



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 755

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7250

House of Representatives, April 23, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 46b-121n of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

5 (1) Two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be
6 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of
7 whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

8 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
9 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
10 relating to the judiciary, children, human services and appropriations,
11 or their designees;

12 (3) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court

- 13 Administrator's designee;
- 14 (4) A judge of the superior court for juvenile matters, appointed by
15 the Chief Justice;
- 16 (5) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of
17 the Judicial Department, or the executive director's designee;
- 18 (6) The executive director of the Superior Court Operations Division,
19 or the executive director's designee;
- 20 (7) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's
21 designee;
- 22 (8) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's
23 designee;
- 24 (9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
25 commissioner's designee;
- 26 (10) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's
27 designee;
- 28 (11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 29 (12) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
30 the commissioner's designee;
- 31 (13) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
- 32 (14) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
33 designee;
- 34 (15) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
35 designee;
- 36 (16) The president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or the
37 president's designee;
- 38 (17) The chief of police of a municipality with a population in excess

39 of one hundred thousand, appointed by the president of the Connecticut
40 Police Chiefs Association;

41 (18) Two child or youth advocates, one of whom shall be appointed
42 by one chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight
43 Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed by the other
44 chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee;

45 (19) Two parents or parent advocates, at least one of whom is the
46 parent of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system,
47 one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of
48 Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
49 leader of the Senate;

50 (20) The Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's designee;

51 (21) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

52 (22) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
53 secretary's designee;

54 (23) Two children, youths or young adults under twenty-six years of
55 age with lived experience in the juvenile justice system, [one of whom]
56 who shall be appointed by the [house chairperson of the joint standing
57 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
58 relating to the judiciary and one of whom shall be appointed by the
59 house ranking member of such joint committee] community expertise
60 subcommittee;

61 (24) One community member who may be a family member of a child
62 who has been involved with the juvenile justice system or a credible
63 messenger with lived experience in the juvenile justice system and who
64 works with youth in the juvenile justice system, nominated by the
65 community expertise subcommittee and appointed by the chairpersons
66 of this committee;

67 (25) One member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, appointed by
68 the tribe; [and]

69 (26) One member of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut,
70 appointed by the tribe;

71 (27) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee;
72 and

73 (28) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
74 or the commissioner's designee.

75 Sec. 2. Section 46b-121n of the general statutes is amended by adding
76 subsection (v) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

77 (NEW) (v) (1) There is established within the committee a state
78 advisory council to fulfill tasks assigned to the state and required by the
79 federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, 42 USC 5601
80 et seq., as amended from time to time. Such tasks shall include, but need
81 not be limited to, participating in the development of and annual
82 revisions to a juvenile justice plan for the state and advising state
83 agencies on administering the plan and the allocation of certain grant
84 funds. The state advisory council shall have the opportunity to review
85 and comment on all applications for a formula grant under Title II of
86 said act submitted to the state.

87 (2) The council shall consist of at least fifteen members, but not more
88 than thirty-three members as follows:

89 (A) The undersecretary for the Office of Policy and Management,
90 who directs the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
91 established pursuant to section 4-68m of the general statutes, or the
92 undersecretary's designee; and

93 (B) The remaining fourteen to thirty-two members, each appointed
94 by the Governor in a manner consistent with said act, as follows:

95 (i) At least one-fifth of whom shall be under the age of twenty-four
96 years at the time of the member's initial appointment; and

97 (ii) At least three of the members shall have been or are under the

98 jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system, or if not feasible and in
99 appropriate circumstances, a parent or guardian of such a person.

100 (3) The term for each member of the council appointed pursuant to
101 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be three
102 years beginning on June thirtieth, and ending on June thirtieth or until
103 a successor is appointed.

104 (4) Any member may serve two full terms, which may be consecutive.

105 (5) The Governor shall stagger the initial appointments to the council.

106 (6) Any member appointed to fulfill a term left vacant by a member
107 shall serve for the remaining period of such term and may be
108 reappointed subject to limitations provided in the provisions of
109 subdivision (4) of this subsection.

