

PA 11-018

HB6358

House	968-971	4
Human Services	252, 261-262, 482, 488	5
<u>Senate</u>	<u>1536-1544</u>	<u>9</u>
		<b>18</b>

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL.54  
PART 3  
705 – 1039**

rgd/mb/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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locked. The Clerk will take the tally. And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6290.

Total Number voting 144

Necessary for adoption 73

Those voting Yea 144

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is passed.

Mr. Clerk, kindly call Calendar 119.

REP. COOK (65th):

On page 11, Calendar 119, substitute for House Bill Number 6358, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS STATUTES, favorable report by the Committee on Human Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

We're getting a little loud.

And if I could have the center aisle cleared please, so I can see Representative Tercyak.

The distinguished Chairman of the Human Services Committee, Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will you explain the bill please, sir.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much.

This -- Mr. Speaker, this bill codifies some recommendations from the legislative commissioner's office to delete a section of the general statute that was duplicative. Repealing Section 17B749L. The bill further clarifies that DSS has to give notice to participants and providers in the Care 4 Kids Program when there is going to be a change in the program status.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Remark further on the bill?

The distinguished ranking member of the Human Services Committee, Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill is as the chairman of the Human Services described. And I had to commend the chairman of Human

Services and DSS to work out language changes which are in the substitute bill. Because DSS initially was concerned that they would have to send out public notices anytime they made any type of change in any of their programs.

And what finally happened is they don't have to do them unless there's a distinct change in hours or in the operation of the program. And it can be done by notifying -- putting these notices on the website rather than paper trails to everybody who is involved.

I recommend passage of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on this bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call.  
Members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members

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voted? If so the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take the tally. And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6358.

Total Number voting 143

Necessary for adoption 72

Those voting Yea 143

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is passed.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 78.

THE CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 78, House Bill Number 6278, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER SERVICES, favorable report by the Committee on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairwoman of the Public Health Committee, Representative Betsy Ritter.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ritter, just a second.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
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March 1, 2011  
11:00 A.M.

was more specific than just who's incarcerated or who had pending charges. There was a lot more information just about legal involvement, which wouldn't be cross-walked over with the DSC system. That was -- we had to hand get that data. We couldn't keep that in our own records because we don't have the capability to do that.

REP. TERCYAK: Thank you very much. Than you.

Okay. Next up, Commissioner Michael Starkowski from the Connecticut Department of Social Services. Welcome back.

MICHAEL P. STARKOWSKI: I have a series of bills that I'm going to testify on today. My written testimony has been submitted. I'll try to make my remarks a little bit shorter than the written testimony so you can move through it.

<u>HB6357</u>	<u>HB6356</u>
<u>HB5429</u>	<u>HB5895</u>
<u>HB5893</u>	<u>HB5757</u>
<u>HB5434</u>	<u>SB296</u>
<u>SB1042</u>	<u>HB6358</u>
<u>HB6361</u>	<u>HB6360</u>

Good morning, Representative Tercyak and Senator Musto and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Michael Starkowski. I'm the Commission of the Department of Social Services. I'm going to walk through some of the bills today, as I just said.

On Senate Bill 1041, AN ACT REPEALING A STATUTE CONCERNING FEDERAL AID FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF, the individual family and grant program regulations, which were originally drafted by DSS pursuant to federal law have since been amended by both the fed's and the state government. The state law now transfers the responsibility for the federal assistance for and individual or family disaster-related expenses to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.



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Department of Labor, and we've already had some discussions with them to modify the contract for the UConn study to make sure that they include all the specific items in the bill.

We feel that adding another report and limiting it to a 100-person pilot would not only impact the services we're providing to everyone else, but impact the resources that are available by having a redundant and poor issue.

On AN ACT CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE CARE 4 KIDS STATUTES, H.B. 6358, H.B. 6358 adds new language to the Care4Kids statute that would require DSS to notify all providers and parents when an operational change is made.

We don't feel that this is a technical change, and we think it shouldn't be portrayed as a technical change. We don't support the bill as written because we need some clarification on what an operational change is. An operational change could be as small as changing the form and having cosmetically changing the form and putting the date in the other corner for ease of use, or changing the form and adding a piece of information.

We already send out information, and we send out when there are substantive changes on to the families that are involved in the program. There's about 13,500 kids that are enrolled in the program now. When we do a mass mailing, it costs us about \$12,000 to do a mass mailing, and we think that if this language was passed and it was mandated that we use the operational change as the reason for sending out additional mailings to clients, we think that's way too broad.

We'd like to work with the Committee and try to understand what the intent is and work on more appropriate language that would limit the times that we have to provide mailings to clients.

