

Committee on Children

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7043

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS.

Vote Date: 3/6/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to ask the Department of Children and Families to submit a report to the Committee on Children regarding foster care payments. More specifically, the rates and schedules of payments, comparisons of payments in neighboring jurisdictions, the ability to raise payments and overall recommendations.

Foster parents often do not get paid enough or adequately to care for the foster child, and this in turn produces a burden on the foster parent, that increasing payments could help alleviate.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Children & Families. Commissioner, Jodi Hill-Lilly:](#) states how Connecticut is enveloped in the national placement crisis in which foster families are experiencing continuing challenges. They had that DCF has working with an advisory group to develop better strategies for recruitment. They end that the ability to increase foster care rates solely depends on what the state is willing to afford.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Center for Children's Advocacy, Executive Director, Sarah Eagan:](#) supports this bill, highlights the fact that we have a foster parent shortage in the state and it is important that we look into how to better compensate them. Often the children come from troubled homes and deserve a stable foster care experience. They continue to ask for some amendments to the bill including:

- An annual report
- Surveys of foster parents that include questions of perception and communication of DCF workers.
- Require how DCF contacted people for the report.
- Reporting on how the systemic use of flex funds is used.

[Access Community Action Agency, Kathleen Krider:](#) supports this bill and the work to end child poverty.

[Marian Russo:](#) supports this bill and adds that Connecticut needs to do a better job supporting the children in their care. And that many times its relatives to the child who stepped up to keep the child within the family and they deserve increased financial support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/12/25