

**PA12-201**

SB0157

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**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**SELECT  
COMMITTEE  
ON  
CHILDREN  
PART 1  
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**2012  
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happy to have you on this committee and we really look forward to working with you.

At that same time, I would also say that we are missing Representative Hamm and we hope and pray that she is doing very well, but we know that Representative Rose will be a great addition and will help us get good things done for children. So welcome, Representative.

And now I'll turn it back to my cochair to get us going with, I believe it's COMMISSIONER JOETTE KATZ.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Yes, thank you, Representative Urban.

Our first person to testify is Commissioner Joette Katz of the Department of Children and Families.

Welcome, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER JOETTE KATZ: Thank you so much. And if it's okay I'm -- I brought with members of the Department who can answer questions and if it's all right with you I'd ask them to have a seat.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, yes. Please proceed.

COMMISSIONER JOETTE KATZ: Thank you.

Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children. I'm Joette Katz, Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families and I'm here to offer our support on several bills on your public hearing agenda.

The first three bills that I will address were introduced by DCF and I thank the committee for

SB192  
HB5185  
HB5217  
SB156  
SB157  
SB193  
HB5186

ensure consistent and meaningful visitation of siblings in the care of DCF when they have not been placed together. The Department has worked with Connecticut Voices for Children in the development of this proposal and we appreciate the willingness of the proponents in deferring the effective date in order to allow a sufficient time to permit us to modify our sibling visitation practice and policies. I would also point out that a resolution concerning sibling rights was adopted last month by the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors which we supported and I've included this resolution in our testimony.

The Department also supports the intent behind Senate Bill Number 157, AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD CARE FACILITY TO CONFORM WITH THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD. The Bill revises the statutory definition of child care facility in Section 17A-93 of the General Statutes to conform with the definition of a child. This definition relates to those congregate care facilities licensed by DCF. This change is intended to be consistent with provisions of Raise the Age law and it would permit a youth up to 21 years of age who are in school or a job training program to be placed in a child care facility without requiring that they had -- that he or she had been placed in -- in a congregate residential setting prior to his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We also support Senate Bill Number 193, AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS AND REQUIRING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FOR YOUTH CAMP EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS. Last month I testified before this committee and the Judiciary Committee and said that athletic coaches on all levels including youth and collegiate who have had -- who have a great

The first person is Kelley Moore with Rushford on Senate Bill 157.

Welcome.

KELLEY MOORE: Hi there.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Hi.

KELLEY MOORE: Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children. My name is Kelley Moore and I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 157, AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD CARE FACILITY TO CONFORM WITH THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD.

Currently I am employed as a referral coordinator at the Rushford Center where I work to connect families to treatment. Rushford is a nonprofit behavioral health prevention and treatment provider headquartered in Meriden with facilities also in Middletown, Glastonbury, Portland and Durham.

Rushford strongly supports Senate Bill 157 which would revise the definition of child care facility under Section 17a-93 and allow for people who have turned 18 but are still in school to be placed in the appropriate treatment setting.

Under the current definition, some full-time high school students under the age of 21 and in need of mental health or substance abuse treatment are placed in adult programs that are not adequate or appropriate for their needs. For instance, last year, an 18-year-old high school senior could not be admitted at one of Rushford's residential facilities due to this restriction. Despite these students falling under the statutory definition of child, they

are prohibited from being placed into a congregate residential setting with their peers because of the definition of child care facility.

As it currently stands, people must be placed in a congregate residential setting prior to such person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, even if they are still a student. Striking that portion of the definition and passing this Legislation is critical to the treatment of these adolescents who are still developing at that very age. This is especially true of the population we serve who struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues.

A conversation with an R.N. reported that an 18-year-old that enters into adult treatment today as she described it is a sheep in -- a lion's den. The 180year-old is more apt to find difficulty handling the emotional portion of treatment, a necessarily part of group therapy that allows a participant to develop new ways of relating to people. The difficulties that bring an adult to treatment such as job loss, family abandonment, are vastly different than that of an adolescent who might never have left home.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 157 which would allow children to be placed in the appropriate treatment facility. Thank you for your time and attention.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Just in time. Perfect.

Thank you, Ms. Moore. And Rushford is a proponent of this Legislation and I assume you were in the room, did you hear Commissioner Katz say that the agency does support the Legislation and its intent but would like to

work with the proponents on tightening up the language.

KELLEY MOORE: Yes, I did.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Okay, good. I thank you for that.

Are there any comments or questions or discussion?