H.B. 6361, AN ACT CONCERNING THE NOTICE OF AVAILABLE HOUSING SERVICES TO PERSONS SUBJECT TO EVICTION, the bill establishes requirements to provide written information on housing assistance programs to people involved in the eviction proceedings in housing court.

The Department recommends instead that the individuals be referred to 211. As you know, a number of our housing programs have been closed, our rental assistance program has a waiting list, our security deposit program has been closed, and we don't feel it's going to benefit any of the clients to try to get information from DSS and print a flyer on a particular program, and by the time the ink dries on that flyer when the information is distributed not to DSS but to the court system, the clerk of the court (inaudible) through the individual on the program may be closed, the program may be suspended, the program may have changed its rules.

211 has the expertise and the capacity to collect the information. They provide accurate information and referral services. We would recommend that utilizing the existing 211 structure would provide individuals with an efficient and effective way to get up-to-date information that would provide assistance to those clients that are threatened with eviction.

H.B. 6360, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF A DECISION TO

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**2011**



*Testimony before the Human Services Committee*

*Commissioner Michael P. Starkowski*

*March 1, 2011*

HB6356 HB5429  
HB5895 HB5893  
HB5757 HB5434  
SB296 SB1042  
HB6358 HB6361  
HB6360

Good morning, Senator Musto and Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee. I am pleased to be here this morning to present testimony on legislation introduced at the request of the department and would like to thank the Committee for raising these bills. In addition, I am providing testimony on several other bills that impact the department.

**Bills raised at the request of the Department:**

**S.B. No. 1041 (RAISED) AN ACT REPEALING A STATUTE CONCERNING FEDERAL AID FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF.**

The Individual and Family Grant program regulations, which were originally drafted by DSS pursuant to federal law (section 411 of Public Law 100-707), have since been amended by both federal and state law. CGS 28-9d transfers the responsibility for the federal assistance for individual or family disaster-related expenses to Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

The department has requested that this statute (17b-13), therefore, be repealed, so as not to present any possible conflicts with state law.

**H.B. No. 6357 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS UNDER THE MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

This bill would provide eligible providers and hospitals the right to request an administrative hearing under chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes to contest an adverse action in the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires that aggrieved providers wishing to contest an adverse action under the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program be given the opportunity for a full administrative hearing. However, Connecticut law requires that the right to full administrative hearings under chapter 54 be granted in statute. This proposal grants providers that right and brings Connecticut in line with federal law.

Subsection (b) of section 1 of the proposed bill requires the granting of unlimited extensions of TFA benefits during this pilot for people who make a good-faith effort to comply with its requirements and who have not exceeded the sixty-month limit in subsection (c) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes. Allowing TFA participants to continue to receive TFA benefits for a longer period of time than that which is currently in statute would increase the cost of TFA. In addition, the overall cost of JFES case management and work support services, such as transportation benefits, will increase. We are concerned that if this component of the bill is implemented without increased appropriations, it would jeopardize the current provision of services for the 8,500 participants currently participating in the JFES program.

With regard to subsection (c) of section 1 of the proposed bill, DSS and its JFES partner, the CT Department of Labor (DOL), are part of a federal research grant and have contracted with UConn to study the long-term impacts of the various components of the existing JFES program, including the long-term outcomes for former JFES participants. A draft report is due by mid-summer 2011. We believe that this research, along with the resulting report that will be issued, is consistent with the intent of legislation and the additional reporting requirement in this subsection is duplicative. We will work with DOL and UCONN to ensure that the elements contained in this subsection are included the federal research grant. Thus, before we move to create a new pilot program with redundant activities, we would recommend further discussions with the General Assembly to determine the best approach within available appropriations.

**H.B. No. 6358 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE CARE 4 KIDS STATUTES.**

H.B.6358 adds new language to the Care 4 Kids statute that would require DSS to notify all providers and parents when an "operational change" is made. The department does not feel that this change is technical in nature and should not be portrayed as such.

This new legislation cannot be supported as written without specific parameters around the meaning of "operational status." This can be interpreted very broadly such as notifying parents and providers when the department makes trivial cosmetic changes to forms. Depending on how broad the interpretation of "operational status" is, it could result in an excessive increase in mailing costs and staff resources.

We are happy to work with the proponents on clarifying the language to achieve the goals of the legislation.

**H.B. No. 6361 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF AVAILABLE HOUSING SERVICES TO PERSONS SUBJECT TO EVICTION.**

This bill establishes requirements to provide written information on housing assistance programs to people involved in eviction proceedings in housing court. The department

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Bill 1068. Madam President, move to place that item  
on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk might now call the  
items on the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Sorry. Mr. Clerk, if you'd wait a  
moment; please.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President; thank you. Pardon me.

I have one additional item to add to the Consent  
Calendar before it is called by the Clerk, that is  
Calendar page 18, Calendar 331, House Bill 6358.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

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Madam President, if the Clerk would now call those items placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, it's (inaudible).

