



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5558

LCO No. 2967



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 46a-11c of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (e) Neither the original report of alleged abuse or neglect nor the
5 evaluation report of the investigator which includes findings and
6 recommendations shall be deemed a public record for purposes of
7 section 1-210, [The original report of alleged abuse or neglect or the
8 evaluation report of the investigator shall not be provided to a legal
9 representative who] except such original report or evaluation report
10 shall be provided to the parent or other legal representative of the
11 alleged victim unless such parent or other legal representative is the
12 alleged or substantiated perpetrator of abuse or neglect or is residing
13 with the alleged or substantiated perpetrator. The name of the person
14 making the original report shall not be disclosed to any person unless
15 the person making the original report consents to such disclosure or

16 unless a judicial proceeding results therefrom.

17 Sec. 2. Section 17a-247i of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
18 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
19 *1, 2026*):

20 (a) Not later than January 15, 2026, and [annually] quarterly
21 thereafter, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a
22 report regarding abuse and neglect reports filed and investigations
23 conducted pursuant to sections 17a-247b, 17a-247f and 46a-11c, as
24 amended by this act. Such report shall include: (1) The number of abuse
25 and neglect complaints received by the Department of Developmental
26 Services in the previous calendar year, including deaths of persons
27 reported; (2) the number and type of complaints that were investigated
28 by the department and the percentage of such complaints investigated
29 directly by the department or by private providers; (3) the number and
30 percentage of cases that were substantiated; [and] (4) what, if any,
31 administrative action was taken by the department regarding such
32 substantiated complaints, including distribution of outcomes and
33 recommendations; and (5) (A) whether the complaints were
34 independently investigated by the department in a prompt and
35 thorough manner, in accordance with section 46a-11c, as amended by
36 this act, (B) the average time it took for the department to investigate
37 complaints, and (C) recommendations for improvement, if necessary.
38 The commissioner shall post the report on the department's Internet
39 web site and file the report, in accordance with the provisions of section
40 11-4a, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
41 having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public
42 health.

43 (b) Not later than February 1, 2026, and [every five years] quarterly
44 thereafter, the commissioner shall review the policies and procedures of
45 the department as they relate to reports and investigations of abuse and
46 neglect and post any updates to the policies and procedures on the
47 department's Internet web site. Such review shall include: (1) Ensuring

48 the policies and procedures reflect the current process in place for
49 investigating reports of abuse and neglect; (2) reviewing the
50 department's method for sharing information regarding substantiated
51 abuse and neglect complaints and original reports and evaluation
52 reports of abuse and neglect with the person reported to be the victim
53 of such abuse or neglect or such person's legal representative while
54 continuing to maintain confidentiality of the records as prescribed in
55 [section] sections 17a-247d and 46a-11c, as amended by this act; [and]
56 (3) an evaluation of systems to screen persons hired to provide services
57 to clients enrolled in programs administered by the department and
58 recommendations, as necessary, to improve background checks of such
59 persons; and (4) obtaining feedback on the policies and procedures from
60 qualified providers as determined by the commissioner. The
61 commissioner shall ensure all department staff are trained in
62 requirements for sharing information regarding abuse and neglect
63 complaints under state law.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	46a-11c(e)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-247i

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure family members of suspected abuse or neglect victims have access to abuse and neglect investigation reports filed by the Department of Developmental Services unless such family members are suspected of such abuse or neglect and require the department to evaluate and report on the sufficiency of background checks of persons hired to provide services to clients served by the department and whether abuse and neglect investigations are conducted in a prompt and thorough manner.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]