If not, thank you very much for coming today.

KELLEY MOORE: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Next is Jamey Bell, Connecticut Voices for Children testifying on Senate Bill 156.

JAMEY BELL: Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Children. I'm testifying today on behalf of Connecticut Voices for Children. I'm Jamey Bell, the executive director.

Connecticut Voices for Children strongly supports Senate Bill 156, CONCERNING SIBLING VISITATION FOR CHILDREN IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

While -- when it's not possible for the Department to place siblings together, DCF should provide for frequent and regular visitation between separated siblings. Essentially the law requires that when it's possible siblings be placed together. However DCF has consistently failed to meet its obligation due to various reasons to place together and most recently the federal court overview process overseeing the Department found that DCF was in need of improvement in

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TESTIMONY OF KELLEY MOORE, RUSHFORD CENTER FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON CHILDREN  
February 28, 2012

Supporting  
S.B. 157 AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD CARE FACILITY TO  
CONFORM WITH THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and Members of the Select Committee on Children, my name is Kelley Moore and I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 157- An Act Revising the Definition of a Child Care Facility to Conform with the Definition of a Child.

Currently, I am employed as a Referral Coordinator at the Rushford Center where I work to connect families to treatment. Rushford is a non-profit behavioral health prevention and treatment provider headquartered in Meriden, with facilities also in Middletown, Glastonbury, Portland and Durham.

Rushford strongly supports Senate Bill 157 which would revise the definition of "child care facility" under §17a-93 and allow for people who have turned eighteen but are still in school to be placed in the appropriate treatment setting. Under the current definition some full time high school students under the age of twenty-one and in need of mental health or substance abuse treatment are placed in adult programs that are not adequate or appropriate for their needs.

For instance, last year an eighteen year old high school senior could not be admitted at one of Rushford's residential facilities due to this restriction. Despite these students falling under the statutory definition of "child" they are prohibited from being placed into a congregate residential setting with their peers because of the definition of "child care facility." As it currently stands, people must be "placed in a congregate residential setting prior to such person's eighteenth birthday" even if they are still a student.

Striking that portion of the definition and passing this legislation is critical to the treatment of these adolescents who are still developing at that age. This is especially true of the population we serve who struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues.

A conversation with a RN, reported that an eighteen-year old that enters into adult treatment today, as she describes it, "is a little sheep in a lions den." The eighteen-year old is more apt to find difficulty handling the emotional portion of treatment, a necessary part of group therapy that allows a participant to develop new ways of relating to people. The difficulties that bring an adult to treatment, such as job loss or family abandonment, are vastly different than that of an adolescent who might never have left home.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 157, which would allow children to be placed in the appropriate treatment facility. Thank you for your time and attention.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony  
Select Committee on Children  
February 28, 2012



**S.B. No. 192 AN ACT CONCERNING FINALIZING ADOPTIONS BY THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR JUVENILE MATTERS**

The Department of Children and Families supports S. B. No. 192 - An Act Concerning Finalizing Adoptions by the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters. This proposal is part of DCF's legislative package this year, and we thank the Committee for raising the bill.

This bill would permit the finalization of adoptions in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters for those cases under the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of a termination of parental rights (TPR) petition. The Superior Court for Juvenile Matters has detailed knowledge of the case including the child's best interest and the care the child received by the proposed adoptive parents. Approximately 1,000 adoptions are finalized each year by Probate Courts and this legislation would impact 500 to 600 adoptions. The non-DCF adoptions finalized by Probate Courts are typically step-parent adoptions and adoptions facilitated by private child-placing agencies.

The data below from FY 2011 shows that it takes just under one year (11.6 months) on average from termination of parental rights to adoption finalization. The median length of time is 6.9 months. We believe that this bill can decrease this length of time between termination of parental rights and adoption and permit permanency for the child and the adoptive family.

