



House of Representatives

File No. 740

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 442)

House Bill No. 5558
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 29, 2026

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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, guardian or other legal representative
11 of the alleged victim upon request of such parent, guardian or other
12 legal representative to the applicable regional office of the Department
13 of Developmental Services unless such parent, guardian or other legal

14 representative is the alleged or substantiated perpetrator of abuse or
15 neglect or is residing with the alleged or substantiated perpetrator. The
16 name of the person making the original report shall not be disclosed to
17 any person unless the person making the original report consents to
18 such disclosure or unless a judicial proceeding results therefrom.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 17a-238a of the 2026 supplement to
20 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
21 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

22 (e) On or before August 1, 2018, and at least annually thereafter, the
23 commissioner or his or her designee shall, in consultation with (1) each
24 individual with intellectual disability who is eligible to receive
25 residential funding or services from the department and who has an
26 individual plan, and (2) the individual's legal representative, if
27 applicable, assess the individual's need for future residential funding or
28 services from the department. Such assessment shall include an
29 indication of the time period when each support or service would be
30 accepted by such individual based on information collected at the
31 annual individual planning meeting. The department shall provide to
32 the individual or the individual's legal representative, if applicable, the
33 latest version of the department's "Guide for Individuals and Legal
34 Representatives when an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has Been
35 Made" during such meeting.

36 Sec. 3. Section 17a-247g of the general statutes is repealed and the
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

38 The Department of Developmental Services shall constitute a
39 successor department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-
40 38d and 4-39, to the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with
41 Disabilities, with respect to investigations of allegations of abuse or
42 neglect pursuant to sections 46a-11a to 46a-11h, inclusive. The
43 Commissioner of Developmental Services shall ensure all department
44 staff are trained in requirements for confidentiality and sharing of
45 information regarding abuse and neglect complaints under sections 17a-

46 247d and 46a-11c, as amended by this act.

47 Sec. 4. Section 17a-247i of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
48 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
49 *1, 2026*):

50 (a) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
51 Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report regarding
52 abuse and neglect reports filed and investigations conducted pursuant
53 to sections 17a-247b, 17a-247f and 46a-11c, as amended by this act. Such
54 report shall include: (1) The number of abuse and neglect complaints
55 received by the Department of Developmental Services in the previous
56 calendar year, including deaths of persons reported; (2) the number and
57 type of complaints that were investigated by the department and the
58 percentage of such complaints investigated directly by the department
59 or by private providers; (3) the number and percentage of cases that
60 were substantiated; [and] (4) what, if any, administrative action was
61 taken by the department regarding such substantiated complaints,
62 including [distribution of] outcomes and recommendations; and (5) (A)
63 the number of complaint substantiations by role of the perpetrator,
64 including, but not limited to, the roles of (i) family member, (ii) day
65 program provider, (iii) direct care staff, or (iv) other residential care
66 staff, (B) the number of complaint substantiations by the type of settings
67 where the abuse or neglect occurred, including, but not limited to, (i)
68 private homes, (ii) day programs, (iii) state-licensed community living
69 arrangements, (iv) state-run residential programs, and (v) health care
70 facilities, (C) the percentage of investigations that produced
71 recommendations, (D) the percentage of recommendations that were
72 confirmed to be completed by providers not later than ninety days after
73 issuance of such recommendations, (E) the number of regulatory
74 citations that were issued by the department for failure to ensure
75 detection and reporting of abuse and neglect, (F) the number of
76 regulatory citations that were issued by the department for failure to
77 implement a corrective action requirement, (G) the number of abuse or
78 neglect allegations that were reported for individuals who died and
79 what, if any, findings, recommendations or administrative action was

80 taken by the department, and (H) any systemic agency actions and
81 recommendations to ensure the safety of individuals served by the
82 department and prevent and respond to concerns of abuse and neglect.
83 The commissioner shall post the report on the department's Internet
84 web site and file the report, in accordance with the provisions of section
85 11-4a, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
86 having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public
87 health. The committees shall conduct an annual hearing and review of
88 the report and compliance by the Departments of Social Services and
89 Developmental Services with federal Medicaid requirements
90 concerning the safety of and quality of care for persons with intellectual
91 or developmental disabilities receiving services funded by Medicaid
92 home and community-based waiver programs, including, but not
93 limited to, how the departments continue to address audit findings and
94 recommendations made by the office of the Inspector General for the
95 United States Department of Health and Human Services and the
96 Auditors of Public Accounts concerning prevention of abuse and
97 neglect of such persons, timely reporting of abuse and neglect concerns
98 and timely implementation of corresponding corrective actions related
99 to abuse and neglect of such persons.

100 (b) Not later than February 1, 2026, and every five years thereafter,
101 the commissioner shall review the policies and procedures of the
102 department as they relate to reports and investigations of abuse and
103 neglect and post any updates to the policies and procedures on the
104 department's Internet web site. Such review shall include: (1) Ensuring
105 the policies and procedures reflect the current process in place for
106 investigating reports of abuse and neglect; (2) reviewing the
107 department's method for sharing information regarding substantiated
108 abuse and neglect complaints and original reports and evaluation
109 reports of abuse and neglect with the person reported to be the victim
110 of such abuse or neglect or such person's legal representative while
111 continuing to maintain confidentiality of the records as prescribed in
112 section 17a-247d and section 46a-11c, as amended by this act; [and] (3)
113 an evaluation of systems to screen persons hired to provide services to

114 clients enrolled in programs administered by the department and
 115 recommendations, as necessary, to improve background checks of such
 116 persons; and (4) obtaining feedback on the policies and procedures from
 117 qualified providers as determined by the commissioner.

118 (c) The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall ensure that all
 119 materials related to the prevention, occurrence of, and response to abuse
 120 and neglect of individuals served by the department are disseminated
 121 through a consumer-friendly and easily accessible Internet web site that
 122 ensures the widest possible access to services for families and persons
 123 with disabilities.

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-238a(e)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-247g
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-247i

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill as amended, which makes technical, clarifying, and conforming changes to the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) procedures, reporting requirements, and training guidelines for abuse and neglect investigations, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state.

House "A" strikes the language in the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and results in the fiscal impact stated above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5558 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to give copies of original or investigation reports of alleged abuse and neglect to the alleged victim's parent, guardian, or other legal representative, upon request to the applicable regional DDS office. Under the bill, these individuals cannot access the reports if they are, or live with, the alleged or substantiated perpetrator. (Under current practice, these individuals may access the reports upon request.)

Additionally, the bill:

1. requires the commissioner to ensure all DDS staff are trained in state law's information sharing requirements for abuse and neglect complaints;
2. requires DDS to give certain people with intellectual disabilities, and their legal representatives, a guide on the DDS abuse and neglect reporting process during the person's annual individual planning meeting;
3. expands the required content of DDS's annual report to the Human Services and Public Health committees on abuse and neglect reports filed under existing law;
4. requires the Human Services and Public Health committees to conduct an annual hearing and review of DDS's annual report;
5. expands the scope of the department's five-year review of its

policies and procedures on abuse and neglect investigations and reports to include, among other things, ways to improve screening people hired to provide services to DDS program participants; and

6. requires the DDS commissioner to ensure that all materials related to the prevention or occurrence of, and response to, abuse and neglect of people the department serves are distributed through a consumer-friendly and easily accessible website that ensures the widest possible access to services for families and people with disabilities.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill (File 442) and (1) requires DDS to give copies of original or investigation reports to specified people only upon request; (2) eliminates the requirement that the DDS commissioner report quarterly, instead of annually, on abuse and neglect reports filed and expands the report's required content; (3) requires the Human Services and Public Health committees to conduct an annual hearing and review of DDS's annual report; and (4) eliminates the requirement that DDS review its policies and procedures quarterly, instead of annually.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the investigation report provision is effective upon passage.

DDS ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL PLANNING MEETINGS

By law, DDS must annually assess the need for future DDS residential funding or services for each person with intellectual disability who qualifies for them and who has an individual plan prepared by the department. DDS must do this in consultation with the person and his or her legal representative, if applicable. The bill requires DDS to give the person and the representative the latest version of its "Guide for Individuals and Legal Representatives when an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has Been Made" during the person's annual planning meeting.

DDS ANNUAL REPORT ON ABUSE AND NEGLECT FILINGS

Report Content

Existing law requires DDS to investigate reports of abuse and neglect of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people who receive services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services. The law also requires DDS to maintain a registry of, among others, certain former employees who were fired from or left their jobs due to substantiated abuse or neglect, and to make the registry available to specified agencies and employers.

Under current law, the DDS commissioner must report annually on abuse and neglect reports filed under these laws to the Human Services and Public Health committees and post the report on its website. The bill expands the report's required content to include the following:

1. the number of substantiated complaints by the perpetrator, including family members, day program providers, or direct care or other residential care staff;
2. the number of substantiated complaints by the setting where the abuse or neglect occurred, including private homes, day programs, state-licensed community living arrangements, state-operated residential programs, and health care facilities;
3. the percentage of (a) investigations that produced recommendations and (b) recommendations that were confirmed as completed by providers within 90 days after issuing them;
4. how many regulatory citations DDS issued for failing to (a) ensure abuse and neglect was detected and reported and (b) implement corrective action requirements;
5. how many abuse or neglect allegations were reported for people who died and what findings, recommendations, or administrative action DDS took; and
6. any systemic agency actions and recommendations to ensure the safety of people DDS serves and prevent and respond to abuse

and neglect concerns.

Annual Hearing and Review

The bill requires the Human Services and Public Health committees to conduct an annual hearing and review of DDS's abuse and neglect report and DDS's and the Department of Social Services's compliance with federal Medicaid requirements on safety and quality of care for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Medicaid home- and community-based waiver programs. This includes how the departments continue to address audit findings and recommendations from the federal Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General and Auditors of Public Accounts on abuse and neglect prevention, timely reporting of abuse and neglect concerns, and timely implementation of related corrective actions.

DDS FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Current law requires the commissioner to review department policies and procedures on abuse and neglect investigations and reports every five years. As part of the review, the bill requires the commissioner to review the department's method for sharing information on original reports and investigation reports of abuse and neglect with the reported victim or his or her legal representative (except as described above) while generally keeping records related to its registry of former employees confidential. Current law already requires the commissioner to review this method regarding substantiated abuse and neglect complaints.

The bill also requires the review to include an evaluation of systems to screen people hired to provide services to DDS program participants and any recommendations needed to improve background checks of these people.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5514, § 2 (File 540), favorably reported by the Public Health and

Appropriations committees, prohibits DDS from notifying or giving copies of original or investigation reports of alleged abuse and neglect to a parent or guardian if they are, or live with, the alleged or substantiated perpetrator.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2026)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 45 Nay 8 (04/17/2026)