



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 442

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5558

House of Representatives, April 7, 2026

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. GILCHREST of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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 1-210₂ [. 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18 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*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

HS *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Developmental Services	GF - Cost	At least 498,000	At least 498,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	At least 208,000	At least 208,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of at least \$700,000 to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in FY 27 and FY 28. This funding supports seven new positions – including four processing technicians, a paralegal, a staff attorney, and an associate research analyst – to (1) send abuse and neglect investigation reports to all alleged victims' authorized representatives regardless of if the report is requested² and (2) publish quarterly, as opposed to annually, the department's report on Abuse and Neglect of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disability.

For reference, staff costs are based on the following starting salary and fringe benefit figures: \$78,000 for a Processing Technician (\$55k salary/\$23k fringe), \$106,000 for a Paralegal (\$75k salary/\$31k fringe),

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

² In FY 25, DDS conducted over 4,200 abuse and neglect findings, of which, approximately 100 reports were physically mailed.

\$128,000 for an Associate Research Analyst (\$90k salary/\$38k fringe), and \$160,000 for a Staff Attorney (\$113k salary/\$47k fringe).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5558*****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 or other legal representative unless they are, or live with, the alleged or substantiated perpetrator. Under current law, these individuals may only access the reports upon request.

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.

The bill requires the DDS commissioner to report quarterly, instead of annually as under current law, on abuse and neglect reports filed under these laws to the Human Services and Public Health committees, and to post the report on its website. It also expands the report's required content to include (1) whether abuse and neglect complaints were independently investigated by DDS promptly and thoroughly, (2) the average time it took the department to investigate complaints, and (3) recommendations for any needed improvements.

Similarly, the bill requires the commissioner to review department policies and procedures on abuse and neglect investigations and reports quarterly, instead of every five years as under current law, and post any updates to policies and procedures on the department's website.

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.

Lastly, the bill requires the commissioner to ensure all DDS staff are trained in state law’s information sharing requirements for abuse and neglect complaints.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the quarterly reporting requirements take effect July 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5514, § 2, favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, 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)