DCF Office	FY 2011 Adoptions	Time from TPR to Adoption	
		Average	Median
Bridgeport	25	7.8 months	6.1 months
Danbury	17	9.7 months	4.8 months
Hartford	75	10.3 months	6.8 months
Manchester	62	9.1 months	6.7 months
Menden	23	15.7 months	4.5 months
Middletown	9	12.4 months	4.8 months
Milford	17	17.6 months	7.5 months
New Britain	59	12.7 months	7.4 months
New Haven	48	13.5 months	10.6 months
Norwalk	8	14.9 months	4.9 months
Norwich	63	8.5 months	4.6 months
Stamford	6	15.9 months	9.8 months
Torrington	28	8.8 months	5.2 months
Waterbury	56	16.4 months	10.2 months
Willimantic	23	9.9 months	5.7 months
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>11.6 months</b>	<b>6.9 months</b>

HB5185

HB5217

SB156

SB157

SB193

HB5186

2. Shall be in close proximity to siblings if unable to be in same setting to facilitate frequent and meaningful contact.
3. Shall be afforded contact with siblings regardless of geographic barriers. The methods for contact should be outlined in the child's service plan.
4. Shall be actively involved in his/her siblings' lives and share celebrations including birthdays, holidays, graduations, and meaningful milestones.
5. Shall maintain consistent and regular contact that will be included in service planning.
6. Shall be included in permanency planning decisions relative to his/her siblings. Foster children should know what the expectations are for continued contact when a sibling is adopted or guardianed.
7. Shall be notified by the Child Welfare agency or its agents regarding a sibling's change of placement.
8. Shall be informed when a sibling is discharged from foster care. Alumni shall be allowed to maintain contact with a sibling who remains in state care.
9. Shall be supported by the Child Welfare agency in his/her efforts to maintain relationships with siblings who are not in care or have been adopted or guardianed. The Department shall facilitate such contact as appropriate.
10. Shall have predictable, regular contact with siblings that shall not be withheld as a behavioral consequence absent safety concerns.

**S.B. No. 157 AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD CARE FACILITY TO CONFORM WITH THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD**

The Department of Children and Families supports the intent behind S.B. No. 157 - An Act Revising the Definition of a Child Care Facility to Conform with the Definition of a Child.

This bill revises the statutory definition of "child care facility" in section 17a-93 of the General Statutes to conform with the definition of a "child." This definition relates to those congregate care facilities licensed by DCF. This change is intended to be consistent with the provisions of the "Raise the Age" law. It would permit a youth up to twenty-one years of age who are in school or a job training program to be placed in a child care facility without requiring that they had been placed in a congregate residential setting prior to his eighteenth birthday.

The Department would like to work with the proponents of this legislation to tighten the language to clarify that it applies to youth who either were committed to the care and custody of DCF prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or are adjudicated delinquent for an offense committed prior to his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**S.B. No. 193 AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS AND REQUIRING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS FOR YOUTH CAMP EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS**

The Department of Children and Families supports S.B. No. 193 - An Act Concerning Mandated Reporters and Requiring Criminal History Records Checks for Youth Camp Employees and Volunteers.

Last month, Commissioner Katz testified before the Select Committee on Children and the Judiciary Committee and said that that athletic coaches on all levels -- including youth and collegiate -- who have a great deal of interaction with children, should be included on the list of those mandated to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Currently, Connecticut's

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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Representative Brendan Sharkey, House Majority  
Leader, sir, for what reason do you rise?

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just to be safe, I move that we  
immediately transmit all items that we've taken up here  
in the House that require additional action in the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to immediately transmit all items that  
need any further action to the Senate.

Any objection?

Hearing none, all items are immediately transmitted.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to now do -- begin our work  
on a consent calendar. There are a number of bills that  
will not require amendments and I'd like to read them now  
by calendar number.

They would be Calendar Number 204, Calendar Number  
412, Calendar Number 425, Calendar 426, Calendar 442,  
Calendar 460, Calendar 495, Calendar 507, and Calendar  
508.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

HB 308

SB 157

SB 339

SB 340

SB 41

SB 116

SB 188

SB 371

SB 391

mr/ch/rgd/gdm/gbr  
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Motion is to place these items on the consent  
calendar.

Is there any objection?

Any objection?

Hearing none, those items are placed on the consent  
calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 71.

THE CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 71, Substitute for House Bill  
Number 5025, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTING FIRMS, favorable report by the Committee on  
Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Russ Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening, sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint  
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

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calendar.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker..

Mr. Speaker, I'm about to call the items again that are on the consent calendar, but I would like to alert the Clerk to two bills that we will be taking off the consent calendar. They are Calendars 380, and Calendars 431. Those are Calendars 380 and Calendar 431.

HB5333  
SB130

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 204.

THE CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 204, Substitute for House Bill Number 530, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD IN CONTROL OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, favorable report by the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With that, let me -- I was looking to just list the calendar numbers again that we are planning to put on the consent calendar before I move them. I'll be doing this

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in numerical order by calendar number.

