

**PA12-035**

HB5346

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House	1501-1504	4
<u>Senate</u>	<u>2950-2951, 2952-2953</u>	<u>4</u>
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**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**SELECT  
COMMITTEE  
ON  
CHILDREN  
PART 3  
597 - 869**

**2012**



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Select Committee on Children

March 6, 2012



SB294

SB296

HB5346

**S.B. No. 272 AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

- The Department of Children and Families supports the intent behind S.B. No. 272 - An Act Concerning Social Security Support for Foster Children. This bill requires that the placement plan for each child in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families include documentation as to whether the child is eligible for benefits from the Social Security Administration, including, but not limited to, supplemental security income, survivor and disabled adult child benefits. It requires DCF to complete and submit an application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for any eligible child in its care and custody.

The Department appreciates the need to ensure that our children are enrolled for SSI and other programs for which they may be eligible in a timely manner. DCF received SSI benefits on behalf of 283 children for calendar year 2011 totaling \$1,120,107. Last year, 142 SSI applications were filed with Social Security and 54 SSI applications were disapproved. We have no objection to the requirement that we make application for SSI benefits, but we do not believe that we should be mandated by law to appeal any denial of an application.

The Committee may consider incorporating this concept into the permanency plan provisions of S.B. No. 293. In addition, we offer the following suggested amendment to the language of this bill:

- On line 1 - Delete "placement" and insert "permanency" in lieu thereof
- On lines 9 through 10 - Delete " appeal the denial of an application, if applicable, and"

**S.B. No. 293 AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION PLANS**

The Department of Children and Families supports the intent behind S.B. No. 293 - An Act Concerning Permanency and Transition Plans. This bill requires that permanency plan documents submitted by DCF and any permanency plan hearings include information regarding what steps the department has taken to make any necessary referrals for children under five years of age to early intervention, preschool, or special education services, steps taken to enable a child sixteen years of age or older to learn independent living skills and complete a secondary education or vocation program, and steps taken to develop a personalized transition plan for children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen.

there are many birth parents who voluntarily relinquished parental rights with an expectation of anonymity.

Adoption law originated in 1944 in the State of Connecticut. From 1944 until 1975, adult adoptees (age 18 and older) and/or their adoptive parents in the State of Connecticut had access to their original birth certificates through the State Department of Health or the registrar of vital statistics at the town level. In 1975, the original birth records were sealed both from that point forward and retroactively.

**H.B. No. 5346 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES  
AFFECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

The Department of Children and Families supports H.B. No. 5346 - An Act Concerning Minor and Technical Revisions to Statutes Affecting Children and Youth.

As the title of this bill suggests, this bill simply makes minor and technical revisions to statutes affecting children and youth.

**H – 1127**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

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properly cast. The machine will be locked, and the Clerk will prepare the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5440.

Total number voting	146
Necessary for adoption	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 253.

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 253, Substitute for House Bill Number 5346, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES AFFECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH, favorable report by the Committee on Human Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Urban, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, this bill restricts the Department

of Children and Families' duty to disclose records under certain situations. Current law requires DCF to disclose a record subject to applicable law to any employee for any purpose reasonably related to DCF business.

Under this bill such a disclosure may only be made if it is reasonably related to the performance of the particular DCF employee's duties. The bill also makes minor technical and conforming changes to statutes affecting children and youth.

Madam Speaker, the Clerk has in possession an amendment, LCO 3279. I ask that he call it and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 3729 -- 3279.

THE CLERK:

LCO 3279, House "A," offered by Representative Urban.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The Representative has asked leave to summarize. Is there any objection? Is there any objection? Seeing none, please proceed.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This amendment adds some very minor additional clarifying language for accuracy and consistency. And I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The question before us is adoption of Amendment "A." Is there anyone speaking on Amendment "A?" No? Let me try your minds. All those in favor please indicate by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Opposed?

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark on the bill as amended? Will you remark on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the well. Members take your 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 Ryan in the Chair.



DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?  
Will the members please check the board to determine  
if their vote is properly cast. If all members have  
voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will  
take a tally. The Clerk will please announce the  
tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5346 as amended by House "A."

Total number voting	145
Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 295.

THE CLERK:

On page 27, Calendar 295, Substitute for House  
Bill Number 5219, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF  
YOUNG ADULTS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT CARD ON POLICIES AND  
PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN, favorable report by the  
Committee on Human services.

**S - 644**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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SENATE

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May 3, 2012

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Madam President, under matters returned, calendar page 29, Calendar 334, Senate Bill 427, I move to refer this item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, in addition to the items placed on our consent calendar earlier, thanks to the cooperation of the minority we have several more to add. I will begin those, Madam President.

First, is on calendar page 3, Calendar 235, House Bill 5030. Madam President, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

On calendar page 9, Calendar 363, House Bill 5073, Madam President, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, on calendar page 10, Calendar 377, House Bill 5346, move to place this item on the consent calendar.

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THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 389, House Bill 5318.  
Madam President, move to place this item on the  
consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to calendar page 13, Calendar 400, House  
Bill 5515, Madam President, move to place this item on  
the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

On calendar page 14, Calendar 407, House Bill 5484,  
Madam President, move to place that item on the  
consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And calendar page 15, Calendar 409, House Bill 5498,  
move to place this item on the consent calendar.

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THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And a final item is on calendar page 25, Calendar 112, Senate Bill 61, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would now read the items on the consent calendar, both these just added and the ones placed on it earlier today, and then if we might move to a vote on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Absolutely.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the calendar first, the consent calendar.

THE CLERK:

On calendar page 1, Calendar 106, Senate Bill 316; page 3, Calendar 235, House Bill 5030; on page 6, Calendar 315, Senate Bill 367; on page 9, Calendar 363, House Bill 5073; on page 10, Calendar 377, House Bill 5346; on page 11, Calendar 39, House Bill 5318; on page 13, Calendar 400, House Bill 5515; and on page 14, Calendar 407, House Bill 5484.

On page 15, Calendar 409, House Bill 5498; page 25, Calendar 178, Senate Bill 384. On page 25, Calendar 112, Senate Bill 61; page 26, Calendar 202,

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SENATE

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Senate Bill 383; page 27, Calendar 280, Senate  
Bill 345. And on page 29, Calendar 352, Senate  
Bill 353.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. All right.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote on the consent calendar, and the machine will be open.

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.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number voting	36
Necessary for passage	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

First of all, of the matters referred to committee earlier, would move that those items be immediately