General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 7250**

January Session, 2025

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AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

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

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 46b-121n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, children, human services and appropriations, or their designees;

(3) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee;

(4) A judge of the superior court for juvenile matters, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(5) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department, or the executive director's designee;

(6) The executive director of the Superior Court Operations Division, or the executive director's designee;

(7) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee;

(8) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's designee;

(9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee;

(11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(12) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(13) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

(14) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(15) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(16) The president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or the president's designee;

(17) The chief of police of a municipality with a population in excess of one hundred thousand, appointed by the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;

(18) Two child or youth advocates, one of whom shall be appointed

by one chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed by the other chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee;

(19) Two parents or parent advocates, at least one of whom is the parent of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(20) The Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's designee;

(21) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

(22) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee;

(23) Two children, youths or young adults under twenty-six years of age with lived experience in the juvenile justice system, **[**one of whom**]** who shall be appointed by the **[**house chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and one of whom shall be appointed by the house ranking member of such joint committee**]** community expertise subcommittee;

(24) One community member who may be a family member of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system or a credible messenger with lived experience in the juvenile justice system and who works with youth in the juvenile justice system, nominated by the community expertise subcommittee and appointed by the chairpersons of this committee;

(25) One member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, appointed by the tribe; **[**and**]**

(26) One member of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, appointed by the tribe;

(27) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee; and

(28) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 2. Section 46b-121n of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (v) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (v) (1) There is established within the committee a state advisory council to fulfill tasks assigned to the state and required by the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, 42 USC 5601 et seq., as amended from time to time. Such tasks shall include, but need not be limited to, participating in the development of and annual revisions to a juvenile justice plan for the state and advising state agencies on administering the plan and the allocation of certain grant funds. The state advisory council shall have the opportunity to review and comment on all applications for a formula grant under Title II of said act submitted to the state.

(2) The council shall consist of at least fifteen members, but not more than thirty-three members as follows:

(A) The undersecretary for the Office of Policy and Management, who directs the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division established pursuant to section 4-68m of the general statutes, or the undersecretary's designee; and

(B) The remaining fourteen to thirty-two members, each appointed by the Governor in a manner consistent with said act, as follows:

(i) At least one-fifth of whom shall be under the age of twenty-four years at the time of the member's initial appointment; and

(ii) At least three of the members shall have been or are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system, or if not feasible and in appropriate circumstances, a parent or guardian of such a person.

(3) The term for each member of the council appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be three years beginning on June thirtieth, and ending on June thirtieth or until a successor is appointed.

(4) Any member may serve two full terms, which may be consecutive.

(5) The Governor shall stagger the initial appointments to the council.

(6) Any member appointed to fulfill a term left vacant by a member shall serve for the remaining period of such term and may be reappointed subject to limitations provided in the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-198c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) Each local and regional board of education that (A) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district, (B) has a school under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team at such school, (C) has more than one school under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at each such school, or (D) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher and one or more schools under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at each such school. Such attendance review teams shall be established to address chronic absenteeism in the school district or at the school or schools.

(2) Any attendance review team established under this subsection may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school counselors, school social workers, teachers and representatives from

community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants, as defined in section 10-198a, and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

(3) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n, as amended by this act, on each district with an attendance review team, including specific efforts and outcomes of such teams that are for alliance districts, as defined in section 10-262u, as reported in the alliance district plan, and any effective practice implemented by an attendance review team to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each municipality or agent of a municipality operating a juvenile review board or another diversion program for youth shall annually report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and children and to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney on data related to children diverted by the use of such board or program and the outcomes of such diversions, and as otherwise directed by the Department of Children and Families.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b of the general statutes, the chairpersons of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and

representatives of the community expertise subcommittee of said committee shall develop (1) a state-wide uniform youth diversion policy for proposed adoption by said council, and (2) a youth diversion training curriculum for proposed inclusion in minimum basic training programs requiring satisfactory completion for purposes of obtaining certification as a police officer.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Department of Children and Families shall report on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan released by the department in March 2024, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such initial report shall use metrics in use at the time of such reporting. Not later than September 30, 2025, the department shall consider and may develop additional metrics for use in successive annual reports.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall annually report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, an evaluation of the reentry success plan developed pursuant to section 3 of public act 23-188, as amended by section 2 of public act 24-139, and provide policy development coordination at the Office of Policy and Management and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. Such evaluations shall be conducted using a secure data enclave.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	46b-121n(b)
Sec. 2	*from passage*	46b-121n(v)
Sec. 3	*from passage*	10-198c(b)
Sec. 4	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 5	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 6	*from passage*	New section

Sec. 7	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Section 5, Subsecs. (a) and (b) were consolidated for clarity.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*