They are Calendar Number 71, Calendar 204, Calendar 205, Calendar 287, Calendar 292, Calendar 330, Calendar 402, Calendar 407, Calendar 412, Calendar 417, Calendar 425, Calendar 426, Calendar 442, Calendar 458, Calendar 460.

Calendar 463, Calendar 492, Calendar 495, Calendar 499, Calendar 500, Calendar 501, Calendar 506, Calendar 507, Calendar 508, Calendar 512, Calendar 515, Calendar 516, Calendar 530, Calendar 538 and Calendar 545.

And I'd also like to add to that -- I'm sorry. I omitted one which is Calendar 275.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before us is passage of the bills on today's consent calendar.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

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 voting the consent calendar by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

HB5025  
HB5368  
HB5326  
HB5539  
HB5146  
SB328  
HB5534  
HB5555  
SB157  
SB232  
SB339  
SB340  
SB41  
SB98  
SB116  
SB196  
SB97  
SB188  
SB234  
SB237  
SB299  
SB347  
SB371  
SB391  
SB345  
SB383  
SB384  
SB29  
SB354  
HB5320  
SB254

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

If all the members have voted the machine will be locked. The Clerk will please take a tally.

The Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number Voting 150

Necessary for Adoption 76

Those Voting Yea 150

Those Voting Nay 0

Those Absent and Not Voting 1

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The consent calendar passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 443.

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 443, Senate Bill Number 60, AN ACT PROHIBITING PRICE GOUGING DURING SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS, favorable report by the Committee on the Judiciary.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

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SENATE

4  
April 18, 2012

Senate Bill Number 320, Madam President, would move to place that item on our Consent Calendar

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, sir, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, on Calendar Page 7, Calendar 187 is marked go.

Madam President, on Calendar Page 8, Calendar 203 is marked go.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Calendar Page 9, Calendar 224 is marked go. Calendar Page 9, Calendar 226 is go.

Calendar Page 10, Calendar 232 is marked go.

Calendar Page 11, Calendar 238 is marked go.

Moving to Calendar Page 12, Madam President, Calendar 258, Senate Bill Number 340, Madam President, would move to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing on Calendar Page 12, Calendar 259, Senate Bill Number 157, Madam President, would move to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

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SENATE

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April 18, 2012

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing Calendar Page 12, Calendar 260 is marked go. Also, Calendar Page 12, Madam President, Calendar 265, Senate Bill Number 176. Madam President, would move to place this item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to Calendar Page 13, Calendar 271 is marked go. Also Calendar Page 13, Calendar 273, marked go. Calendar 274, on Calendar Page 13, also, marked go. Calendar 275, marked go.

Moving on to Calendar Page 14, Calendar 275, marked go. Also Calendar Page 14, Calendar 280, marked go. Calendar Page 14, Calendar 285, Senate Bill Number 404, Madam President, would move to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, moving to Calendar Page 15, Calendar 291 is marked go. Calendar Page 15, Calendar 292 is marked passed temporarily. Moving to Calendar Page 15, Calendar 295, Madam President, is marked go.

cah/med/gbr  
SENATE

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Madam President, if we might call now to have the Clerk read the items on the Consent Calendar and then to move to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please read the items on the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 300, House Joint Resolution Number 78; page 1, Calendar 301, House Joint Resolution Number 79.

Page 2 Calendar 302, House Joint Resolution Number 80; page 2, Senate Bill -- Calendar Number 64, Senate Bill 37.

Page 3, Calendar 89, Senate Bill 56.

Page 4, Calendar 110, Senate Bill 184; page 4, Calendar 91, Senate Bill Number 276.

Page 5, Calendar 127, Senate Bill 320.

Page 8, Calendar 203, Senate Bill 408.

Page 9, Calendar 226, Senate Bill 411; also, on page 9, Calendar 224, Senate Bill Number 339.

Page 10, Calendar 232, Senate Bill Number 186.

On page 11, Calendar 238, House Bill 5250.

On page 12, Calendar 258, Senate Bill 340; also on page 12, Calendar 259, Senate Bill 157; page 12, Calendar 265, Senate Bill 176.

Page 13, Calendar 271, Senate Bill 350; page 13, Calendar 273, Senate Bill 293; page 13, Calendar 274, Senate Bill 294.

Page 14, Calendar 285, Senate Bill 404.

Page 15, Calendar 296, Senate Bill Number 307.

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And page 24, Calendar 132, Senate Bill 337.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a second.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Those are the items listed. The machine will be open.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar. Thank you.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

And Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for passage	19
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY.