498 AN ACT INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND COMPLETENESS OF SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRIES. To protect children and public safety by strengthening sex offender registries.

Proposed HB-6499 AN ACT REPEALING THE "RAISE THE AGE" LAW. To repeal the "Raise the Age" law in order to address increasing levels of juvenile crime.

Proposed HB-6504 AN ACT PROTECTING MINORS FROM CYBER EXPLOITATION. To include online or Internet-based sexual conduct, sexual acts or sexual performance by a minor paid for by another person, whether or not either party is in the physical presence of the other and regardless of physical contact as a form of commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

Proposed HB-6505 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON SEXUAL ASSAULTS. To make Connecticut's statute of limitations for the prosecution of sexual assaults similar to many other states.

Proposed HB-6507 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIFORM PARENTAGE ACT OF 2017. To ensure that unmarried, same-sex couples are treated the same as unmarried, heterosexual couples for purposes of being able to be listed as the child's parents on the child's birth certificate.

Proposed HB-6516 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND UPHOLSTERED RESIDENTIAL FURNITURE. To prohibit the sale and distribution of children's products containing flame retardant chemicals.

Proposed HB-6537 AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTAL NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO THE TERMINATION OF A PREGNANCY BY A MINOR. To ensure that the best interest of a minor are protected when facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Proposed HB-6599 AN ACT CONCERNING UNAUTHORIZED PHOTOGRAPHY OF A MINOR BY A REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDER. To protect children from unauthorized photography by a registered sexual offender.

Proposed HB-6600 AN ACT PROHIBITING FINDINGS OF NEGLECT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. To permit children to play and travel more freely.

Proposed HB-6602 AN ACT CONCERNING OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS OF STUDENTS IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to check with a school district before placing a student in such school district.

Proposed HB-6665 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS. To consolidate the Commissions on Equity and Opportunity and Women, Children and Seniors into a single commission.

Proposed HB-6698 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. To ensure the health and safety of minor victims of human trafficking and support law enforcement investigations by providing victims with privileged communication, an affirmative defense and immunity from prosecution for nonviolent crime.

Proposed HB-6702 AN ACT PROHIBITING MINORS FROM BEING ELIGIBLE TO MARRY. To prohibit minors from being eligible to marry.

Proposed HB-6783 AN ACT PROHIBITING EXPENDITURES FOR THE KRONOS TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. To save over twenty-five million dollars in implementation costs, including the installation and wiring of one thousand forty-one clocks, eight million dollars per year in software licensing fees, Kronos consultant and training fees and operational costs.

Proposed HB-6826 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF LIFELONG SUCCESS THROUGH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS BUILDING AND POSITIVE INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS FOR ALL CHILDREN. To promote social and emotional skills building and positive interventions and supports for all children.

Proposed HB-6903 AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANDPARENT'S ACCESS TO THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF HIS OR HER GRANDCHILD. To curtail the right of a grandparent to access the birth certificate of his or her grandchild in certain situations.

Proposed HB-6906 AN ACT CONCERNING ADULTS COERCING JUVENILES TO COMMIT GANG-RELATED CRIMES. To prevent adult offenders from utilizing juveniles in the commission of gang-related crimes.

Proposed HB-6918 AN ACT EXPANDING THE AGES FOR MINORS TO BE EMPLOYED. To expand the ages at which minors may be employed.

Raised HB-6999 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS. To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of the programs administered by the Department of Children and Families.

Raised HB-7000 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES. To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes in the Department of Children and Families may increase the effectiveness of services provided to children.

Raised HB-7001 AN ACT CONCERNING THE NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYERS OF THE PLACEMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE ON THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY. To (1) require the Commissioner of Children and Families to make a reasonable effort to determine whether an individual against whom a recommended finding of responsibility for abuse or neglect of a child has been made is employed in a capacity that requires the individual to have regular contact with children and provide services to or on behalf of children, and (2) make a reasonable effort to notify the employer of an individual whose name has been placed on the child abuse and neglect registry if such individual has regular contact with children and provides services to or on behalf of children.

Raised HB-7004 AN ACT CONCERNING CONCUSSION EDUCATION FOR COACHES OF YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. To require youth coaches of youth athletic activities conducted on fields, courts and recreational areas owned, operated or managed by municipalities to take an online concussion course.

Raised HB-7005 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION BY SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS. To permit ordained, commissioned and licensed members of the clergy to acknowledge parental statements concerning religious objections to vaccinations required for enrollment in public and nonpublic schools under the jurisdiction of local and regional boards of education, and to prohibit school nurses from acknowledging such statements.

Raised HB-7006 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN BEVERAGES ON CHILDREN'S MENUS. To prohibit restaurants from including soft drink beverages on children's menus and in children's meals.

Raised HB-7007 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF ENERGY DRINKS TO PERSONS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. To prohibit the sale, giving or delivering of energy drinks to persons under the age of sixteen and require the Commissioner of Public Health to publish information concerning the dangers of energy drink consumption on the Internet web site of the Department of Public Health.

Proposed HB-7030 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DIAPERS TO NEEDY INFANTS AND TODDLERS. To prevent health and employment risks when parents can't afford disposable diapers and lose access to child care facilities that require disposable diapers.

Proposed HB-7034 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD VICTIMS OF RAPE OR PROSTITUTION EMPLOYING PHYSICAL FORCE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. To protect child victims of rape and assault who defend themselves.

Proposed SB-688 AN ACT REFORMING THE SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION LAWS. To create a risk-based sexual offender registration system.

Proposed SB-693 AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL HOUSING PROTECTIONS FOR A VICTIM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT. To increase safety for a victim of family violence or sexual assault when an order of protection has been issued by a civil or criminal court.

Proposed SB-695 AN ACT PROVIDING LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS INVOLVED IN CERTAIN IMMIGRATION MATTERS. To provide children and adults with the right to legal representation in certain immigrations matters.

Proposed SB-703 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DONATION OF BLOOD BY MINORS. To allow any person who is sixteen years of age or older to donate blood.

Proposed SB-759 **AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMPOWERMENT OF MINORS TO GET SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMS.** To eliminate obstacles that may prevent a minor victim of sexual assault from getting a sexual assault forensic exam and to empower such individuals with the knowledge of how to seek such an exam.

Proposed SB-770 **AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH PREVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN.** To prevent and treat mental illness in all children.

Raised SB-797 **AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SAFETY.** To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes within the Department of Children and Families may increase the safety of children.

Raised SB-798 **AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S HEALTH.** To direct the Commissioner of Public Health to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes within the Department of Public Health may improve the health of children.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Tues., Feb. 5 - 10:00 AM	Informational Forum on Family Court	Room 2C
Tues., Feb. 5 - 10:30 AM	Human Services Committee Meeting	Room 2A
Tues., Feb. 5 - 11:00 AM	Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee Public Hearing and Committee Meeting	Room 1A
Tues., Feb. 5 - 1:00 PM	Children's Committee Meeting	Room 1B
Wed., Feb. 6 - 2:00 PM	Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee Meeting	Room 1D
Thurs., Feb. 7 - 1:00 PM	Children's Committee Public Hearing	Room 1B

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 860-550-6329 or 860-461-6689.