110 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-198c of the general statutes is
111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
112 *passage*):

113 (b) (1) Each local and regional board of education that (A) has a
114 district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher shall establish
115 an attendance review team for the school district, (B) has a school under
116 the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of
117 fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team at
118 such school, (C) has more than one school under the jurisdiction of the
119 board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher
120 shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at
121 each such school, or (D) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per
122 cent or higher and one or more schools under the jurisdiction of the
123 board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher
124 shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at
125 each such school. Such attendance review teams shall be established to
126 address chronic absenteeism in the school district or at the school or
127 schools.

128 (2) Any attendance review team established under this subsection

129 may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school
130 counselors, school social workers, teachers and representatives from
131 community-based programs who address issues related to student
132 attendance by providing programs and services to truants, as defined in
133 section 10-198a, and chronically absent children and their parents or
134 guardians. Each attendance review team shall be responsible for
135 reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children,
136 discussing school interventions and community referrals for such
137 truants and chronically absent children and making any additional
138 recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and
139 their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at
140 least monthly.

141 (3) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
142 Department of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions
143 of section 11-4a, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
144 established pursuant to section 46b-121n, as amended by this act, on
145 each district with an attendance review team, including specific efforts
146 and outcomes of such teams that are for alliance districts, as defined in
147 section 10-262u, as reported in the alliance district plan, and any
148 effective practice implemented by an attendance review team to reduce
149 chronic absenteeism rates.

150 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each municipality or agent of a
151 municipality operating a juvenile review board or another diversion
152 program for youth shall annually report, in accordance with the
153 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
154 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
155 relating to the judiciary and children and to the Office of the Chief State's
156 Attorney on data related to children diverted by the use of such board
157 or program and the outcomes of such diversions, and as otherwise
158 directed by the Department of Children and Families.

159 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2026,
160 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under
161 section 7-294b of the general statutes, the chairpersons of the Juvenile

162 Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section
163 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and
164 representatives of the community expertise subcommittee of said
165 committee shall develop (1) a state-wide uniform youth diversion policy
166 for proposed adoption by said council, and (2) a youth diversion
167 training curriculum for proposed inclusion in minimum basic training
168 programs requiring satisfactory completion for purposes of obtaining
169 certification as a police officer.

170 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2025, and
171 annually thereafter, the Department of Children and Families shall
172 report on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed
173 Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan released
174 by the department in March 2024, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and
175 Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the
176 general statutes, as amended by this act. Such initial report shall use
177 metrics in use at the time of such reporting. Not later than September
178 30, 2025, the department shall consider and may develop additional
179 metrics for use in successive annual reports.

180 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of
181 Policy and Management shall annually report to the Juvenile Justice
182 Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-
183 121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, an evaluation of the
184 reentry success plan developed pursuant to section 3 of public act 23-
185 188, as amended by section 2 of public act 24-139, and provide policy
186 development coordination at the Office of Policy and Management and
187 the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. Such
188 evaluations shall be conducted using a secure data enclave.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	46b-121n(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	46b-121n(v)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-198c(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	46b-121n(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	46b-121n(v)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-198c(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 5, Subsecs. (a) and (b) were consolidated for clarity.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	148,100	145,900
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	60,000	60,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of approximately \$148,100 in FY 26 and \$145,900 in FY 27 to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for one additional staff and equipment to (1) annually evaluate and report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee on a reentry success plan for juveniles released, and (2) coordinate policy development between OPM and the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division. There is a corresponding annual cost of \$60,000 beginning in FY 26 to the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits.

The bill also (1) establishes an advisory council within the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), and (2) outlines various reporting requirements that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7250*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes an advisory council within the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) to (1) help develop the state's juvenile justice plan in line with federal requirements, (2) advise state agencies on administering the plan, and (3) review and comment on certain grant applications.

The bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the JJPOC chairpersons, and representatives of JJPOC's community expertise subcommittee to develop a proposed (1) statewide uniform youth diversion policy for JJPOC's adoption and (2) youth diversion training curriculum for inclusion in minimum basic training programs that lead to police certification. Both must occur by February 1, 2026 (§ 5).

It also creates the following four annual reporting requirements:

1. the State Department of Education (SDE) must report to JJPOC on school districts' attendance review teams and effective practices these teams use to reduce chronic absenteeism,
2. municipalities operating a juvenile review board or other youth diversion programs must report data to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on children diverted by using the boards or programs,
3. DCF must report to JJPOC on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan, and

4. the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must report an evaluation of the state's juvenile reentry success plan to JJPOC.

