

**The 190th General Court  
of the  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**



Painting by DYS Youth

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES  
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**END OF SESSION REPORT**

**REPRESENTATIVE KAY KHAN, HOUSE CHAIR  
SENATOR JOAN B. LOVELY, SENATE CHAIR**

**JANUARY 2019**

Chair Khan acquired this abstract painting at the Department of Youth Services (DYS) Statewide Youth Showcase titled, Share Your Art, Share Your Voice. This painting is one of many works created by the youth as part of Positive Youth Development (PYD) programming. PYD helps youth in DYS care achieve their academic, behavioral, vocational, and social goals.

Arts activities are part of a broader youth engagement strategy that support progress with DYS involved youth. Programs that encourage art, music, and theatre as ways to give a voice to court-involved youth are empowering on an individual and societal level.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MANDATE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>AGENCY, COMMISSION AND ORGANIZATION ACRONYMS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BILLS ASSIGNED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BILL HEARINGS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS &amp; BRIEFINGS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
JUVENILE JUSTICE IN CJF BILL.....	8
DYS BACKGROUND CHECK .....	10
CONVERSION THERAPY .....	10
LIFT THE CAP ON KIDS .....	11
MANDATED REPORTER.....	11
<b>LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FILED BY THE CHAIRS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>12</b>
CHAIR LOVELY’S BILLS .....	12
<i>Home Work Programs</i> .....	12
<i>Preventing the Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth</i> .....	13
<i>Safe Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Programs</i> .....	13
<i>Requiring Mental Health Parity for Disability Policies</i> .....	13
<i>Promoting Access to Emergency Medical Services for Minors</i> .....	13
<i>Amending the Statute of Limitations regarding Criminal Prosecutions for the Crime of Sexual Assault and Rape of a Child</i> .....	14
<i>Massachusetts Pregnant Workers Fairness Act</i> .....	14
<i>Diaper Benefits for Certain Parents</i> .....	14
CHAIR KHAN’S BILLS .....	14
<i>Homeless ID</i> .....	14
<i>Disability Language</i> .....	15
<i>Child Marriage</i> .....	15
<i>Justice-Involved Women</i> .....	16
<b>SUB-COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED THE JOINT COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>18</b>
CHILD WELFARE – REP. FARLEY-BOUVIER AND REP. VEGA.....	18
<i>H.1955, H.104, S.45</i> .....	19
<i>H.87, S.61</i> .....	20
<i>H.783</i> .....	20
DUAL-STATUS YOUTH – REP. DYKEMA.....	21
<i>H.3579</i> .....	22
<b>FY18 &amp; FY19 BUDGETS .....</b>	<b>23</b>
FY18 BUDGET APPROPRIATION HIGHLIGHTS .....	24
FY19 BUDGET APPROPRIATION HIGHLIGHTS .....	27
<b>PROJECTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>32</b>
FOSTER CARE REVIEW UNIT .....	32
MANDATED REPORTERS AND PAWS .....	33
CLIFF EFFECT .....	33

<b>COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS TO TASK FORCES, WORK GROUPS</b>	
<b>AND COMMISSIONS .....</b>	<b>34</b>
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.....	34
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES (DYS) SAFETY TASK FORCE.....	35
TASK FORCE ON CHILD WELFARE DATA REPORTING.....	36
UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH COMMISSION .....	37
PAWS .....	37
<b>APPENDIX .....</b>	<b>38</b>
AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS OVERSEEN BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE .....	38
<i>Departments of Children and Families .....</i>	38
<i>Departments of Developmental Services .....</i>	38
<i>Departments of Transitional Assistance .....</i>	38
<i>Departments of Youth Services.....</i>	39
<i>Massachusetts Commissions for the Blind.....</i>	39
<i>Massachusetts Commissions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.....</i>	39
<i>Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.....</i>	39
BILLS REPORTED OUT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE .....	40
REPORTS OF INTEREST TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE.....	52

*Note:* Links are embedded in this document; please refer to our online edition to access additional material.



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Rep. Kay Khan  
House Chair

Sen. Joan B. Lovely  
Senate Chair

January 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, we are pleased to present the Committee's 2017-2018 End of Session Report. This report summarizes the Committee's legislative, oversight and advocacy activities conducted during the 190th Session of the General Court of Massachusetts.

During the 190th legislative session, 159 bills were assigned to the Committee for consideration. We have been afforded the opportunity to work on matters of vital importance to the citizens of the Commonwealth. As you may know, the Committee has responsibility for matters concerning juvenile justice, homelessness and homeless shelters, public welfare, children and adults with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities, child abuse, adoption and foster care, and out of school programming to name a few. These issues – critical to the well-being of the children and families whom we represent throughout the Commonwealth – are of utmost significance and demonstrate a consistent commitment to our most vulnerable populations.

We hope you find this report informative and useful. A detailed account of the Committee's activities and its legislative highlights follows.

We thank you for a highly productive session and look forward to continuing this work if re-appointed as Chairs in the 191st Session of the General Court.

