



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9060



Offered by:
REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7108

File No. 915

Cal. No. 300

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 15,
4 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Developmental
5 Services shall file a report regarding abuse and neglect reports filed and
6 investigations conducted pursuant to sections 17a-247b, 17a-247f and
7 46a-11c of the general statutes. Such report shall include: (1) The number
8 of abuse and neglect complaints received by the Department of
9 Developmental Services in the previous calendar year, including deaths
10 of persons reported; (2) the number and type of complaints that were
11 investigated by the department and the percentage of such complaints
12 investigated directly by the department or by private providers; (3) the
13 number and percentage of cases that were substantiated; and (4) what,
14 if any, administrative action was taken by the department regarding
15 such substantiated complaints, including distribution of outcomes and

16 recommendations. The commissioner shall post the report on the
17 department's Internet web site and file the report, in accordance with
18 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint
19 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
20 matters relating to human services and public health.

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

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

49 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Developmental
50 Services shall appoint a working group which shall be convened by the
51 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, to study information
52 and make recommendations relevant to the current and potential future
53 use of Southbury Training School. The working group shall include, but
54 need not be limited to, representatives from the (1) Southbury Training
55 School Board of Trustees, (2) Southbury Home and School Association,
56 (3) nonprofit entity designated pursuant to section 46a-10b of the
57 general statutes to be the protection and advocacy organization for
58 persons with disabilities in the state, and (4) Department of
59 Developmental Services.

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

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

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

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

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

105 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The joint standing committees of the
106 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
107 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and
108 public health may annually hold a joint informational hearing to review
109 the status of efforts by the Departments of Developmental Services and
110 Social Services to ensure the safety of and quality of care for persons
111 with disabilities receiving services funded by federal Medicaid waiver
112 programs. The hearing may address matters, including, but not limited
113 to, (1) how the agencies are addressing audit findings and
114 recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General for the

115 United States Department of Health and Human Services and the state
 116 Auditors of Public Accounts concerning prevention of abuse and
 117 neglect of such persons, (2) timely reporting of abuse and neglect
 118 complaints concerning such persons, and (3) corrective action related to
 119 such complaints.

120 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) The Auditors of Public Accounts, in
 121 conjunction with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
 122 shall conduct a review of the existing funding structure for providing
 123 residential and day programs, including work programs, to individuals
 124 with intellectual disabilities who are clients of the Department of
 125 Developmental Services and receive twenty-four-hour residential
 126 services, both public and private. Pursuant to such review, the auditors
 127 and secretary shall (1) compare the costs of private providers providing
 128 such residential and day programs versus those provided by the state
 129 and determine the factors that impact such difference in costs, (2)
 130 examine the costs of providing such residential and day programs to
 131 such clients based upon their level of need, (3) assess the quality of care
 132 of such services in a sampling of twenty-four-hour residential settings,
 133 both public and private, and (4) recommend the most cost-effective,
 134 quality-driven system for providing residential care for such clients. Not
 135 later than February 15, 2026, the auditors shall submit a report, in
 136 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 137 with the results of such review to the joint standing committees of the
 138 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 139 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and
 140 government oversight."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section