



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

**Public Act No. 26-48**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DATA LINK CONNECTICUT SYSTEM.**

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than October 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Department of Children and Families shall submit a 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 children and appropriations concerning the business of the department during the preceding fiscal year. Such report shall not contain personally identifying information and shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) Data illustrating the utilization of the department's services by race and ethnicity, an assessment of any trends in such utilization and recommendations for results-based accountability measures to ensure parity in access to such services;

(2) Data sufficient to demonstrate the Commissioner of Children and Families' compliance with the provisions of subsections (a), (c) and (e) of section 17a-10a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, including the (A) total number of children who have one or more

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

siblings and are in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to temporary placements or orders of commitment, (B) total number of such children who have had documented sibling visitation, and (C) number of sibling pairs involved in each placement;

(3) Information regarding the facilities enumerated in section 17a-32 of the general statutes, including (A) aggregate profiles of the residents of such facilities, (B) descriptions of and updates concerning major initiatives affecting such facilities, (C) the outcomes and benefits derived from such initiatives, (D) costs associated with operating each such facility, and (E) descriptions of educational, vocational and literacy programs and behavioral, treatment and other services available to residents of such facilities and the outcomes associated with such programs and services;

(4) The number of written reports concerning suspected animal harm, neglect or cruelty (A) made by employees of the department pursuant to section 17a-100a of the general statutes, and (B) indicated in reports received by the commissioner pursuant to section 22-329b of the general statutes;

(5) Information regarding the department's family assessment response program established pursuant to section 17a-101g of the general statutes, as amended by this act, including (A) the number of accepted reports of child abuse or neglect and the percentage of such reports assigned to such program, (B) the disposition of families assigned to such program, (C) the number of each type of reporter who made reports that were assigned to such program, (D) the number and percentage of reports assigned to such program that resulted in an investigation, (E) an analysis of the department's prior or subsequent involvement with each family that was the subject of a report assigned to such program, as applicable, (F) an analysis of the department's prior or subsequent involvement with each family assigned to a community partner agency, (G) a description of services commonly provided to

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

families referred to the department's community support for families program, (H) a description of the department's staff development and training practices concerning report intake, (I) the number and percentage of families referred to the family assessment response program who were enrolled in the community support for families program, (J) the reasons identified by community providers for families' discharge from services pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (g) of section 17a-101g of the general statutes, as amended by this act, categorized by race and ethnicity, (K) a comparison of the family needs identified and addressed by the department's community support for families program, and (L) an analysis of the efficacy of the department's risk and safety assessment practices, including information concerning the (i) methodology used to determine the reliability of such practices, (ii) utilization of evidence-based practices and tools, and (iii) effectiveness of such practices for identifying children at risk for abuse or neglect;

(6) Information regarding private providers that contract with the department, including the (A) number of service types provided pursuant to each provider's contract with the department and measurable outcomes for each such type, (B) incorporation of such outcomes into contracts, (C) achievement of such outcomes and other quality indicators as noted in annual evaluations of each provider, and (D) application of outcome information into quality improvement efforts;

(7) Information regarding the (A) methods used by the department to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory foster care licensing requirements, (B) methods used by the department to assess the needs of children and youths in foster care and provide support for foster parents to enable such parents to meet the needs of such children and youths, (C) safeguards employed by the department when licensing relative caregivers with histories of child abuse or neglect or psychiatric

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

illness or criminal records, (D) processes used by the department to reverse substantiated findings of child abuse or neglect or child abuse and neglect registry findings with respect to prospective relative caregivers, (E) number of reports of child abuse or neglect concerning children and youths residing in foster homes licensed by the department and the number of substantiated reports, (F) number of foster home licenses revoked and foster home license applications denied by the department, (G) results of departmental audits of licensing practices, and (H) number and type of safety concerns with respect to licensed foster homes identified by the department through the department's assessment of regulatory compliance system and any corresponding corrective actions taken;

(8) Information regarding the effectiveness of the grant program established under subsection (b) of section 17a-22ii of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

(9) Information regarding the diversion of children under the age of eighteen from the juvenile justice and court systems, including the (A) number of times any such child was diverted, (B) total number of such children diverted, (C) type of services provided to each such child, (D) program or process through which each such child was diverted, and (E) age of each such child.

Sec. 2. Section 17a-22m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

The Commissioners of Children and Families, Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall, not later than October 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, conduct an [annual] evaluation of the Behavioral Health Partnership and [shall] submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human services and

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

children on the provision of behavioral health services under the Behavioral Health Partnership, including information on the status of any administrative services organization implementation, the status of [the collaboration among] collaborative efforts between the Departments of Children and Families, Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, the services provided, the number of persons served, program outcomes, [and] spending by child and adult populations and estimated cost savings, if any, resulting from the implementation of the Behavioral Health Partnership.

Sec. 3. Section 17a-8b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

The Department of Children and Families shall report any missing or abducted child who was committed to the custody of the commissioner to the (1) law enforcement authority having jurisdiction over the geographical area from which the child was reported missing or was abducted, and (2) National Center for Missing or Exploited Children. The department shall make such report immediately, but in no case later than twenty-four hours after the child is determined to be missing or abducted. [ , to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.]

Sec. 4. Section 10-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "youth" means a person from birth to eighteen years of age. Any one or more municipalities or any one or more private youth-serving organizations, designated to act as agents of one or more municipalities or local or regional boards of education, may establish a multipurpose youth service bureau for the purposes of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of services, including prevention and intervention programs for delinquent,

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

predelinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youths referred to such bureau by local or regional boards of education, police, juvenile courts, adult courts, local youth-serving agencies, parents and self-referrals. A youth service bureau shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services to provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment and follow-up services.

(b) A youth service bureau established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the following services: (1) Individual and group counseling; (2) parent training and family therapy; (3) work placement and employment counseling; (4) alternative and special educational opportunities; (5) recreational and youth enrichment programs; (6) outreach programs to ensure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of regional and community-based youth services; (7) preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and (8) programs that develop positive youth involvement. Such services shall be designed to meet the needs of youths by the diversion of troubled youths from the justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youths to function as responsible members of their communities.

(c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, establishing minimum standards for such youth service bureaus and the criteria for qualifying for state cost-sharing grants, including, but not limited to, allowable sources of funds covering the local share of the costs of operating such bureaus, acceptable in-kind contributions and application procedures. [The commissioner shall, on December 1, 2011, and biennially thereafter, report to the General Assembly on the referral or diversion of children under the age of eighteen years from the juvenile justice system and the court system. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of times any child is so diverted, the

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

number of children diverted, the type of service provided to any such child, by whom such child was diverted, the ages of the children diverted and such other information and statistics as the General Assembly may request from time to time. Any such report shall contain no identifying information about any particular child.]

Sec. 5. Section 17a-10a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that a child placed in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order of commitment is provided visitation with such child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(b) The commissioner shall ensure that such child's visits with his or her parents, or opportunities to communicate with such child's parents and siblings by telephonic, video or other conferencing platform in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, shall occur as frequently as reasonably possible, based upon consideration of the best interests of the child, including the age and developmental level of the child, and shall be sufficient in number and duration to ensure continuation of the relationship.

(c) If such child has an existing relationship with a sibling and is separated from such sibling as a result of intervention by the commissioner including, but not limited to, placement in a foster home or in the home of a relative, the commissioner shall, based upon consideration of the best interests of the child, ensure that such child has access to and visitation rights with such sibling throughout the duration of such placement. In determining the number, frequency and duration of sibling visits, the commissioner shall consider the best interests of each sibling, given each child's age and developmental level and the continuation of the sibling relationship. If the child and his or her sibling

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

both reside within the state and within fifty miles of each other, the commissioner shall, within available appropriations, ensure that such child's visits with his or her sibling occur, on average, not less than once per week, unless the commissioner finds that the frequency of such visitation is not in the best interests of each sibling.

(d) In the event of a pandemic or outbreak of a communicable disease resulting in a declaration of a public health emergency by the Governor pursuant to section 19a-131a, or a declaration of a national emergency by the President of the United States, such child shall be provided opportunities to communicate with such child's parents and siblings by telephonic, video or other conferencing platform in lieu of in-person visitation, for the duration of any such declaration. Not later than January 1, 2022, the commissioner shall develop a policy that requires the temporary cessation of in-person visitation provided pursuant to this section, on a case-by-case basis, in the event that a child or such child's parent or sibling is seriously ill due to a communicable disease, and visitation could result in the contraction of such disease by one or more participants in the visitation. Such policy shall require that such child be provided an opportunity to communicate with such child's parents and siblings by telephonic, video or other conferencing platform in lieu of such visitation. The commissioner shall define "seriously ill" and "communicable disease" for the purposes of carrying out this subsection.

(e) The commissioner shall include in each child's case record information relating to the factors considered in making visitation determinations pursuant to this section. If the commissioner determines that such visits are not in the best interests of the child, that the occurrence of, on average, not less than one visit per week with his or her sibling is not in the best interests of each sibling, or that the number, frequency or duration of the visits requested by the child's attorney or guardian ad litem is not in the best interests of the child, the

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

commissioner shall include the reasons for such determination in the child's case record.

[(f) On or before October first of each year, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, data sufficient to demonstrate compliance with subsections (a), (c) and (e) of this section. Such data shall include the total annual number of children in out-of-home placements who have siblings, the total number of child cases with documented sibling visitation and the number of individual siblings involved in each case.]

Sec. 6. Section 17a-22ii of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) There is established a Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Fund, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, the resources of which shall be used by the Commissioner of Children and Families to assist families with the cost of obtaining (1) a drug or treatment prescribed for a child by a health care provider for the treatment of a mental or behavioral health condition if the cost of such drug or treatment is not covered by insurance or Medicaid, and (2) intensive evidence-based services or other intensive services to treat mental and behavioral health conditions in children and adolescents, including, but not limited to, intensive in-home child and adolescent psychiatric services and services provided by an intensive outpatient program, if the cost of such services is not covered by insurance or Medicaid. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish eligibility criteria for families to receive such assistance. Such eligibility requirements (A) shall include that a family has sought and been denied coverage or reimbursement for such drug or treatment or such intensive services by the family's health carrier, and (B) may include, but need not

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

be limited to, a family's financial need. Not later than January 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall begin accepting applications for such assistance.

(b) The Commissioner of Children and Families may accept on behalf of the fund any federal funds or private grants or gifts made for purposes of this section. The commissioner shall use such funds to make grants to families for the purposes described in this section.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Departments of Children and Families and Consumer Protection and the Office of Policy and Management shall post in a conspicuous location on their respective Internet web sites a description of the grant program, including, but not limited to, the eligibility requirements and application process for the grant program. Not later than January 1, 2023, the Department of Children and Families shall (1) post such description on the Internet web site administered by the department that contains information regarding resources for connecting children and families to behavioral health services, (2) include such description on the documents developed by the department pursuant to section 17a-22r, and (3) provide such description to the 2-1-1 Infoline program operated by the United Way of Connecticut. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may request that another state agency post such description on such agency's Internet web site.

[(d) On or before January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the effectiveness of the grant program established under subsection (b) of this section.]

Sec. 7. Subsection (g) of section 17a-101g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

2026):

(g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of this section, the commissioner may establish a program of family assessment response to reports of child abuse and neglect whereby the report may be referred to appropriate community providers for family assessment and services without an investigation or at any time during an investigation, provided there has been an initial safety assessment of the circumstances of a family and child and criminal background checks have been performed on all adults involved in the report. Services provided through family assessment response shall include an array of community-based services and supports designed to meet the individual needs of families, build upon their strengths, enhance child development, reduce child abuse and neglect and increase the health, safety and well-being of children.

(2) In response to an accepted family assessment report, the department shall conduct a comprehensive family assessment that shall include a safety and risk assessment and an assessment of family strengths and needs. Such assessment shall include personal interviews with the child and the child's parent or primary caretaker, an evaluation of the home environment and the performance of criminal background checks on all adults residing in the same household. Such assessment may include, as appropriate, personal interviews with other children or adults residing in the same household as well as any other caregivers, family members and collateral contacts. In conducting such assessment, the department shall consider the age and vulnerability of the child, family functioning, family history of abuse and neglect and family history of involvement with the department. The department shall, upon securing any necessary releases, request any relevant out-of-state history of child abuse or neglect involving any adults residing in the same household.

(3) The following reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall not

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

be referred for family assessment response: (A) Sexual abuse, (B) abuse or neglect occurring in an out-of-home placement, (C) abuse or neglect resulting in the death or serious physical or mental injury of a child, or (D) where the department's safety assessment reveals that the child is unsafe. A case supervisor or manager shall approve all referrals to family assessment response.

(4) Prior to referring a report to an appropriate community provider, the department shall develop a service plan designed to meet the family's immediate needs for services and supports and to guide the community provider's development of a long-term plan of care for the family.

(5) Following a referral pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, a community provider shall schedule an in-person meeting with the family and shall develop a plan of care. Such plan of care shall be developed in consultation with the family and shall include (A) a review of the department's family assessment and service plan and any services and supports the family is currently receiving, and (B) an identification of the family's ongoing needs and the services and supports that may be available to meet such needs. Such plan of care shall identify the family's strengths and needs and describe the services and supports to be offered to (i) address the family's needs, (ii) build upon the family's strengths, and (iii) increase the health, safety and well-being of the child. The provider shall monitor the family's participation and progress with the plan of care.

(6) The community provider shall maintain ongoing contact with the family through in-person meetings, visits to the home, child and family team meetings and phone calls. If at any time following the referral or during the implementation of the plan of care, the provider has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under eighteen years of age (A) has been abused or neglected, as defined in section 46b-120, (B) has suffered a nonaccidental physical injury or an injury that is

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

at variance with the history given for such injury, or (C) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, the provider shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with the provisions of sections 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive.

(7) The community provider shall schedule an in-person meeting with the family prior to the end of services. The determination to end services shall be based upon the family's preference and progress in meeting the goals outlined in the plan of care. The community provider shall submit individual child and family specific data and administrative service data to the department not later than thirty days after ending services. Such data shall identify the needs of the family, the services and supports made available to address those needs, the family's met and unmet treatment goals, the final disposition at the time of ending services and the reasons for the family's discharge from services, including, but not limited to, met treatment goals, family relocation, the receipt of a new report by the department or transfer of the family to another provider.

(8) Subdivisions (5) to (7), inclusive, of this subsection shall apply to all community provider service contracts in effect on June 9, 2016, to the extent they are not in conflict with such contracts, and shall apply to all contracts entered into, amended, extended or renewed on or after June 9, 2016.

(9) The commissioner shall adopt procedures to establish a method for the department to monitor the progress of the child and family referred to a community provider pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and to set standards for reopening an investigation pursuant to this section. Such standards shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions for the reassignment of a report referred for family assessment response for an immediate investigation based on (A) a reassessment of the initial report of child abuse or neglect or the discovery of new or additional facts indicating that the child is unsafe,

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

or (B) a determination that the report meets the criteria of subdivision (3) of this subsection and, as a result, does not qualify for family assessment response. Not later than January 1, 2017, the commissioner shall submit a report regarding such procedures and standards, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children.

(10) Consistent with the provisions of section 17a-28, the department shall disclose all relevant information in its possession concerning the child and family, including prior child protection activity, to each provider to whom a report has been referred for use by the provider in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of unique needs of the family and the prevention of future reports. Each provider who has received a report of child abuse or neglect referred pursuant to this subsection shall disclose to the department, consistent with the provisions of section 17a-28, all relevant information gathered during assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the child and family. The department may use such information solely to monitor and ensure the continued safety and well-being of the child or children.

[(11) Not later than July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children for inclusion in the annual report card prepared pursuant to section 2-53m on the status of family assessment response. Such report shall include data from the previous calendar year, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of accepted reports of child abuse or neglect, and the percentage of reports assigned to the family assessment response track; (B) the disposition of families assigned a family assessment response; (C) for cases assigned to the family assessment response track, a breakdown by reporter type; (D) the number and percentage of family assessment response cases that

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

changed track to investigations; (E) an analysis of the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a family that has been assigned to family assessment response, if applicable; (F) an analysis of the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a family that has been assigned to a community partner agency; (G) a description of services that are commonly provided to families referred to the community support for families program; (H) a description of the department's staff development and training practices relating to intake; (I) the number and percentage of referred families who were ultimately enrolled in the community support for families program; (J) the number and percentage of families receiving a family assessment response broken down by race and ethnicity; (K) the reason for discharge from the community support for families program, as identified in subdivision (7) of this subsection, broken down by race and ethnicity; (L) a comparison of the needs identified and the needs addressed for families referred to the community support for families program; and (M) an analysis of the efficacy of the department's risk and safety assessment practices, including information concerning the methodology used to determine the reliability of such practices, the utilization of evidence-based practices and tools, and the effectiveness of such assessment practices for identifying children at risk for abuse or neglect.]

Sec. 8. Subdivision (5) of subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(5) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has been legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 155***

has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical education and career school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable foster home or in the home of a fictive kin caregiver, relative caregiver, or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except for good cause and unless the [parent or guardian] parents or guardians of such child are notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the commissioner. When placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall provide written notification of the placement, including the name, address and other relevant contact information relating to the placement, to any attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent the child or youth pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The commissioner shall provide written notification to such attorney or guardian ad litem of any change in placement of such child or youth, including a hospitalization or respite placement, and if the child or youth absconds from care. The commissioner shall provide such written notification not later than ten business days prior to the date of change of placement in a nonemergency situation, or not later than two business days following the date of a change of placement in an emergency situation. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall, if possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home conforms to the standards of the commissioner and the commissioner shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. At least ten days prior to transferring a child or youth to a second or subsequent placement, the commissioner shall give

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

written notice to such child or youth and such child's or youth's attorney of said commissioner's intention to make such transfer, unless an emergency or risk to such child's or youth's well-being necessitates the immediate transfer of such child or youth and renders such notice impossible. Upon the issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the commissioner, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall determine whether the department made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her [parent or guardian] parents or guardians prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health and safety.

Sec. 9. Section 10a-57g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) ["Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network" or "P20 WIN"] "Data Link Connecticut" or "DataLinkCT" means a state integrated data system utilized for the purpose of matching and integrating data of state agencies and other organizations to inform policy and practice for education, workforce and supportive service efforts.

(2) "Participating agency" means the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, Department of Education, Labor Department, the Office of Early Childhood, The University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges and any entity that has executed an enterprise memorandum of understanding for participation in [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT and has been approved for participation pursuant to the terms of the enterprise memorandum of understanding.

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

(3) "Enterprise memorandum of understanding" means a foundational multiparty agreement that sets forth the details of how data is shared and the respective legal rights and responsibilities of each party within the data sharing process.

(b) There is established [a Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network] Data Link Connecticut. The executive board of [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT, established pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, shall establish processes and structures governing the secure sharing of data across participating agencies.

(c) The Office of Policy and Management shall serve as the administrator for [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT to support the executive board and data governing board, develop procedures for secure sharing and analysis of data and provide program management to support the continued operation and maintenance of [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT, in accordance with the state data plan and data sharing efforts specified in sections 4-67n and 4-67p.

(d) [The P20 WIN] DataLinkCT shall be governed by an executive board that shall provide oversight of such network. Said executive board shall include, but need not be limited to, the chief executive officer of each participating agency, or their respective designees, the Chief Workforce Officer, or the officer's designee, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. The duties of the executive board shall be to:

(1) Advance a vision for [the P20 WIN including] DataLinkCT that includes a prioritized research agenda with support from the Office of Policy and Management.

(2) Convene as needed to respond to issues from the data governing board.

(3) Identify and work to secure resources necessary to sustain [P20

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

WIN] DataLinkCT funding.

(4) Support system implementation, maintenance and improvement by advocating for [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT in regard to policy, legislation and resources.

(5) Advocate for and support the state's vision for [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT.

(6) Establish a data governing board to establish and implement policies related to cross-agency data management, including, but not limited to, data confidentiality and security in alignment with the vision for [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT and any applicable law. In establishing such policies, the data governing board shall consult with the Office of Policy and Management, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-67n and 4-67p and other applicable statutes and policies.

(e) The executive board established pursuant to this section may appoint advisory committees to make recommendations on data stewardship, data system expansion and processes, and such other areas that will advance the work of [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT.

(f) (1) Each regional workforce development board established under section 31-3k shall regularly submit data to [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT to report on the performance and outcomes achieved by the state's workforce system, including, but not limited to, workforce training and development programs that receive federal and state funds or grants. Not later than September 1, 2025, the Chief Workforce Officer shall, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Chief Data Officer and the regional workforce development boards, establish standards for the submission of data by regional workforce development boards specifying the data to be submitted and the form and manner in which to submit such data.

(2) On or before January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Chief

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

Workforce Officer may, in consultation with the Chief Data Officer and the Labor Commissioner, submit to the administrator of [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT a request for data and analysis of such data for the purposes of assessing performance and outcomes of the state's workforce system. Such data and analysis request shall be completed by the administrator of [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT not later than August 15, 2022, and annually thereafter.

(g) Not later than October 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each constituent unit of the state system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1, and such constituent unit's central or system office, if any, shall submit, in a manner that complies with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time, data to [the P20 WIN] DataLinkCT to report on the outcomes of postsecondary education and workforce development programs operated by such constituent unit. Not later than September 1, 2025, the Chief Data Officer shall specify the form and manner in which to submit such data. Any report produced from such data shall be in aggregated form and, consistent with any other provision of state or federal law, shall not include any personally identifiable information of students or participants in such programs.

Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 4-124w of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(c) The Chief Workforce Officer may call upon any office, department, board, commission, public institution of higher education or other agency of the state to supply such reports, information, data and assistance as may be reasonable, necessary and appropriate in order to carry out the Chief Workforce Officer's or the Office of Workforce Strategy's duties and requirements. Each officer or employee of such office, department, board, commission, public institution of higher education or other agency of the state shall furnish such reports,

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

information, data and assistance as requested by the Chief Workforce Officer, to the extent permitted under state and federal law. Any request for data from a participating agency in [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, as amended by this act, shall be submitted through [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT in accordance with the policies and procedures established by [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT.

Sec. 11. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-15o of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(2) Compile and analyze data on students and young people, through available data systems, including, but not limited to, [the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network] Data Link Connecticut, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, as amended by this act;

Sec. 12. Subdivision (19) of subsection (b) of section 12-15 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(19) To the extent allowable under federal law, return information to another state agency or to support a data request submitted through [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT, established in section 10a-57g, as amended by this act, in accordance with the policies and procedures of [P20 WIN] DataLinkCT for the purposes of evaluation or research, provided the recipient of such data enters into a data sharing agreement pursuant to section 4-67aa if such recipient is not a state agency;

Sec. 13. Subsection (e) of section 17b-112l of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) Not later than July 1, 2020, pursuant to the advisory authority established in section 3-125, the Office of the Attorney General, in

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 155**

consultation with the Two-Generational Advisory Board, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Chief Data Officer appointed pursuant to section 4-67p and [the Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network] Data Link Connecticut, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, as amended by this act, shall develop a uniform interagency data sharing protocol to remove legal barriers to promote cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration under this section to the fullest extent permitted under state and federal laws.

Sec. 14. Section 22 of public act 24-45 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Not later than [January 1, 2025] July 1, 2027, and [annually] biennially thereafter, the executive board of [the Connecticut Preschool Through Twenty and Workforce Information Network] Data Link Connecticut, established pursuant to section 10a-57g of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall submit [an annual] a report on disconnected youth. In developing such report, the executive board shall use the data model established through the data sharing agreement 0043 regarding Research on Disengaged and Disconnected Youth in Connecticut. The executive board shall submit such report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, children, the judiciary, labor, human services, public health and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. As used in this section, "disconnected youth" has the same meaning as provided in section 21 of [this act] public act 24-45, as amended by this act.

Sec. 15. Sections 17a-6e, 17a-22n, 17a-32a, 17a-63a, 17a-100c and 17a-114g of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2026*)

Governor's Action:  
Approved May 26, 2026