Sincerely,

*Kay Khan*

Representative Kay Khan

*Joan B. Lovely*

Senator Joan B. Lovely

## II. Members of the Joint Committee

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2017-2018

#### REPRESENTATIVES

Kay Khan (D-Newton), Chair	Room 146	722-2011
Aaron Vega (D-Holyoke), Vice-Chair	Room 146	722-2011
Jonathan Hecht (D-Watertown)	Room 22	722-2140
Carolyn C. Dykema (D-Holliston)	Room 127	722-2680
Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield)	Room 156	722-2240
Paul A. Schmid III (D-Westport)	Room 466	722-2017
John H. Rogers (D-Norwood)	Room 162	722-2092
Steve Utrino (D-Malden)	Room 446	722-2460
Jack Patrick Lewis (D-Ashland)	Room 443	722-2460
Shaunna L. O'Connell (R-Taunton)	Room 237	722-2305
William Crocker (R-Hyannis)	Room 39	722-2014

#### SENATORS

Joan B. Lovely (D-Salem), Chair	Room 413A	722-1410
Julian Cyr (D-Truro)	Room 218	722-1570
Donald F. Humason, Jr (R-Westfield)	Room 313A	722-1415

#### Previous Members of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities During the 190<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Court

Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly †  
Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan, Previous Senate Chair  
Senator Linda Dorcena Forry

#### Committee Staff:

House	Lisa Rosenfeld, General Counsel for the Committee Ernestina Mendes, Research Director for the Committee Emily Hajjar, Researcher and then Research Director for the Committee Corinne Corcoran, Researcher for the Committee
Senate	Johanna Wakelin, Chief of Staff and General Counsel for Senator Lovely Mark Sternman, Legislative and Policy Director for Senator Lovely Annemarie Hall, Legislative Aide for Senator Flanagan then for Senator Lovely Shannon Moore, Legislative Director for Senator Flanagan

† Passed away on April 2, 2018

### III. Mandate of the Joint Committee

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to consider all matters concerning child welfare, juvenile justice, public welfare, and children and adults with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities. It is the Committee's responsibility to oversee the Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Transitional Assistance and Youth Services; the Massachusetts Commissions for the Blind, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.

### IV. Agency, Commission and Organization Acronyms

Throughout this report The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities will be referred to as "*the Joint Committee*" or "*the Committee.*"

Acronym	Agency, Commission or Organization
COFAR	Massachusetts Coalition of Families and Advocates
CSG	Council of State Governments
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DDS	Department of Developmental Services
DHCD	Department of Housing and Community Development
DPH	Department of Public Health
DPPC	Disabled Persons Protection Commission
DTA	Department of Transitional Assistance
DYS	Department of Youth Services
EEC	Department of Early Education and Care
EOHHS	Executive Office of Health and Human Services
FCRU	Foster Care Review Unit
FRC	Family Resource Center
HWM	House Committee on Ways and Means
MADOC	Department of Corrections
MCB	Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
MCDHH	Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
MDDC	Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
MRC	Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
NCSL	National Conference of State Legislatures
OCA	Office of the Child Advocate
SWM	Senate Committee on Ways and Means
TAFDC	Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children

### V. Bills assigned to the Joint Committee

See Appendix A.

## VI. Bill Hearings of the Joint Committee

Date	Description
5/16/2017	<b>DTA</b> – H84, H85, H94, H101, H105, H106, H114, H121, H1952, S30, S34, S35, S36, S37, S71, S72, S73
6/6/2017	<b>MISC</b> – H81, H117, H1190, S31, S57, S62
6/27/2017	<b>DCF</b> – H87, H104, H107, H109, H1955, H1962, H1964, H2799, H2800, H2801, H2802, H2803, S32, S40, S45, S61
7/31/2017	<b>DDS</b> - H80, H110, H113, H116, H118, H1958, H1960, H2805, S42, S52, S54, S56, S64, S69 , S76, S78
10/10/2017	<b>MISC</b> - H40, H82, H86, H88, H90, H120, H2797, H2804, H3150, H3681, S43, S47, S55, S59, S60, S63
10/24/2017	<b>DTA</b> - H78, H79, H91, H97, H102, H103, H108, H1961, H1965, H1966, H3517, S28, S39, S68, S70, S79, S2075
11/21/2017	<b>MISC</b> - H83, H89, H92, H96, H99, H111, H115, H119, H122, H1968, H1969, H2796, H3463, H3801, H3847, S27, S38, S46, S48, S49, S67, S74
12/5/2017	<b>DDS and DCF</b> - H75, H76, H77, H93, H95, H98, H100, H112, H783, H1953, H1957, H1963, H1967, H2798, H3042, H3657, H3802, S25, S26, S33, S41, S44, S50, S51, S53, S58, S65, S66, S75, S77
2/6/2018	<b>MISC</b> - H4074, H4104, S2239
6/12/2018	<b>MISC</b> - H4467, H4541

## VII. Informational Hearings & Briefings of the Joint Committee

Date	Topic	Description
3/1/2017	The Task Force to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse	Presentation included description of the work accomplished and the recommendations of the Task Force to keep kids safe.
4/5/2017	DPPC Briefing	The purpose of this briefing was to educate members on the work conducted by the DPPC. The DPPC is an independent state agency charged with protecting adults with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 59 from the abusive acts or omissions of their caregivers through investigation, oversight, public awareness, and prevention.
4/6/2017	Committee Meet & Greet	Presentation of Committee Rules, gathered contact information for staff, and discussed goals for session.
5/8/2017	DTA and DDS Informational Hearing	The Committee met in Holyoke – hosted by Vice Chair Vega – and was briefed by DDS and DTA on programs and services in the western part of the state. DTA also presented on the new mobile app available to the individuals served by the agency.
5/10/2017	The Power of Foster Care Innovation	Presentation by Treehouse Foundation, Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America, Plummer Home, and Silver Lining Mentoring on the successful outcomes of intergenerational communities and services.



6/13/2017	DCF Informational Hearing	Commissioner Spears presented on the status of DCF staffing, caseloads, and offices. She also discussed the success of FRCs, and the hiring of medical social workers and a medical director for the first time. Foster care issues and the opioid epidemic and its implications for the department were discussed.
6/20/2017	Sub-Committee Reports	Representatives Dykema, Farley-Bouvier and Vega presented on the findings of their respective Sub-Committee work.
9/19/2017	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Briefing	This briefing was about the need to restore and increase funding for housing and wraparound services for unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, line item 4000-0007, and the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) line item, 7004-9316.
10/31/2017	Providers Council Briefing	Lisa Simonetti and Providers Council briefed the Committee on H.3150 and S. 47, <i>An act relative to fair pay for comparable work</i> as well as S.32, <i>An Act improving the children's medical security program and simplifying the administration process</i> .
10/31/2017	Sub-Committee Round Table	Representatives Vega and Farley-Bouvier led a discussion for the Committee on H.87, <i>An Act establishing the Massachusetts foster care review office</i> and H.1955, <i>An Act relative to foster parent rights</i> . Representative Dykema led a discussion on H.3579, <i>An Act to support dual-status youth in the Commonwealth</i> . The Children's League led a discussion on the STAR Report. DCF, DYS, and the OCA were also present.
12/5/2017	LGBTQ Youth Foster Care Briefing	The Director of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth; a parent, educator, and justice and equity consultant; and a foster and adoptive parent and LGBTQ advocate presented on the issues facing LGBTQ+ youth in foster care and recommendations for action.
1/17/2018	DDS Oversight Hearing	The Committee reviewed current DDS policies, procedures, and responses to reported incidents. Testimony was heard from representatives of DDS and DPPC.

2/6/2018	DCF, DEEC, and OCA Informational Hearing on Federal and State Audits	Commissioner Spears of DCF discussed and answered questions regarding the State Auditor’s report on Unreported Incidents & Fatalities, as well as the Federal Audit on congregate care in regard to contracted providers and children in DCF’s care. Commissioner Weber of DEEC discussed and answered questions on the Federal Audit on congregate care in regard to licensing and inspection mandates. The OCA spoke to both audits as well as gave updates on the Foster Care Review Assessment Plan and the DCF Data Task Force.
2/13/2018	OCA Informational Hearing	Annual Report Presentation
3/28/2018	Family Impact Seminar: The Kids are NOT All Right: Policy Options to Address Youth Trauma in Massachusetts	The presentation of research focused on what can be done to address early childhood trauma, sex trafficking, and sexual assault on our college campuses. Presentations on “Early Childhood Trauma as a Risk Factor for Youth Violence: Policy Options to Break Generational Cycles of Violence”, “Gaps, Best Practices, and Challenges in Responding to Sex Trafficking” and “Prevention of Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Policy Options and Challenges to Best Practices”.
5/8/2018	Treehouse Foundation Presentation	Treehouse Foundation follow-up presentation on the successful outcomes of intergenerational communities and services.
10/30/2018	DDS Oversight Hearing	The Committee reviewed current DDS policies, trainings, procedures, and responses to reports of sexual abuse. Testimony was heard from DDS, DPPC, COFAR, MDDC, the Disability Law Center, and the Arc of Massachusetts.

### VIII. Legislative Accomplishments

This section is dedicated to the bills and issues that the Committee worked on that made it through the legislative process and were either signed into law or voted on by one or both chambers.

#### a. **Juvenile Justice in Criminal Justice Reform Bill**

##### *Chair Khan’s Previous Work on Juvenile Justice*

Chair Khan filed many pieces of legislation in the 190th Session regarding juvenile justice, which included, H.2309, *An Act relative to sealing of juvenile records and expungement of court records* jointly filed with Representative Carolyn C. Dykema, H.3079, *An Act to promote transparency, best practices and better outcomes for children and communities* and H.875, *An Act relative to best practices in the juvenile court*. These bills reinforce the reason Massachusetts created a juvenile court and juvenile justice system – to shield juveniles from experiencing the

negative consequences of crime by focusing instead on counselling, education and creating second chances for juveniles. Chair Khan previously filed and was instrumental in passing a bill in 2013 that raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18 years of age.

### *S.2371, An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform*

Much of Chair Khan's previous work and the research on adolescent brain development played a critical role in inspiring much of the language related to juveniles in *S.2371, An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform*, signed into law by Governor Baker on April 13, 2018.

Research shows adolescents' brains continue to mature into young adulthood. Youth lack maturity, impulse control, foresight and the ability to appreciate the consequences of their actions. Most adolescents, including those who commit serious offenses, stop offending when they become young adults. The first time a young person is arrested doubles his or her risk of dropping out of high school. If a young person's case is processed in court, the risk of dropping out of school increases five to eight times. Court processing also increases the risk of additional delinquency when compared to diversion from formal processing.

The passage of the Criminal Justice Reform Bill, *S.2371*, is the culmination of years of research, gathering of data, discussions, presentations, conferences, work of the Criminal Justice Commission, the legislative Harm Reduction Caucus, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, site visits in other states, individual and group advocacy efforts, political leadership and the hard work of the Criminal Justice Working Group and Council on State Governments.

*S.2371*, now Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018:

- Allows for the expungement of criminal records for non-serious crimes committed by juveniles and young adults before the age of 21.
- When state criminal records are sealed or expunged, national fingerprint records are also sealed or expunged.
- Accelerates the sealing of records.
- Bans solitary confinement for juveniles.
- Almost completely bans shackling for juveniles in the justice system.
- Protects parent-child confidentiality by ensuring parents and children are not forced to testify against one another in court.
- Creates a task force on trauma-informed juvenile care.
- Creates a Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board to gather and consolidate information about justice- involved youth.
- Raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 10 years of age.
- Decriminalizes certain civil infractions, municipal violations and certain low-level first offenses for juveniles including disorderly conduct and disruption of school assemblies.
- Requires juveniles arrested for felony offenses be assigned an offense-based tracking number (OBTN).
- Houses of Correction may establish young adults (18-24 years of age) correctional units or have designated correctional officers to supervise young adults so that young adults may receive age-appropriate programming, guidance, and targeted interventions.
- Designated officers will have specialized training to work with young adults.

Several changes to court proceedings and outcomes for juvenile delinquents included in the bill are:

- The procedure for juvenile arrest notification and holding when the courts are out of session including a provision for youth in DCF care requiring the Department be notified upon arrest.
- The \$150 public counsel fee is waived for juveniles.
- The use of restraints on juveniles during court proceedings is limited and the use of involuntary room confinement as a means of punishment in DYS care is prohibited.
- If a prisoner is indigent and serving a life sentence for an offense committed before the prisoner turned 18, they have the right to counsel, parole and funds for experts.

### **b. DYS Background Checks**

H.4104, *An Act Relative to Background Checks by the Department of Youth Services*, gives DYS the statutory authority to fingerprint individuals who already are applying to be an employee, subcontractor, volunteer or intern and would have the potential for unsupervised contact with children in Department programs. This task was originally assigned to EEC..

H.4104 was filed in the fall of 2017 and was referred to the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities in January of 2018. It received a public hearing on February 2, 2018. The bill was reported on favorably by the Committee and was referred to HWM. On December 20, 2018 the bill was referred out of HWM favorably with an amendment and given a new number, H.5008. The bill was passed to be engrossed, sent to SWM and reported out favorably, and the House and the Senate enacted the bill on December 31, 2018. On January 10, 2019 it was signed by the Governor, Chapter 424 of the Acts of 2018.

### **c. Conversion Therapy**

H.1190 and S.62, *An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors*, sponsored by Chair Khan and Senator Montigny were filed for the 190th Session and referred to the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities in January of 2017. The bills received a public hearing on June 6, 2017. Individuals and organizations from all over the Commonwealth and the country testified.

These bills would ensure professional conduct that protects minors from being exposed to fraudulent, ineffective and harmful practices by state licensed mental health providers, while protecting First Amendment liberties. Similar protections to those included in these bills have been enacted in 10 states and the District of Columbia. Moreover, numerous rulings at the state and federal level illustrate the ways in which similar legislation does not infringe on First Amendment rights.

These bills were reported favorably by the Committee on July 17, 2017. H.1190 was referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. It was reported out favorably with an amendment, resulting in a new bill number, H.4014. It was referred to the HWM and released

favorably with an amendment, again changing the bill number to H.4664. It was referred to the House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling and placed on the orders of the day.

H.4664 was passed to be engrossed on June 27, 2018 by the House of Representative. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules, passed to be engrossed in the Senate and sent back to House Committee on Third Reading on August 2, 2018.

#### **d. Lift the Cap on Kids**

H.85, An Act relative to the well-being and care of a child, was referred to the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities in January 2017 and received a public hearing in May of the same year. The Cap on Kids restricts Transitional Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) benefits to children conceived while the family is on benefits. Lifting the Cap on Kids will allow affected families to receive an additional grant of \$100.00 per month in benefits which they would otherwise not be allotted. It will provide immediate relief to families who are already faced with many impossible choices as they work to survive on less than \$600 per month in a state where the median income is just under \$6,000 per month. The TAFDC benefits flow immediately into the community in the form of purchases for necessities such as clothing, diapers and household items.

The bill was reported on favorably by the Committee in October 2017 and referred to HWM. The House additionally included a Cap on Kids repeal in consolidated amendment C of the House budget. The House budget was passed to be engrossed with a repeal of Cap on Kids effective starting in July 2019. The SWM budget passed to be engrossed with a repeal effective starting in January 2019. The Legislature enacted the FY 19 budget with the Senate version of the Cap on Kids repeal. However, the Governor sent back the budget with a “poison pill” amendment, which would repeal the Cap if the legislature cut TAFDC benefits for children with a severely disabled parent, which would affect over 7,000 children. Both the House and Senate rejected the Governor’s amendment and re-enacted the repeal of Cap on Kids in July of 2018. The Governor vetoed the re-enactment in August of 2018 on the grounds that the legislature did not adopt the proposal to cut TAFDC funding.

#### **e. Mandated Reporter**

Chair Khan and Chair Lovely agreed the Committee should review all the bills referred to the Committee that include language on Mandated Reporting. The Chairs convened a group of stakeholders that gathered to discuss the issue, referenced in *Section XII Section b. Mandated Reporters and PAWS*, page 32 of this report. The Committee wrote a new draft of H.77 and H.3042 and reported H.4491 out favorably. H.4491 was referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, reported out favorably and referred to HWM. HWM amended the bill and the new draft, H.4852 was referred to House Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

H.4852 *An Act Relative to Mandated Reporter Reform:*

- Creates a Task Force to review, update and improve the Commonwealth’s child abuse and neglect mandated reporting law.

- Provides needed clarification of reporting requirements so that every mandated reporter understands their duty and role in protecting our children.

H.4852 was passed to be engrossed in the House on July 30, 2018 and was referred to SWM.

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## **IX. Legislative Initiatives filed by the Chairs of the Joint Committee**

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This section is dedicated to the legislation that both Chairs of the Committee filed in the 190<sup>th</sup> Session that impact populations of people similar to what that the Committee focuses on. This includes: children, families, individuals who are homeless or incarcerated, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, housing for individuals in need, workforce development to secure self-sufficiency, and many others.

### **a. Chair Lovely's Bills**

#### **i. Home Works Program**

S.192, *An Act Creating the Home Works Program*, would provide children in DHCD's Emergency Assistance Program the opportunity to attend out-of-school and summer programming run by youth-serving organizations. Transportation to and from the Home Works Program would also be offered. Interested organizations would apply to contract with the Department. Funding would be awarded to areas with the highest number of children in the Emergency Assistance Programs.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and received a hearing on September 19, 2017. A new draft, S.2281 was reported favorably and referred to the SWM.

#### **ii. Preventing the Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth**

S.295, *An Act relative to Preventing the Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth*, aims to protect young people by improving education and training on child sexual abuse and prevention for students, teachers and other youth-serving employees; improving screening and hiring practices in schools and youth-serving organizations; requiring schools to report a dismissal of a teacher due to allegations of sexual abuse to another potential school employer; expanding the list of mandated reporters; improving mandated reporter training policies; strengthening liability protections for schools and reporters; precluding teachers and other school and youth-serving employees from claiming consent for a sexual encounter with a high-school student under age 19 (22 for special education students); including child sexual abuse victims on the list of victims eligible to access the Victim of Violent Crime Compensation Fund; clarifying that consensual sexual contact between students is not included within the statutory definition of statutory rape; and, amending governmental and charitable tort liability to hold non-governmental youth-serving organizations to the same liability standards as other organizations in cases of child sexual abuse.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Education and received a hearing on July 18, 2017. It was then accompanied by study order S.2353. The order was discharged to the Senate Committee on Rules.

**iii. Safe Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Programs**

S.456, *An Act Ensuring Safe Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Programs*, would require schools and early childhood programs to replace lead service lines; install and maintain filters at all faucets, fountains, and other drinking water outlets; and, annually test each drinking water outlet for the presence of lead. The bill would require making information on the schools' plans and actions available to the public.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and received a hearing on October 30, 2017. It was redrafted as S.2465 and reported favorably by the Committee, then discharged to the Senate Committee on Rules. The Committee reported the matter be placed in the Orders of the Day with an amendment, substituting a new draft, S.2595, which was referred to HWM.

**iv. Requiring Mental Health Parity for Disability Policies**

S.555, *An Act Requiring Mental Health Parity for Disability Policies*, would extend mental-health parity to disability insurance. It requires policies that provide income replacement benefits to not place exclusions or limitations on claimants affected by behavioral health disorders if the policies do not also impose the same exclusions or limitations on claimants affected by physical disorders.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Financial Services and received a hearing on December 5, 2017. It was accompanied by a study order, S.2496. The order was reported favorably by the Committee and discharged to Senate Committee on Rules.

**v. Promoting Access to Emergency Medical Services for Minors**

S.901, *An Act Promoting Access to Emergency Medical Services for Minors*, would increase overdose reporting by preventing prosecution of individuals who, in a timely manner, seek emergency medical attention for themselves or for others. This protection would not apply in cases where the person sought or obtained emergency medical attention for themselves or another individual during the execution of a search warrant or during the conduct of a lawful search or a lawful arrest.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and received a hearing on July 18, 2017. It was accompanied by study order S.2313. The order was reported favorably by the Committee and discharged to the Senate Committee on Rules.

**vi. Amending the Statute of Limitations Regarding Criminal Prosecutions for the Crime of Sexual Assault and Rape of a Child**

S.902, *An Act Amending the Statute of Limitations Regarding Criminal Prosecutions for the Crime of Sexual Assault and Rape of a Child*, will eliminate the statute of limitations in criminal cases of sexual abuse of a minor.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and received a hearing on November 28, 2017. It was accompanied by a study order, S.2313. The order was reported favorably by the Committee and then discharged to the Senate Committee on Rules.

**vii. Massachusetts Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**

S.1023, *An Act Establishing the Massachusetts Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*, protects pregnant workers from discrimination in the workplace by prohibiting employers from not hiring or firing a worker from her job based on pregnancy; requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations for workers who are pregnant; prohibiting an employer from taking adverse action against an employee who requests or uses a reasonable accommodation; and, prohibiting an employer from requiring an employee to take paid or unpaid leave because of pregnancy.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and received a hearing on April 4, 2017. It was redrafted as H.3659, reported favorably by the Committee and sent to HWM which recommended it ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new bill number H.3680. The House and Senate voted to engross and enact the bill in July of 2017. The bill was signed into law on July 27, 2017.

**viii. Diaper Benefits for Certain Parents**

S.2075, *An Act Providing Diaper Benefits for Certain Parents*, would require DPH to study the feasibility of providing a diaper benefit to families through the WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) program. The Commonwealth currently helps struggling families with the purchase of baby formula and food, but provides no assistance for purchasing diapers which are an enormous expense for struggling families.

The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities in May of 2017. A public hearing was held on October 24, 2017. The bill was reported favorably by the Committee and was referred to the SWM.

**b. Chair Khan's Bills**

**i. Homeless ID**

H.2737, *An Act to Provide Identification to Homeless Youth and Families*, establishes a fee waiver process for youth and adults experiencing homelessness and creates a process for homeless individuals to apply for ID if they cannot meet established criteria such as proof of permanent address. Obtaining a state identification card is a critical first step for youth and adults



experiencing homelessness to accomplish typical life tasks and access opportunities. ID is required for a broad range of life activities, such as applying for jobs, enrolling in education programs, getting a library card, picking up a package from the post office, opening financial accounts, entering certain government buildings, accessing services, or interacting with law enforcement.

This bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Transportation and a public hearing occurred on November 13, 2017. It was reported out favorably and referred to HWM in December of 2017.

## **ii. Disability Language**

H.98, *An Act Relative to Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities*, replaces the words “mental retardation” with “intellectual or developmental disabilities” throughout the General Laws. It also makes the state’s definition of “disability” consistent with the federal definition. Moreover, it requires DDS to notify applicants 45 days prior to making a final determination to deny services, and to provide applicants with a description of the reasons for the Department’s intended decision.

This bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and a public hearing occurred on December 5, 2017. The bill was reported out favorably and referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. The bill was reported out favorably from Health Care Financing and referred to HWM.

## **iii. Child Marriage**

In the summer of 2016, a reporter from the Boston Globe called to schedule an interview with Chair Khan on “Child Marriage in Massachusetts”. With much dismay, the Chair was surprised to learn children are legally allowed to be married in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts has never had a minimum age of marriage and currently any minor can have their parent sign a petition, have a same day hearing with a judge and be approved to seek a marriage license. Following the publication of the Boston Globe article, national advocates reached out to the Chair to offer additional information, statistics and assistance. They formed a working group of stakeholders, attorneys and advocates to gather information and draft legislation they thought would be the most appropriate for Massachusetts.

After many months of meetings the Working Group finalized the bill’s language and Chair Khan filed, H.2310, *An Act to End Child Marriage in Massachusetts*, Senate President Emerita Chandler filed the same legislation in the Senate, S.785. This bill would raise the age of marriage to 18 in Massachusetts with no exceptions. The Working Group determined no exceptions would be included because married minors do not have legal rights as adults and cannot open bank accounts, go to domestic violence shelters, or hire a divorce lawyer among other things. Furthermore, Massachusetts has no emancipation statutes for minors and they did not feel that would be a safe alternative.

H.2310, received a hearing from the Joint Committee on the Judiciary on May 1, 2017. National advocates from the Tahirih Justice Center spoke to the serious harm of child marriage in the U.S.

and Massachusetts. The Child Advocate spoke to the importance of passing this legislation swiftly to ensure no child in the Commonwealth was put in danger. Chair Khan and Senate President Emerita Chandler hosted a Chain-In on May 11, 2017 which included advocates and citizens from all across the Commonwealth who dressed in wedding dresses outside the State House in protest of child marriage. At a briefing in the State House, the Executive Director of Unchained at Last spoke to her experience in a forced marriage and why she is seeking to ban child marriage in the United States. Chair Khan and Senate President Emerita Chandler hosted a Lobby Day on September 28, 2017 where women from all over the Commonwealth came to speak to Representatives and Senators about child marriage in Massachusetts and the importance of passing the ban. Chair Khan and Senate President Emerita Chandler hosted meetings with religious organizations throughout the 190<sup>th</sup> session and had meaningful discussions on the implications of child marriage on minority communities.

Many school-age youth learned about this legislation and decided to get involved. A group of students from Brookline High School formed a club and they participated in the Chain-In event and submitted testimony in support of the proposed legislation. A student from Walnut Hill School wrote, produced, and directed a video to help educate the public about the issue of child marriage in the Commonwealth. The media project featured many students of Walnut Hill School discussing facts and statistics as well as personal thoughts about child marriage.

H.2310 was placed into a study in February of 2018 by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. Since then, Delaware became the first state in the nation to ban child marriage. That bill was signed into law in May of 2018. New Jersey became the second state to ban child marriage and that bill was signed into law in June of 2018. Chair Khan will refile the bill in the 191<sup>st</sup> Session.

#### **iv. Justice-Involved Women**

Chair Khan Co-Chairs the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators' Task Force on Justice Involved Women with Representative Barber, which focuses on justice involved women and their families. The task force also focuses on women in need of Section 35 court orders; educating the Legislature; exploring diversionary programs; and, more fully understanding and responding to the trauma and challenges women and their families face in order to influence policy and agency practice and craft a better response.

Justice-involved women have high rates of cognitive, learning and physical disabilities; dysfunctional birth families; histories of sexual, physical and emotional abuse; and, limited ability for financial self-sufficiency. A majority of criminalized women in Massachusetts have mental health disorders, substance use disorders, are victims of abuse and are incarcerated for relatively minor offenses. The result is years of cycling through prisons, jails, shelters and emergency rooms. Most women need support services in the community, mentoring, education, job training and safe housing.

At the beginning of the 190th session, with CSG's criminal justice study underway and its final report approaching, the Task Force Co-Chairs developed a legislative proposal of criminal justice reforms that would affect and focus on current and formerly incarcerated women. In their proposal, the Co-Chairs drew on research and resources from sources including the Wellesley

Centers for Women, the National Institute of Corrections, Women’s Prison Association, the Sentencing Project, and Community Resources for Justice. The Task Force wanted this legislation to draw attention to the growing population of incarcerated women and the need to focus on women in the Commonwealth’s justice system.

The Task Force identified a number of goals including:

- Implement gender-specific assessment which would help determine eligibility, placement for diversion, programming and release conditions.
- Require more robust data in order to provide an understanding of women’s needs and drive decision-making.
- Improve family visitation policies and opportunities to reunify families.
- Offer stronger re-entry services and enhance connections to community-based programming.
- Improve programming and treatment for substance use and mental illness during incarceration.

In early 2017, the Co-Chairs finalized drafting and jointly filed H.3586, *An Act relative to justice-involved women* to address these goals.

Also proposed in the bill was an oversight and policy review panel, to be jointly chaired by the Commissioners of MADOC, DCF and DMH. The panel would bring together corrections officials and individuals with expertise in trauma-informed approaches to review policies and data to identify and make recommendations for new ways to positively impact outcomes for women involved in the criminal justice system. **The panel was included in the Legislature’s sweeping criminal justice reform bill, S.2371**, acknowledging the Commonwealth’s need to consider gender-responsive policies.

Task Force Co-Chairs Barber and Khan testified at the public hearing before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. H.3586 was carried by S.2170, the Senate’s Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Bill which in turn became S.2371 and signed into law as Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018.

In 2016 Chair Khan encouraged the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Secretary (EOPSS) Daniel Bennett to adopt a program to run a summer camp for women at MCI-Framingham and their families. EOPSS and DOC agreed to run this program and have adopted the name “Mom and Me”. “Mom and Me” is now a day long summer-camp-style program held on the grounds of MCI-Framingham. The camp allows children of women incarcerated at MCI-Framingham to spend quality time together with their mothers. Mothers and grandmothers must qualify to be able to participate. The program was offered for the first time in July of 2016, four times in 2017 and was offered again four times in 2018.

Following the first “Mom and Me” camp in 2016 Chair Khan Rep. Ellen Story and Rep. Christine Barber organized a toy drive at the State House and collected hundreds of books and toys. These were given to children when they left MCI-Framingham and could fill the visiting room. Chair Khan, Rep. Christine Barber, and Rep. Mary Keefe made the delivery to Framingham in the fall of 2016 and they were able to have a discussion with women who attended the “Mom and Me” camp.

During the summer of 2018 Chair Khan and Rep. Christine Barber were asked by MCI-Framingham if they could organize a drive at the State House to collect items to give out to the children that attend each camp. The June toy drive had a summer fun theme and so frisbees and bubbles were collected. Over 10 different staff members, Representatives and Senators donated items for this drive. Enough items were collected so that the 33 children who attended the June camp each received a frisbee and a set of bubbles. For the August “Mom and Me” camp MCI-Framingham hoped to give each child a set of back to school supplies. Enough items were collected to give 34 children each a note book, folder, box of crayons, a ruler, erasers, a set of colored pencils, a glue stick, a highlighter, and writing pencils. Toys were also collected for children to play with at the camp. Over 15 different staff members, Representatives and Senators donated items for this drive.

Recently, the Task Force met to assess and identify new goals and priorities for the upcoming session, which will include filing new legislation, tracking implementation of key sections of the reform bill affecting women, making recommendations to improve re-entry services available to women, as well as, examining the practices of the several counties across the Commonwealth that house justice-involved women. The Co-Chairs welcome new members Representatives Keefe, Higgins, and Tyler.

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## **X. Sub-Committees established the Joint Committee**

During the 189<sup>th</sup> Session members of the Committee were very interested in the issues of child welfare and the population of young people that are dual- status with involvement in both DCF and DYS. Chair Khan and previous Senate Chair Flanagan agreed that the Committee should form sub-committees to take a deep dive into both issues. Chairs and members of the sub-committees were appointed. The sub-committee’s research and exploration occurred during the 189<sup>th</sup> Session and was completed in the 190<sup>th</sup> Session with final reports and legislative recommendations. The sections below highlight the work of the Child Welfare and Dual-Status Youth Sub-Committees.