Lastly, regarding JJPOC's membership, the bill (1) expands it by adding the housing and emergency services and public protection commissioners, or their designees, and (2) requires the community expertise subcommittee, rather than the Judiciary Committee's House chairperson and ranking member, to appoint JJPOC's two members who are under age 26 with lived experience in the juvenile justice system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 2 — ADVISORY COUNCIL

Purpose

By creating the advisory council, the bill helps the state meet its requirements for pursuing Title II formula grants under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

This federal law furthers juvenile crime prevention efforts by giving grants to states for programs that support delinquency prevention, intervention, and juvenile justice system improvements. Generally, to receive a grant a state must have a juvenile justice plan that meets specific requirements, designate a state agency to prepare and administer it, and have a state advisory group to give policy direction and participate in its preparation and administration.

In line with this federal requirement, the bill tasks the new council with (1) helping to develop and annually revise the state's juvenile justice plan and (2) advising state agencies on how to administer it and allocate grant funding. It also requires that the council have the opportunity to review and comment on the Title II grant applications submitted to the state.

Membership

The bill requires the council to have at least 15, but no more than 33, members. It consists of the OPM undersecretary who directs the

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, or the undersecretary's designee, with the remaining members appointed by the governor. The governor must stagger initial council appointments.

For the governor's appointments, the bill requires at least (1) 20% to be under age 24 when first appointed and (2) three who either have experience in the juvenile justice system (either past or present), or, if that is not feasible and if it is appropriate, are a parent or guardian of someone with this experience.

The bill sets the term for appointed members at three years, starting on June 30 and ending on the same day or until the governor appoints a successor. It allows members to serve two full terms, which may be consecutive. A member appointed to fill a vacated position serves for the remaining term amount and may be reappointed, as long as it would not exceed the bill's two-term cap.

§§ 3, 4, 6 & 7 — REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Chronic Absenteeism (§ 3)

The bill requires SDE to annually report, beginning by February 1, 2026, to JJPOC on each school district with an attendance review team. The report must include (1) specific efforts and outcomes of teams in alliance districts, as reported in the alliance district plan, and (2) any effective practice an attendance review team implemented to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

By law, school districts with chronic absenteeism rates above certain thresholds must establish attendance review teams. These teams are tasked with reviewing cases of truant and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals, and making recommendations for the children and their parents or guardians.

Alliance districts are school districts with the lowest Accountability Index (AI) measures or that were previously designated as an alliance district in certain fiscal years (currently, there are 36 total). The AI score measures school district performance based on student standardized test scores plus additional measures such as student growth over time.

Municipal Diversion Data (§ 4)

The bill requires each municipality or municipality's agent that operates a juvenile review board or other youth diversion programs to annually report to DCF, and as DCF directs otherwise, on (1) data about children diverted through the board or programs and (2) the outcomes of the diversions.

Juvenile review boards are diversionary and prevention programs designed to help local police departments deal with juvenile offenders. They are usually composed of representatives of local youth service agencies, police departments, and the juvenile court.

Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Plan (§ 6)

The bill requires DCF to annually report to JJPOC, starting by July 1, 2025, on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification (STTAR) Enhancement Plan that it released in March 2024. The first report must use metrics in use at the time of the report, but by September 30, 2025, the bill requires DCF to consider, and allows it to develop, added metrics to be used in the following reports.

The STTAR Enhancement Plan is an updated group home program for children removed from their homes by DCF due to high-risk situations.

Reentry Success Plan (§ 7)

The bill requires the OPM secretary to (1) annually report to JJPOC with an evaluation of the reentry success plan for juveniles released from DOC and judicial branch facilities and programs and (2) coordinate policy development between OPM and the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD). It requires the evaluation to be done using a secure data enclave.

By law, the reentry success plan is developed by the CSSD executive director and the commissioners of correction, children and families, and education, or their designees, in consultation with JJPOC's incarceration, community expertise, and education subcommittees. It

incorporates specific restorative and transformative justice principles covering things like academics, housing, mentoring, treatments, and training, and requires a quality assurance framework and information about federal and state funding.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)