THE CLERK:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

THE CLERK:

I'm going to try to call it off the screen; I've never done this.

THE CHAIR:

Okay.

THE CLERK:

Calling --

THE CHAIR:

Just take your time.

THE CLERK:

-- off the screen, Calendar page 1, Calendar Number 394, Senate Joint Resolution 42; Calendar page 1, Calendar Number 427, House Joint Resolution Number 111; Calendar page 2, Calendar Number 428, House Joint Resolution Number 112; Calendar page 2, Calendar Number 436, Senate Joint Resolution 43;



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Calendar page 2, Calendar Number 437, Senate Joint Resolution 44; Calendar page 2, Calendar Number 438, Senate Joint Resolution 45; Calendar page 2, Calendar 468, Senate Resolution Number 26; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 469, Senate Joint Resolution 46; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 484, House Joint Resolution 113; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 485, House Joint Resolution 114; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 486, House Joint Resolution 115; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 487, House Joint Resolution 116; Calendar page 4, Calendar Number 488, House Joint Resolution 117; Calendar -- returning to Calendar -- Calendar page 4, Calendar Number 488, House Joint Resolution 117; Calendar page 9, Calendar 177, substitute for Senate Bill Number 1110; Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 192, substitute for Senate Bill Number 983; Calendar page 16, Calendar Number 305, Senate Bill Number 897; Calendar page 17, Calendar Number 319, substitute for Senate Bill Number 944; Calendar page 17, Calendar Number 326, substitute for House Bill Number 6297; Calendar page 18, Calendar Number 331, substitute for House Bill Number 6358; Calendar page 20, Calendar

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Number 360, Senate Bill Number 1155; Calendar page 35,  
Calendar Number 42, substitute for Senate Bill  
Number 866; Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 60,  
Senate Bill Number 888; Calendar Bill Number 105, on  
page 38, substitute for House Bill Number 5266;  
Calendar page 39 --

THE CHAIR:

So that --

THE CLERK:

-- Calendar Number 1112 --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, can you wait for one moment, please.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, there is one item that the Clerk  
read that I believe should not be on the Consent  
Calendar -- I don't believe I placed it there -- and  
that was Calendar page 35, Calendar 42, Senate  
Bill 866. That item needs to be amended before it  
will be taken up.

THE CHAIR:

Sir, okay. We will take that. Will you remove  
that from the Consent Calendar, please?

SENATOR LOONEY:

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The next item after that, Madam President, to be on the Consent Calendar is Calendar page 36, Calendar -- Calendar 60, if the Clerk might pick up on that one.

THE CLERK:

Okay. Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 60, Senate Bill Number 888; Calendar page 38 --

SENATOR LOONEY:

Okay.

THE CLERK:

-- Calendar Number 105, substitute for House Bill Number 5266; Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 112, substitute for Senate Bill Number 458; Calendar Number 39 -- I mean page 39, Calendar Number 123, Senate Bill Number 1041; Calendar page 40, Calendar Number 132, Senate Bill Number 868; on page 40, Calendar 141, Senate Bill Number 985; on page 43, Calendar Number 199, substitute for Senate Bill Number 1068.

I don't know if there's any other pages here.

THE CHAIR:

Page 18?

A VOICE:

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THE CLERK:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. That --

THE CLERK:

I yield to the Majority Leader.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. That --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I apologize. That item that we had removed from the Consent Calendar actually should be put back on. That was Calendar page 35, Calendar 42, Senate Bill 866. The amendment that was adopted on that bill is the -- was the only amendment that was -- that was needed, so there is not a need -- not a need for an additional amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk, if you want to --

THE CLERK:

Madam President, someone pointed out to me that on Calendar page 18, Calendar Number 331, substitute for House Bill Number 6358, that I missed it, but that's supposed to be on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

That's correct, sir.

Any corrections?

Okay. At this time, I would ask that the Clerk please open up the -- the machine and may announce a roll call vote, and the machines will be open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote on the First Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. An immediate roll call vote on the First Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

You don't have the Consent Calendar up,

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Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

(Inaudible.)

THE CHAIR:

A ready vote.

Senators, we're having a little problem with the machine, if you'll just wait one moment, please.

Okay. It's -- I'm going to close the machine and reopen.

Mr. Clerk, are they resetting the -- the title?

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

Is somebody resetting?

THE CLERK:

He's trying --

THE CHAIR:

Okay.

THE CLERK:

-- to do that. Okay.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

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Do you want to announce again? Mr. Clerk, will you announce a roll call vote again, please, and we will open the machines.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote on the First Consent Calendar is taking place in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. An immediate roll call vote on the First Consent Calendar is taking place in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members voted, the machine will be locked.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madam President:

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is adopted.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: