

HOUSE No. 4852

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—
In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)
—

SENATE, July 31, 2020.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the House Bill relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families (House, No. 4852) (also based on Senate, No. 2395); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2884.

For the committee,
Michael J. Rodrigues

HOUSE No. 4852

House bill No. 4841, as amended and passed to be engrossed by the House. July 9, 2020.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith protect vulnerable children and families, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The twenty-second paragraph of subdivision (a) of section 172 of chapter 6
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking
3 out clause (22) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:- (22) The district attorney
4 may obtain from the department data permitted under section 15 of chapter 18C.

5 SECTION 2. The second paragraph of section 16P of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as
6 so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clause (iii) and inserting in place thereof the
7 following clause:- (iii) the data reported by the department of children and families under
8 subsection (b) of section 3A of chapter 18B and the department of mental health under section 24
9 of chapter 19.

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 18B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
11 inserting after section 3 the following section:-

12 Section 3A. (a)(1) Annually, not later than October 31, the department shall issue a report
13 that provides an overview of the department's performance during the previous fiscal year. The
14 commissioner or a designee shall file the report with the governor, the child advocate, the clerks
15 of the house of representatives and the senate, the chairs of the house and senate committees on
16 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with
17 disabilities. The commissioner shall provide the recipients of the report with an opportunity to
18 discuss its contents with the commissioner or a designee. The report shall be made publicly
19 available on the department's website in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66.

20 (2) The report shall include, but not be limited to, narratives, information, data and
21 analysis on: (i) counts, including, but not limited to: (A) case counts; (B) consumer counts; (C)
22 consumer demographic information, including age, race, ethnicity, primary language, and, if
23 available, gender identity and sexual orientation; (D) reports filed pursuant to section 51A of
24 chapter 119; (E) placement metrics, including breakdown by placement type; (F) infants brought
25 into the department's care pursuant to section 39½ of chapter 119; and (G) siblings in placement;
26 (H) rates of disproportionality including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender identity and
27 sexual orientation; (ii) processes and outcomes, including but not limited to: (A) safety
28 outcomes; (B) permanency processes and outcomes; (C) the rates of adoptions by race, ethnicity,
29 and, if available, gender identity and sexual orientation of the child; and (D) well-being
30 outcomes, including the rates and timeliness of the delivery of medical services and high school
31 graduation rates; and (iii) operations, including, but not limited to: (A) staffing trends, including
32 the total number of social workers, the total number of social workers holding licensure by level
33 of licensure and the number of social workers and supervisors who have earned a bachelor's or
34 master's degree in social work; (B) caseloads, including weighted caseload by social workers'

35 years of employment with the department and area offices that experienced higher or lower
36 caseloads than the negotiated caseload standard over the course of the fiscal year; (C) the
37 department's budget, including funding levels; (D) service costs, including, but not limited to, a
38 breakdown by type of service provided, the unduplicated number of children receiving each type
39 of service and the unduplicated number of families receiving each type of service; (E) medical
40 services and advancements in providing medical services to children and young adults in the
41 department's care; (F) amounts expended to foster care and to adoptive and guardianship
42 families to provide assistance, including financial assistance, to provide for the care of children;
43 (G) the use of culturally competent staffing, resources and practices, including the number of
44 requests for oral interpretation services and written translation services respectively, broken
45 down by language; (H) the foster care review system, including the number of foster care
46 reviews conducted by the department, attendance of mandatory invitees to foster care review
47 meetings, reasons why mandatory invitees do not attend foster care review meetings and any
48 recommendations for its improvement; and (I) activities of the Central and Regional Youth
49 Advisory Boards; demographic data; guiding principles and governance; methods of outreach to
50 youth; the number of youth participating in each central and regional boards activities; any
51 recommendations made by the boards relative to the department's services, policies and
52 practices, including any action the department has taken to address those recommendations. The
53 report shall also include comparative departmental information from prior fiscal years.

54 (3) The report shall include specific data points, including: (i) the number of medical and
55 psychiatric personnel and their level of training currently employed by or under contract with the
56 department; (ii) the number of children who die in the care and custody of the department; (iii)
57 the number of children served in medical or psychiatric care provided through other publicly-

58 funded sources; (iv) the number of the department's contracts reviewed by the state auditor; (v)
59 the number of corrective action plans entered into by the department; (vi) the number of children
60 currently eligible for supportive child care; (vii) the number of children receiving supportive
61 child care; (viii) the number of children and families served by the family resource centers by
62 area office and an evaluation of the services provided and their effectiveness; (ix) for residential
63 placements, the length of each placement and the disposition of the child's case at the end of the
64 residential placement, including whether the child was returned to the child's family or placed in
65 other care within the community; (x) placement stability, including the number of times any
66 child in the care and custody of the department has changed placements throughout the fiscal
67 year and throughout their time in the care and custody of the department; (xi) the number of
68 children whose cases were transferred to another area office; and (xii) the number of children
69 who were reassigned social workers, including the reasons why.

70 (b)(1) Quarterly, not later than 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the department
71 shall issue a profile on its website in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66 that shall include,
72 but not be limited to, departmental, regional office and area office data for the last quarter on: (i)
73 consumer counts; (ii) the number of reports filed pursuant to section 51A of chapter 119,
74 including counts of reports received, screened-in, screened-out, referred to the district attorney,
75 responses completed on time in the quarter and the number of reports filed by each category of
76 mandated reporter, as defined in section 21 of chapter 119; (iii) department case counts,
77 including counts of clinical and adoption cases in the quarter; (iv) consumer demographic
78 information, including age, race, ethnicity, primary language, and, if available, gender identity
79 and sexual orientation; (v) counts of children and youth in-placement, including method of
80 intake; and (vi) counts of children and youth not in-placement.

81 (2) The profile shall include specific data points for the department and each regional and
82 area office, including: (i) the number of approved foster care placements and utilization rate; (ii)
83 the number of children who die in the care and custody of the department; (iii) the number of
84 children within the care and custody of the department in psychiatric hospitals and community-
85 based acute treatment programs who remain hospitalized beyond their medically-necessary stay
86 while awaiting placement and the number of days each case remains in placement beyond that
87 which is medically necessary; (iv) the number of medical and psychiatric consultation requests
88 made by the department's social workers; (v) the number of children served by supervised
89 visitation centers; (vi) the total number of families served by the department and residing in
90 shelters; (vii) the number of children receiving multiple 51A reports; (viii) the number of
91 children within the care and custody of the department whose whereabouts are unknown; and
92 (ix) the number of times children transfer schools as a result of a best interest determination.

93 (3) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall notify the house and senate
94 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with
95 disabilities when data from a profile issued pursuant to paragraph (1) significantly departs from
96 trends reported in previous profiles. The commissioner shall send the notification prior to
97 publicly issuing the profile.

98 (c) Annually, not later than October 31, the department shall submit a report on transition
99 planning for children in foster care and young adults over the age of 18 receiving services from
100 the department to the child advocate, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the
101 house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families
102 and persons with disabilities. The report shall summarize the process by which the department
103 develops transition plans for youth and how a young adult may continue to receive services from

104 the department upon reaching the legal adult age of 18. The report shall also include, but not be
105 limited to: (i) consumer demographic information, including age, race, ethnicity, primary
106 language, and, if available, gender identity and sexual orientation; (ii) the number of young
107 adults who have elected to sustain a connection with the department in the previous fiscal year;
108 (iii) the number of young adults who have elected not to remain with the department and have
109 transitioned out of the child welfare system in the previous fiscal year, including, but not limited
110 to, at the time of transition: (A) the number of young adults with and without employment, (B)
111 the number of young adults with plans to attend post-secondary education, (C) the number of
112 young adults without secure housing and (D) the number of young adults who had previously
113 elected to sustain a connection with the department; (iv) the number of young adults who elected
114 to return to the child welfare system after initially electing to transfer out; (v) reasons for youth
115 and young adults exiting care from age 18 to their 23rd birthday; (vi) the total payments made
116 from commonwealth funds to young adults in the previous fiscal year; and (vii) a description of
117 services provided to young adults by the department in the previous fiscal year, including those
118 funded wholly or in part by federal funds; (viii) rates of disproportionality including but not
119 limited to race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation. The department may satisfy the
120 reporting requirements of this subsection by providing the requested information in an annual
121 report filed under subsection (a).

122 (d) Annually, not later than October 31, the department shall file a report on its fair
123 hearing process and cases with the child advocate, the clerks of the house of representatives and
124 the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on
125 children, families and persons with disabilities. The report shall be made available to the public
126 electronically in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66 of the General Laws. The report shall

127 include, but not be limited to, information in a form that shall not include personally-identifiable
128 information on the fair hearing requests open at any time during the previous fiscal year and, for
129 each hearing request, shall provide: (i) the subject matter of the appeal; (ii) the outcomes of cases
130 resolved prior to a fair hearing decision; (iii) the number of days between the hearing request and
131 the first day of the hearing; (iv) the number of days between the close of the evidence and the
132 hearing officer's decision; (v) the number of days of continuance granted at the appellant's
133 request; (vi) the number of days of continuance granted at the request of the department of
134 children and families or the hearing officer's request, specifying which party made the request;
135 and (vii) whether the department's decision that was the subject of the appeal was affirmed or
136 reversed.

137 The department shall maintain and make available to the public, during regular business
138 hours, a record of its fair hearings in a form that shall not include personally identifiable
139 information and shall include, for each hearing request: (i) the date of the request; (ii) the date of
140 the hearing decision; (iii) the decision rendered by the hearing officer; and (iv) the final decision
141 rendered upon the commissioner's review. The report shall provide for the fair hearing requests
142 that are pending for more than 180 days at any time during the fiscal year, except for those
143 requests stayed at the request of the district attorney, the number of those cases, how many of
144 those cases have been heard but not decided and how many have been decided by the hearing
145 officer but not yet issued a final agency decision. If there are more than 225 fair hearing requests
146 open for more than 180 days at the close of any month of the first 6 months of a fiscal year, then
147 an additional report of these requests shall be provided not later than February 28. The
148 department shall make redacted copies of fair hearing decisions available within 30 days after a
149 written request.

150 (e) Annually, not later than October 31, the office of the ombudsman shall file a report on
151 the questions and concerns it received during the previous fiscal year with the child advocate, the
152 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways
153 and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities. The report
154 shall be made available to the public electronically in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66
155 of the General Laws. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of calls the
156 office of the ombudsman received; (ii) the number of people contacting the office of the
157 ombudsman; (iii) the category of people contacting the office, including consumers, foster
158 parents, adoptive parents, advocates, legislators, and general members of the public; (iv) the
159 number and types of each category of contact, including, but not limited to, general questions or
160 complaints about a specific case, referral to department services, or referral to services outside of
161 the scope of the department; (v) the number of questions and concerns resolved by the office of
162 the ombudsman; (vi) the number of questions and concerns referred to department services (vii)
163 the number of questions and concerns referred to another state agency; (viii) the number of
164 questions and concerns referred to a service or organization outside of state government; and (ix)
165 other actions taken by the office of the ombudsman to serve children and families.

166 (f) Annually, not later than November 30, the department shall file a report on contracted
167 services with the child advocate, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the
168 house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families
169 and persons with disabilities. The report shall be made available to the public electronically in
170 accordance with section 19 of chapter 66 of the General Laws. The report shall summarize the
171 services provided by the department through contracted agencies in the previous fiscal year. The
172 report shall also include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of new contracts entered into or

173 renewed by the department; (ii) the number of contracts that ended; (iii) the total number of
174 active contracts; (iv) the names of each agency and provider contracted with and receiving
175 funding from the department; (v) the services provided by each agency and provider contracted
176 with and receiving funding from the department; (vi) the number of clients served by each
177 agency and provider contracted with and receiving funds from the department; (vii) the amount
178 paid to each agency and provider contracted with and receiving funding from the department,
179 including a breakdown by services provided and the source of funding, including, but not limited
180 to, state appropriations, state trusts, federal reimbursements and private donations; and (viii) the
181 geographic areas served by each agency and provider contracted with and receiving funding
182 from the department.

183 (g) The commissioner or the commissioner's designees shall notify the joint committee
184 on children, families and persons with disabilities when draft regulations or departmental
185 policies are made available by the department for public comment. Not more than 30 days after
186 the promulgation of regulations or the effective date of adopted or revised departmental policies
187 relative to services provided to children and families, the department shall provide the joint
188 committee on children, families and persons with disabilities with copies of the regulations or
189 departmental policies.

190 (h) If the department is unable to submit the report under subsection (a), issue the profile
191 under subsection (b), or any other legislatively mandated reports by the respective deadlines, the
192 commissioner or the commissioner's legal counsel shall notify the governor, the child advocate,
193 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on
194 ways and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities in
195 writing and provide an explanation for the delay. The department shall, at the written request of

196 the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, provide the
197 committee with partial data if the report under subsection (a), the profile under subsection (b), or
198 any other legislatively mandated report is late due to maturation or confirmation of certain data
199 points while other information may be ready for public submission. For the purposes of this
200 section, the term “legislatively mandated report” shall mean a report required by law of the
201 department of children and families.

202 SECTION 4. Section 6A of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
203 striking out the fifth paragraph.

204 SECTION 5. Section 7 of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
205 striking out subsection (e).

206 SECTION 6. Section 20 of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
207 striking out the second sentence.

208 SECTION 7. Section 23 of said chapter 18B, inserted by section 45 of chapter 176 of the
209 acts of 2008, is hereby repealed.

210 SECTION 8. Section 23 of said chapter 18B, inserted by section 8 of chapter 321 of the
211 acts of 2008, is hereby amended by striking out the sixth sentence.

212 SECTION 9. Section 24 of said chapter 18B, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is
213 hereby repealed.

214 SECTION 10. Section 25 of said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby repealed.

215 SECTION 11. Said chapter 18B, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding
216 the following section:-

217 Section 26. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any social service
218 program, as defined by section 22N of chapter 7, or any program or service which is
219 reimbursable under Title XIX of the Social Security Act that is providing services to a child who
220 is in the custody of or receiving services from the department or is providing services to a young
221 adult or adult receiving services from the department, shall provide the department with
222 requested information within 5 business days of receiving a request from a department social
223 worker requesting said information for the purposes of conducting a collateral check; provided,
224 that programs or services shall comply with all applicable state and federal privacy requirements,
225 including those imposed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,
226 P.L. 104–191, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111–5, 42 C.F.R. §
227 2.11 et seq. and 45 C.F.R. §§ 160, 162 and 164.

228 SECTION 12. Section 5 of chapter 18C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
229 amended by adding the following subsection:-

230 (i) Following an investigation by the child advocate of a critical incident pursuant to this
231 section that results in the death of a child, due to a reasonable belief that an executive agency or
232 constituent agency failed in its duty to protect a child, at least 48 hours before releasing the
233 results of the investigation the child advocate shall report jointly and simultaneously to a
234 convening of the governor, the attorney general, the speaker of the house of representatives and
235 the senate president. In order to ensure the integrity and independence of the office of the child
236 advocate, no executive office, agency or program that is the subject of such an investigation shall
237 receive the results of said investigation prior to the joint convening of the governor, the attorney
238 general, the speaker of the house of representatives and the senate president.

239 SECTION 13. Section 12 of said chapter 18C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended
240 by inserting, in line 36, after the word “personnel,” the following words:- the speaker of the
241 house of representatives, the senate president.

242 SECTION 14. Said chapter 18C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding
243 the following section:-

244 Section 15. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context
245 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

246 “Child”, a person under the age of 18.

247 “Fatality”, any death of a child.

248 “Local team”, a local child fatality review team established in subsection (c).

249 “Near fatality”, an act that, as certified by a physician, places a child in serious or critical
250 condition.

251 “State team”, the state child fatality review team established in subsection (b).

252 “Team”, the state or a local team.

253 (b) There shall be a state child fatality review team within the office of the child
254 advocate. Notwithstanding section 172 of chapter 6, members of the state team shall be subject
255 to criminal offender record checks to be conducted by the colonel of the state police, on behalf of
256 the child advocate. All members shall serve without compensation for their duties associated
257 with membership on the state team.

258 The state team shall consist of at least the following members: the child advocate
259 appointed pursuant to section 3 of chapter 18C or a designee, who shall co-chair the state team;
260 the commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall co-chair the state team; the chief
261 medical examiner or a designee; the attorney general or a designee; the commissioner of children
262 and families or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a
263 designee; a representative selected by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association; the
264 colonel of the state police or a designee; the commissioner of mental health or a designee; the
265 commissioner of developmental services or a designee; the director of the Massachusetts center
266 for unexpected infant and child death, located at the Boston Medical Center, or a designee; the
267 commissioner of youth services or a designee; the commissioner of early education and care or a
268 designee; a representative selected by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of
269 Pediatrics who has experience in diagnosing or treating child abuse and neglect; a representative
270 selected by the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, Inc.; the chief justice of the
271 juvenile division of the trial court or a designee; the president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of
272 Police Association Incorporated or a designee; and any other person, selected by the co-chairs or
273 by majority vote of the members of the state team, with expertise or information relevant to an
274 individual case. The purpose of the state team shall be to decrease the incidence of preventable
275 child fatalities and near fatalities by: (i) developing an understanding of the causes and incidence
276 of child fatalities and near fatalities; and (ii) advising the governor, the general court and the
277 public by recommending changes in law, policy and practice that will prevent child fatalities and
278 near fatalities.

279 To achieve its purpose, the state team shall: (i) develop model investigative and data
280 collection protocols for local teams; (ii) provide information to local teams and law enforcement

281 agencies for the purpose of the protection of children; (iii) provide training and written materials
282 to local teams to assist them in carrying out their duties; (iv) review reports from local teams; (v)
283 study the incidence and causes of child fatalities and near fatalities in the commonwealth; (vi)
284 analyze community, public and private agency involvement with the children and their families
285 prior to and subsequent to fatalities or near fatalities; (vii) develop a protocol for the collection of
286 data regarding fatalities and near fatalities and provide training to local teams on the protocol;
287 (viii) develop and implement rules and procedures necessary for its own operation; and (ix)
288 provide the governor, the general court and the public with annual written reports, subject to
289 confidentiality restrictions, which shall include, but not be limited to, the state team's findings
290 and recommendations.

291 (c) There shall be a local child fatality review team in each of the 11 districts headed by a
292 district attorney. Notwithstanding section 172 of chapter 6, members of a local team shall be
293 subject to criminal offender record checks to be conducted by the district attorney. All members
294 shall serve without compensation for their duties associated with membership on a local team.

295 Each local team shall be comprised of at least the following members: the district
296 attorney of the county, who shall chair the local team; the chief medical examiner or a designee;
297 the commissioner of children and families or a designee; a pediatrician with experience in
298 diagnosing or treating child abuse and neglect, appointed by the state team; a local police officer
299 from the municipality where a child fatality or near fatality occurred, appointed by the chief of
300 police of that municipality; a state law enforcement officer, appointed by the colonel of state
301 police; the chief justice of the juvenile division of the trial court or a designee; the director of the
302 Massachusetts center for unexpected infant and child death, located at the Boston Medical
303 Center, or a designee; a representative or representatives from the department of public health or

304 the office of the child advocate; and any other person with expertise or information relevant to an
305 individual case who may attend meetings, on an ad hoc basis, by agreement of the permanent
306 members of each local team. Those other persons may include, but shall not be limited to, local
307 or state law enforcement officers, hospital representatives, medical specialists or subspecialists,
308 or designees of the commissioners of developmental services, mental health, youth services,
309 education and early education and care.

310 The purpose of each local team shall be to decrease the incidence of preventable child
311 fatalities and near fatalities by: (i) coordinating the collection of information on fatalities and
312 near fatalities; (ii) promoting cooperation and coordination between agencies responding to
313 fatalities and near fatalities and in providing services to family members; (iii) developing an
314 understanding of the causes and incidence of child fatalities and near fatalities in the county; and
315 (iv) advising the state team on changes in law, policy or practice which may affect child fatalities
316 and near fatalities.

317 To achieve its purpose, each local team shall: (i) review, establish and implement model
318 protocols from the state team; (ii) review, subject to the approval of the local district attorney, all
319 individual fatalities and near fatalities in accordance with the established protocol; (iii) meet
320 periodically, but at least 4 times per calendar year, to review the status of fatality and near
321 fatality cases and recommend methods of improving coordination of services between member
322 agencies; (iv) collect, maintain and provide confidential data as required by the state team; and
323 (v) provide law enforcement or other agencies with information for the purposes of the
324 protection of children.

325 At the request of the local district attorney, the local team shall be immediately provided
326 with: (i) information and records relevant to the cause of the fatality or near fatality maintained
327 by providers of medical or other care, treatment or services, including dental and mental health
328 care; (ii) information and records relevant to the cause of the fatality or near fatality maintained
329 by any state, county or local government agency including, but not limited to, birth certificates,
330 medical examiner investigative data, parole and probation information records and law
331 enforcement data post-disposition, except that certain law enforcement records may be exempted
332 by the local district attorney; (iii) information and records of any provider of social services,
333 including the state department of children and families, relevant to the child or the child's family,
334 that the local team deems relevant to the review; and (iv) demographic information relevant to
335 the child and the child's immediate family, including, but not limited to, address, age, race,
336 gender and economic status. The district attorney may enforce this paragraph by seeking an order
337 of the superior court.

338 (d) Any privilege or restriction on disclosure established pursuant to chapter 66A, section
339 70 of chapter 111, section 11 of chapter 111B, section 18 of chapter 111E, chapters 112, 123, or
340 sections 20B, 20J or 20K of chapter 233 or any other law relating to confidential
341 communications shall not prohibit the disclosure of this information to the chair of the state team
342 or a local team. Any information considered to be confidential pursuant to the aforementioned
343 statutes may be submitted for a team's review upon the determination of that team's chair that the
344 review of this information is necessary. The chair shall ensure that no information submitted for
345 a team's review is disseminated to parties outside the team. Under no circumstances shall any
346 member of a team violate the confidentiality provisions set forth in the aforementioned statutes.

347 Except as necessary to carry out a team's purpose and duties, members of a team and
348 persons attending a team meeting may not disclose any information relating to the team's
349 business.

350 Team meetings shall be closed to the public. Information and records acquired by the
351 state team or by a local team pursuant to this chapter shall be confidential, exempt from
352 disclosure under chapter 66, and may only be disclosed as necessary to carry out a team's duties
353 and purposes.

354 Statistical compilations of data which do not contain any information that would permit
355 the identification of any person may be disclosed to the public.

356 (e) Members of a team, persons attending a team meeting and persons who present
357 information to a team may not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding
358 information presented in or opinions formed as a result of a team meeting.

359 (f) Information, documents and records of the state team or of a local team shall not be
360 subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding;
361 provided, however, that information, documents and records otherwise available from any other
362 source shall not be immune from subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence through
363 these sources solely because they were presented during proceedings of a team or are maintained
364 by a team.

365 (g) Nothing in this section shall limit the powers and duties of the child advocate or
366 district attorneys.

367 SECTION 15. Section 2A of chapter 38 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
368 Official Edition, is hereby repealed.

369 SECTION 16. Section 15A of chapter 75 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
370 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place
371 thereof the following paragraph:-

372 The center shall maintain the confidentiality of any individual whose personal
373 information is made available to the center pursuant to section 7 of chapter 15D, but compliance
374 with individual confidentiality shall not prevent the publication of aggregated research
375 information or case studies wherein personal identifiers have been removed.

376 SECTION 17. Subsection (f) of section 23 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as so
377 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the sixth sentence.

378 SECTION 18. Subsection (h) of said section 23 of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is
379 hereby further amended by striking out the second paragraph.

380 SECTION 19. Said section 23 of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
381 adding the following subsection:-

382 (j) The commissioner shall establish and periodically update an internal review policy to
383 require a review prior to a determination to reunify a child. Members of the review shall include,
384 but not be limited to: (i) the social worker with direct case responsibility for the child or young
385 adult whose case is being reviewed; (ii) the immediate supervisor of the social worker; (iii)
386 counsel from the area office; and (iv) the area director. The review shall include, but not be
387 limited to, the child's foster care review cases and collateral checks consistent with the ongoing

388 casework and documentation policy. The outcome of the review and all accompanying notes and
389 files shall be included in the case records of the child.

390 SECTION 20. Said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting
391 after section 23B the following section:-

392 Section 23C. (a) The department shall promulgate a policy governing its relationship
393 with, and responsibilities to, foster parents. This policy shall be collectively known as the foster
394 parents' bill of rights and shall be provided by the department and private agencies contracted by
395 the department to provide foster care to all prospective foster and pre-adoptive parents during the
396 application process and to kinship foster parents during the placement process. All current foster,
397 pre-adoptive and kinship parents shall be provided with a copy of the foster parents' bill of
398 rights.

399 (b) The foster parents' bill of rights shall include, but shall not be limited to, the
400 following:

401 (1) The department shall not discriminate against a foster parent on the basis of religion,
402 race, ethnicity, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national
403 origin, age or physical ability.

404 (2) The department shall keep information regarding the foster parent and household
405 members confidential, except as required by law.

406 (3) The department shall develop and provide a standardized pre-service training for
407 foster parents, including, but not limited to (i) communication; (ii) positive discipline; (iii) child
408 guidance; (iv) building self-esteem; and (v) the reasonable and prudent parent standard. The

409 department shall update foster parents of any relevant changes in policies and procedures of the
410 department and any changes in applicable law.

411 (4) To the greatest extent possible, as allowable under state and federal law, the
412 department shall, prior to placement, provide a foster parent with information about the child,
413 including, but not limited to: (i) the physical and behavioral health history of the child; (ii) the
414 education needs of the child; and (iii) information about the daily routine of the child. The
415 department shall communicate all such additional information that becomes known during the
416 time of placement in a timely fashion.

417 (5) The department shall provide a foster parent with a copy of the department action
418 plan regarding the child in the foster parent's home, other than those parts of the plan containing
419 information that is confidential to a parent under federal or state law, and shall afford a foster
420 parent an opportunity to discuss the plan with the social worker. The department shall provide
421 reasonable notification of any changes to that plan.

422 (6) A foster parent may decline placement of a child in their home. A foster parent may
423 request the removal of a child from their home.

424 (7) The department shall inform a foster parent of the range and frequency of payments
425 the foster parent may be eligible to receive, including, but not limited to, daily stipends and
426 quarterly clothing allowances, birthday and holiday payments. The department shall notify a
427 foster parent in writing of any delays in payments as soon as the delay becomes known to the
428 department.

429 (8) The department shall inform a foster parent of other available financial supports and
430 services including, but not limited to, parents and children together rates, reimbursements for

431 one-time costs, child care and respite. The department shall also provide the criteria for accessing
432 financial supports and services.

433 (9) The department shall consult with the foster parent in the planning of supervised or
434 unsupervised visitation.

435 (10) The department shall provide a foster parent no less than 10 days of paid respite care
436 per year.

437 (11) The department shall maintain a staffed 24-hour emergency hotline in case of
438 emergency when the department offices are closed. The hotline number shall be communicated
439 with foster parents. Should the hotline number be changed, foster parents shall be alerted to the
440 new number within one month of the change.

441 (12) The department shall provide adequate notice to a foster parent of foster care
442 reviews and appropriate meetings regarding the child in the foster parent's home, and may
443 provide an opportunity for foster parents to actively participate in these meetings, except as to
444 those parts of foster care reviews or meetings that involve information that is confidential as to a
445 parent under federal or state law.

446 (13) The department shall, to the extent reasonably possible, provide adequate notice to a
447 foster parent when a child is to be removed from their home.

448 (14) The department shall provide adequate notice to a foster parent of all court hearings,
449 consistent with federal and state statute, regarding the child in their home. A foster parent who is
450 unable to attend a court hearing may provide a written statement to the department prior to the
451 hearing.

452 (15) The department shall provide foster parents with information about the process and
453 time lines for investigation and resolution of a report made against the foster parent pursuant to
454 section 51A of chapter 119 and the rights of the foster parent to receive and provide information
455 during the review or investigation and the potential consequences of a supported complaint,
456 review or an investigation.

457 (16) The department may advocate for a non-kin foster parent to be considered as the first
458 choice as an adoptive parent or legal guardian for a child whose goal has been changed to
459 adoption or guardianship if no kin is available.

460 (17) Prior to a child leaving a foster home, the department may provide the opportunity
461 for the foster parent to provide notes that may assist future foster parents in the care or daily
462 routine of the child. The department may include this information in the case file of the child and
463 may make it accessible, upon request, to future foster parents, consistent with applicable state
464 and federal privacy laws.

465 (18) Upon request of a foster parent, the department shall review department decisions
466 relating to the foster child while in the care of the foster parent, including, but not limited to,
467 grievance or fair hearing requests filed by the foster parent in compliance with the department's
468 regulations. The department shall provide information on these procedures and timelines to
469 foster parents upon approval as a foster parent.

470 (19) The department shall not retaliate against foster parents for issuing or filing a
471 complaint with the commissioner, the department's office of the ombudsman or the office of the
472 child advocate.

473 SECTION 21. Section 29 of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
474 inserting after the second paragraph the following 2 paragraphs:-

475 No later than 5 business days before any non-emergency change in a child's or a young
476 adult's placement or any non-emergency hospitalization, and no later than 1 business day after
477 any emergency change in a child's or a young adult's placement or any emergency
478 hospitalization, the department shall provide notice of the change in placement or hospitalization
479 to the child's or the young adult's attorney.

480 If the department receives a report pursuant to section 51A, the department shall notify
481 the attorney of the child involved in the reported incident, or the attorney of the young adult
482 involved in the reported incident, not later than 1 business day following the department's receipt
483 of the report.

484 SECTION 22. Section 39½ of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
485 striking out the eighth paragraph.

486 SECTION 23. Section 51D of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
487 striking out the eighth paragraph.

488 SECTION 24. Section 51E of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
489 striking out, in line 2, the words "sections 51A to 51D" and inserting place thereof the following
490 words:- sections 51A to 51C.

491 SECTION 25. Section 5E of chapter 210 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
492 repealed.

493 SECTION 26. Chapter 47 of the acts of 2017 is hereby amended by striking out section
494 128 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

495 Section 128. There shall be a task force on child welfare data reporting. The task force
496 shall develop basic data measures, progress measures and key outcome measures to inform the
497 general court and the public on the status and demographics of the caseload of the department of
498 children and families and the department's progress in achieving child welfare goals, including
499 safety, permanency and well-being.

500 The task force shall develop criteria for measuring outcomes for children and families in
501 the key child welfare domains of safety, permanency and well-being including, but not limited
502 to, outcomes relative to: (i) protecting children from abuse and neglect; (ii) safely maintaining
503 children in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate; (iii) achieving stability and
504 permanency for children in their living situations; (iv) preserving the continuity of family
505 relationships; (v) enhancing the capacity of families to provide for the needs of children; (vi)
506 ensuring that children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; (vii) ensuring
507 that children receive the services necessary to meet their physical and mental health needs; and
508 (viii) achieving permanency and opportunity for young adults.

509 The task force shall make recommendations to: (i) ensure that the department of children
510 and families' reports and profiles under section 3A of chapter 18B of the General Laws include
511 data measures that are clearly defined and provided with adequate context to convey the meaning
512 of reported data and the department's understanding of the meaning of trends that may appear in
513 that data; (ii) eliminate reports that are no longer necessary; (iii) revise existing reports; and (iv)

514 ensure that reports are timely submitted and made available electronically in accordance with the
515 public records law.

516 The task force shall also make recommendations relative to: (i) the continued
517 development of the reports and profiles under said section 3A of said chapter 18B; (ii) the
518 resources required of the department to develop and produce those reports and profiles; (iii)
519 priorities for the department’s public reporting requirements as they relate to addressing: (A)
520 questions underlying legislative reporting requirements relative to foster care review, residential
521 care, services for young adults over the age of 18, educational and placement stability, kinship
522 guardianship subsidies and any other reporting requirements not included in the reports and
523 profiles under said section 3A of said chapter 18B; (B) questions that the department is currently
524 unable to address with existing departmental data including, but not limited to, families with
525 multiple siblings in the department’s care; (C) questions concerning the department’s delivery of
526 services including, but not limited to, support and stabilization and the effectiveness of such
527 services; (D) questions concerning the department’s outcomes and the development of accurate
528 benchmarks to measure those outcomes; and (E) racial disproportionality at decision points in
529 the departmental process by area office.

530 The task force shall be comprised of the following persons or their designees: the child
531 advocate, who shall serve as co-chair; the commissioner of children and families, who shall serve
532 as co-chair; the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities;
533 the chief counsel of the committee for public counsel services of the public defender agency of
534 Massachusetts; the executive director of the Children’s League of Massachusetts, Inc.; the
535 executive director of a legal services program to be appointed by the governor; 1 person with
536 expertise in child welfare data and outcome measures to be appointed by the child advocate; and

537 1 person with expertise in the department of children and families' information technology, data
538 collection and reporting systems to be appointed by the commissioner of children and families.
539 The task force shall consult with other individuals with relevant expertise, including academics,
540 researchers and service providers, as needed. The task force shall consult with the heads of
541 agencies that address issues that directly affect the child welfare caseload or outcomes including,
542 but not limited to, substance use disorders, domestic violence, mental health and homelessness to
543 determine how best to review and report on agency data relevant to child welfare outcomes.

544 The work of the task force in developing future reports shall not absolve the department
545 of children and families from any statutorily required report or request.

546 The task force shall meet at least quarterly. Annually, not later than January 31, the task
547 force shall submit its recommendations to the clerks of the house of representatives and the
548 senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children,
549 families and persons with disabilities.

550 SECTION 27. Item 4800-0015 of section 2 of chapter 41 of the acts of 2019 is hereby
551 amended by striking out the following words:- provided further, that on December 27, 2019, and
552 March 27, 2020, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and
553 means and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities on: (i) the fair
554 hearing requests filed in fiscal year 2020, using non-identifying information: to state, for each
555 hearing request: (a) the subject matter of the appeal; (b) the number of days between the hearing
556 request and the first day of the hearing; (c) the number of days between the first day of the
557 hearing and the hearing officer's decision; (d) the number of days between the hearing officer's
558 decision and the agency's final decision; (e) the number of days of continuance granted at the

559 appellant's request; (f) the number of days of continuance granted at the request of the
560 department of children and families or the hearing officer's request, specifying which party made
561 the request; and (g) whether the department's decision that was the subject of the appeal was
562 affirmed or reversed; and (ii) the fair hearing requests filed before fiscal year 2020, which are
563 pending for more than 180 days, stating the number of those cases, how many of those cases
564 have been heard but not decided and how many have been decided by the hearing officer but not
565 yet issued as a final agency decision; provided further, that the department shall maintain and
566 make available to the public, during regular business hours, a record of its fair hearings, with
567 identifying information removed, including for each hearing request: the date of the request, the
568 date of the hearing decision, the decision rendered by the hearing officer and the final decision
569 rendered upon the commissioner's review; provided further, that the department shall make
570 redacted copies of fair hearing decisions available within 30 days of a written request; provided
571 further, that the department shall not make available any information in violation of federal
572 privacy regulations; provided further, that not later than February 28, 2020, the department shall
573 submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and joint committee on
574 children, families and persons with disabilities that shall include, but not be limited to, the: (1)
575 number of medical and psychiatric personnel and their level of training currently employed by or
576 under contract with the department; (2) number of foster care reviews conducted by the
577 department and the average length of time in which each review is completed; (3) the number of
578 social workers and supervisors who have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in social work;
579 (4) the total number of social workers and the total number of social workers holding licensure,
580 by level; (5) number of the department's contracts reviewed by the state auditor and the number
581 of corrective action plans issued; and (6) number of corrective action plans entered into by the

582 department; provided further, that on the first business day of each quarter, the department shall
583 file a report with the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee
584 on children, families and persons with disabilities on the caseload of the department; provided
585 further, that the report shall include, but not be limited to: (A) the caseloads of residential
586 placements, congregate care, foster care, therapeutic foster care, adoption, guardianship, 51A
587 reports, substantiated 51A reports, the number of children who die in the care and custody of the
588 department, the number of children currently eligible for supportive child care, the number of
589 children presently receiving supportive child care and the number of medical and psychiatric
590 consultation requests made by the department's social workers; (B) the number of approved
591 foster care placements; (C) the number of children in psychiatric hospitals and community-based
592 acute treatment programs who remain hospitalized beyond their medically-necessary stay while
593 awaiting placement and the number of days each case remains in placement beyond that which is
594 medically necessary; (D) the number of children under the department of children and families'
595 care and custody who are being served in medical or psychiatric care provided through other
596 publicly-funded sources; (E) the number of children served by supervised visitation centers and
597 the number of those children who are reunified with their families; (F) the total number of
598 children served, their ages, the number of children served in each service plan, the number of
599 children in out-of-home placements and the number of placements each child has had before
600 receiving an out-of-home placement; (G) for each area office, the number of kinship
601 guardianship subsidies provided in the quarters covered by the report and the number of kinship
602 guardianship subsidies provided in that quarter for which federal reimbursement was received;
603 (H) for each area office, the total spending on services other than case management services
604 provided to families to keep a child with the child's parents or reunifying the child with the

605 child's parents, spending by the type of service including, but not limited to, the number of
606 children and a breakdown of spending for respite care, intensive in-home services, client
607 financial assistance and flexible funding, community-based after-school social and recreation
608 program services, family navigation services and parent aide services and the unduplicated
609 number of families that receive the services; (I) for each area office, the total number of families
610 residing in shelters paid for by the department, a list of where the families are sheltered, the total
611 cost and average cost per family of those shelters and a description of how the department
612 determines who qualifies or does not qualify for a shelter; (J) for each area office, the number of
613 requests for voluntary services broken down by type of service requested, whether the request
614 was approved or denied, the number of families that were denied voluntary services and received
615 a 51A report, the reasons for denying the service and what, if any, referrals were made for
616 services by other agencies or entities; (K) the number of families receiving multiple 51A reports
617 within a 10-month period, the number of cases reopened within 6 months of being closed and the
618 number of children who return home and then reenter an out-of-home placement within 6
619 months; (L) the number of children and families served by the family resource centers by area;
620 and (M) the number of children within the care and custody of the department whose
621 whereabouts are unknown; provided further, that not later than November 1, 2019, the
622 department shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the
623 joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities that details any changes to
624 rules, regulations or guidelines established by the department in the previous fiscal year to carry
625 out its duties under chapter 119 of the General Laws including, but not limited to: (I) criteria
626 used to determine whether a child has been abused or neglected; (II) guidelines for removal of a
627 child from the home; and (III) standards to determine what reasonable efforts are being made to

628 keep a child in the home; provided further, that on a monthly basis, the department of children
629 and families shall provide the caseload forecasting office with data on children receiving services
630 and other pertinent data related to items 4800-0038 and 4800-0041 that is requested by the
631 office; provided further, that the report shall also contain the number of children and families
632 served by the family resource centers by area and an evaluation of the services provided and their
633 effectiveness.

634 SECTION 28. The department of children and families shall submit a special report
635 analyzing the effect of virtual and video technology on services during the outbreak of the 2019
636 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i)
637 the types of services offered via virtual and video technology; (ii) the number of people using
638 virtual and video technology for each type of service; (iii) the number of people using virtual and
639 video technology for each category of person, including, but not limited to, department staff,
640 children, parents, foster parents and kinship care guardians; (iv) the number of people opting not
641 to use virtual and video technology for each type of service, and, if known, the reasons why; (v)
642 the number of people opting not to use virtual and video technology for each category of person,
643 including, but not limited to, department staff, children, parents, foster parents and kinship care
644 guardians; and (vi) best practices for using virtual and video technology in future agency
645 operations. The report shall be for services offered for the duration of the state of emergency
646 established by executive order 591.

647 The department shall file its report, including any recommendations, with the house and
648 senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children, families and persons
649 with disabilities not later than 12 months after the end of the state of emergency established by
650 executive order 591.

651 SECTION 29. To the extent feasible, school districts shall provide the department of
652 elementary and secondary education with the number of students who did not participate in any
653 form of remote learning that went into effect due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus,
654 also known as COVID-19, from March 16, 2020 through the remainder of the 2020 school year,
655 and the number of students the district did not have any meaningful contact with to address such
656 participation, using a methodology to be determined by the department of elementary and
657 secondary education. The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in
658 conjunction with the department of children and families, provide an analysis which shall include
659 remote learning participation rates of children with active cases at the department of children and
660 families and the methods and process the agencies used and will continue to use to ensure
661 ongoing communication and student engagement with families with active cases at the
662 department of children and families.

663 Not later than August 21, 2020, the department of elementary and secondary education,
664 in coordination with the department of children and families, shall share any findings and
665 analysis on remote learning efforts with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate
666 and the joint committee on education and shall have developed a statewide plan to ensure
667 effective and ongoing engagement relative to remote learning for the fall of 2020, including any
668 guidance for best practices for engaging the most vulnerable and at-risk students and their
669 families, including, but not limited to: (i) children with active cases at the department of children
670 and families; (ii) students and families with limited English proficiency; (iii) students with
671 limited access to remote learning; (iv) students receiving special education services; and (v)
672 students residing in school districts in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the
673 outbreak of COVID-19. SECTION 30. The department of children and families shall report

674 on its efforts to support and reform the foster care system in the commonwealth during the
675 outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, including, but not limited to,
676 protocols and practices to provide: (i) timely information sharing with foster families, including,
677 but not limited to, relevant medical history; (ii) tracking and surveying of foster care families,
678 including those foster care families who leave the program; (iii) foster care families' access to
679 supports, including, but not limited to, mental health supports; (iv) consistent and cohesive
680 policies across the commonwealth's department of children and families offices, including, but
681 not limited to, how information is communicated with staff and foster care families; (v)
682 increased access to care in underserved regions; and (vi) access to timely information relative to
683 the health and well-being of children in the department's custody, including any children who
684 have died from abuse or neglect.

685 The department shall file its report, including any recommendations, with the house and
686 senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on children, families and persons
687 with disabilities not later than August 31, 2020.

688 SECTION 31. The department of children and families shall report monthly, during the
689 outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, and the governor's March
690 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency and until 60 days after the termination of the state
691 of emergency, to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee
692 on children, families and persons with disabilities on changes in child abuse and neglect reports
693 made to the department pursuant to section 51A of chapter 119 of the General Laws. The report
694 shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: (i) the number of reports and
695 substantiated reports made that month to the department pursuant to said section 51A of said
696 chapter 119 and comparative data on the number of reports made to the department for the same

697 time period in 2019; (ii) the number of reports and substantiated reports that were filed by
698 mandated reporters, including the number of reports filed by each category of mandated reporter,
699 and the number of reports and substantiated reports that were filed by non-mandated reporters;
700 (iii) methods used by the department to enhance screening for child abuse and neglect cases
701 during the outbreak of COVID-19, including outreach to mandated reporters; (iv) strategies
702 taken by the department to address cases of reported abuse and neglect during the outbreak of
703 COVID-19, and outcomes related to said strategies; and (v) any changes in department policies
704 related to the investigation and processing of reports made to the department pursuant to said
705 section 51A of said chapter 119 during the outbreak of COVID-19.

706 SECTION 32. The department of children and families shall develop and implement a
707 public information campaign to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect during the
708 outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The campaign shall include,
709 but not be limited to: (i) educating mandated reporters on identifying child abuse and neglect, for
710 different ages, including infants, toddlers, elementary-age and teenagers, in instances where
711 remote communication is being utilized; (ii) performing targeted outreach to appropriate
712 populations who may lack information on how to report child abuse and neglect; and (iii)
713 promoting the use of the department's child-at-risk hotline, including establishing a website,
714 translated into multiple languages, clearly identifying how to report child abuse and neglect.

715 SECTION 33. The commissioner of children and families shall review the department of
716 children and families' policies, procedures and rules to identify additional and specific protocols
717 that can be modified or established for case transfers involving multiple social workers or area
718 offices to ensure the efficient and accurate transfer of information and care for the child. The
719 commissioner shall consult with the child advocate during this review. Not later than November

720 15, 2020, the commissioner shall submit a report to the house of representatives and senate
721 clerks, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on children,
722 families and persons with disabilities that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the
723 commissioner's findings of the review, including an evaluation of how policies are implemented
724 in each area office and barriers to transferring information and cases between social workers or
725 area offices; (ii) the number of cases transferred between area offices in fiscal year 2020; (iii) the
726 number of cases transferred between social workers in fiscal year 2020; (iv) any actions the
727 department has taken, or plans to take, to address barriers to transferring information and cases
728 between social workers and area offices, including changes to policies and regulations; and (v)
729 proposed legislation that may improve stability for children whose cases involve multiple social
730 workers or area offices, if applicable.

731 SECTION 33A. The board of registration of social workers shall report on the barriers
732 prospective social workers face entering the profession as a social worker, as defined in section
733 130 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, due to the licensure examination. The report shall
734 include information about the individuals who took the examination in 2019, including: (a) the
735 total number of individuals, broken down by each licensure type; (b) aggregate data on the age,
736 race, ethnicity, and primary language; (c) the total number of individuals who reported a learning
737 disability or other disability; and (d) in a de-identified form, the number of previous attempts at
738 the licensure examination, including first time takers, second time takers, third time takers or
739 greater than third time takers, broken down by licensure type. Additionally, the report shall
740 include a description of the accommodations offered for individuals with disabilities and
741 individuals whose primary language is a language other than English.

742 No later than October 31, 2020, the board shall submit the report to the house and senate
743 committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on children, families and persons with
744 disabilities, including any recommendations on how to eliminate any cultural and implicit bias
745 related to entry into the profession as a social worker, including the licensure examination.

746 SECTION 34. Section 3 shall take effect as of July 1, 2019.

747 SECTION 35. Section 27 shall take effect as of July 1, 2019.

748 SECTION 36. The third paragraph of section 12 of chapter 124 of the acts of 2019 is
749 hereby amended by inserting, in line 371, after the words "chapter 119;" the following:- "(xii)
750 proposals to allow law enforcement to report to the department of children and families on
751 incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect in domestic violence cases;"; and further amends
752 in section 12 of chapter 124 of the acts of 2019 by striking out in line 371, the number "(xii)" and
753 inserting in place thereof the following:- "(xiii)"

754 SECTION 37. Section 52D of chapter 149 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
755 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4, the words "by blood or marriage to
756 the employee, including a" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "by blood,
757 marriage, or adoption to the employee, including a parent or an adoptive."