



Substitute House Bill No. 7108

Public Act No. 25-89

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTISM AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SERVICES AND ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report regarding abuse and neglect reports filed and investigations conducted pursuant to sections 17a-247b, 17a-247f and 46a-11c of the general statutes. Such report shall include: (1) The number of abuse and neglect complaints received by the Department of Developmental Services in the previous calendar year, including deaths of persons reported; (2) the number and type of complaints that were investigated by the department and the percentage of such complaints investigated directly by the department or by private providers; (3) the number and percentage of cases that were substantiated; and (4) what, if any, administrative action was taken by the department regarding such substantiated complaints, including distribution of outcomes and recommendations. The commissioner shall post the report on the department's Internet web site and file the report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health.

Substitute House Bill No. 7108

(b) Not later than February 1, 2026, and every five years thereafter, the commissioner shall review the policies and procedures of the department as they relate to reports and investigations of abuse and neglect and post any updates to the policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site. Such review shall include: (1) Ensuring the policies and procedures reflect the current process in place for investigating reports of abuse and neglect; (2) reviewing the department's method for sharing information regarding substantiated abuse and neglect complaints with the person reported to be the victim of such abuse or neglect or such person's legal representative while continuing to maintain confidentiality of the records as prescribed in section 17a-247d of the general statutes; and (3) obtaining feedback on the policies and procedures from qualified providers as determined by the commissioner.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than September 30, 2025, and quarterly thereafter, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report describing (1) progress in expending funds appropriated for programs administered by the Department of Developmental Services, (2) what services such funds were spent on, (3) whether lapsed funds are anticipated at the end of the fiscal year ending on June thirtieth, (4) if applicable, reasons appropriated funds were not expended, and (5) waiting lists for services provided by the department. The commissioner shall file the report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and public health and post the report on the Internet web site of the Department of Developmental Services.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall appoint a working group which shall be convened by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, to study information

Substitute House Bill No. 7108

and make recommendations relevant to the current and potential future use of Southbury Training School. The working group shall include, but need not be limited to, representatives from the (1) Southbury Training School Board of Trustees, (2) Southbury Home and School Association, (3) nonprofit entity designated pursuant to section 46a-10b of the general statutes to be the protection and advocacy organization for persons with disabilities in the state, and (4) Department of Developmental Services.

(b) The commissioner may appoint additional persons or solicit additional input from other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, representatives from other state agencies, legislators and the town of Southbury. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, considerations of current and future supports delivered on the school campus, disposition of buildings and grounds, and costs related to any recommendations.

(c) On or before February 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the working group's findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and public health.

Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall apply for any available federal funding or private grant funding to conduct a state-wide autism needs assessment. If funded, the needs assessment shall (1) collect data from people living with autism spectrum disorder and their caregivers to inform policy and service delivery in the state, and (2) be made available on the Internet web site of the Department of Social Services.

Substitute House Bill No. 7108

Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Governor's Kids Cabinet, shall establish a working group to examine the feasibility of an interagency complex case team for young adults ages seventeen to twenty-two with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, who (1) may have co-occurring mental or behavioral health needs, (2) are in urgent need of community placement or agency services, and (3) qualify for support from more than one state agency.

(b) Not later than February 1, 2026, the secretary shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health. The report shall contain the working group's (1) findings on the necessity of creating a formalized process to address long hospital stays for such young adults and safe discharges with community supports, (2) summary of best practices identified in other states, (3) recommendations concerning state appropriations necessary to operationalize any recommended process, (4) recommendations regarding a referral process for complex case team management, and (5) proposed legislation to implement any recommended process. The working group shall terminate upon completion of the report or February 1, 2026, whichever is sooner.

Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and public health may annually hold a joint informational hearing to review the status of efforts by the Departments of Developmental Services and Social Services to ensure the safety of and quality of care for persons with disabilities receiving services funded by federal Medicaid waiver programs. The hearing may address matters, including, but not limited

Substitute House Bill No. 7108

to, (1) how the agencies are addressing audit findings and recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General for the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the state Auditors of Public Accounts concerning prevention of abuse and neglect of such persons, (2) timely reporting of abuse and neglect complaints concerning such persons, and (3) corrective action related to such complaints.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 23, 2025