### **a. Child Welfare – Rep. Farley-Bouvier and Rep. Vega**

#### ***Sub-Committee Members***

Co-Chairs: Representatives Tricia Farley-Bouvier and Aaron Vega

Members: Representatives Kimberly Ferguson, Sean Garballey, Michelle Dubois, Shaunna O’Connell, Daniel Cullinane and Senator Joan Lovely

#### ***Purpose***

Given the ongoing significant challenges facing DCF, it is important for members of the Legislature to have more in-depth knowledge on historical background, current challenges, policies and philosophy regarding child welfare in the Commonwealth. In this way, legislators can be better prepared to deal with any future crisis, and more importantly, take proactive steps in finding legislative, regulatory and budgetary solutions for the issues confronting the agency and the families they serve.

## ***Research***

The goal of the Sub-Committee was to develop legislative expertise on the current challenges facing DCF in order to more effectively advocate for proactive legislation, regulatory change and funding priorities. The Sub-Committee hosted meetings with stakeholders over a 6 month time span to gather information. Testimony was gathered from foster care parents, birth parents, case workers, advocates and alumni of the foster care system.

## ***Presentation and Final Report***

A presentation on findings and legislative recommendations was held on March 31, 2017. To access the complete list of recommendations, please see the Sub-Committee Report on Child Welfare found [in this link](#).

A summary of the legislative recommendation and outcomes is below.

## ***Legislative Recommendations***

### **i. H.1955, H.104, S.45 - Foster Parents' Bill of Rights**

H.104, *An Act Establishing a Foster Parents' Bill of Rights* sponsored by Representatives McKenna and DeCoste, H.1955, *An Act Relative to Foster Parent Rights* sponsored by Representatives Vega and Farley-Bouvier and S.45 *An Act strengthening protection of children in the Commonwealth*, filed by Senator Flanagan were filed for the 190th Session and were referred to the Committee in January of 2017. A public hearing was held for H.1955 and H.104 on June 27, 2017 and testimony was heard and received from many organizations and legislators in support. The Committee was told that DCF and Representative Farley-Bouvier were negotiating new language. The Committee took steps to file an extension on the two bills and it was approved. The new language was received, the two bills were combined and the bill was redrafted and released from the Committee favorably on May 14, 2018. H.4492, *An Act Foster Parents Bill of Rights*, was then sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means. S.45 was redrafted and included the redrafted language from H.4492.

On July 9, 2018 Chair Khan received a copy of a letter from the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) to the House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM). The letter identified four areas of concern in H.4492 in regard to protecting the rights of biological parents while at the same time ensuring the rights of foster parents. The Committee's response was to organize a meeting on Wednesday July 18, 2018 with DCF; CPCS; The Child Advocate, Maria Mossaides; and Representatives Khan, Vega, Farley-Bouvier, McKenna and Berthiaume. The content of the letter CPCS sent to HWM was discussed point by point. CPCS redrafted the bill and after some additional deliberation CPCS, DCF and the legislators agreed on language to amend H.4492. HWM received the language that Chair Khan, CPCS, DCF and the sponsors of bills H.104 and H.1955 agreed to on July 26, 2018.

## **ii. H.87, S.61- Foster Care Review Unit**

In the fall of 2016, an organization called Friends of Children met with the Committee and its members about the dire need for improvements to the FCRU. After much research on foster care review units around the country, Friends of Children recommended the FCRU in Massachusetts separate from DCF. This recommendation would structure the FCRU as an outside agency, similar to the OCA. They would have a separate office, a separate operating budget and appoint a Director by a Board. Once the recommendations were finalized, draft legislation was proposed and filed in the House by Representatives Farley-Bouvier and Vega (H.87) and by Chair Lovely in the Senate (S.61).

On June 27, 2017, H.87 and S.61 received a public hearing and many organizations testified in support of the legislation. The Committee staff and Chairs were briefed by the Child Advocate that they would work with DCF to reform the FCRUs procedures in order to resolve many of the problems that were identified. This way the changes and improvements could be monitored in order to inform a comprehensive decision about the effectiveness and placement of the FCRU. The Chairs of the Committee accepted the plan from the Child Advocate and decided H.87 & S.61 would be included in a study order. This occurred after an extension of the Joint Rule 10 deadline.

Please see page 31 for the subsection titled, *Foster Care Review Unit* for more information.

## **iii. H.783, S45 - Permanency and Placement Stability**

H.783, *An Act to improve permanency and placement stability*, filed by Representative Farley-Bouvier requires sibling bonds and preferences, as well as parents' suggestions be taken into consideration by DCF when searching for an out-of-home placement. In addition, a clinical review is required when a youth experiences more than two placements. The bill was heard by the Committee on December 5, 2017, reported favorably and sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

S.45, *An Act strengthening protection of children in the Commonwealth*, filed by Senator Flanagan is a DCF omnibus bill. It was heard by the Committee on June 27, 2017, redrafted and reported out favorably. It was renumbered as S.2520 and was referred to SWM.

The bill requires the Department to:

- Ensure that the placement of a child in foster care takes into account the school of origin, the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of each placement.
- Identify any minor siblings of a child in their care and to place siblings in the same home if it is in the best interests of the children.
- Develop an “electronic backpack” for each foster youth.
- Train foster parents regarding the prevention of child abuse including sexual exploitation.
- Provide training on caring for infants in foster care including substance-exposed infants and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

- Require foster parents and kinship care providers to participate in six hours of training annually.
- Offer specialized training on special needs children.
- Document the involvement of the parents, guardians and children age 7 or older in developing service plans.
- Report 51A reports that were unsubstantiated to a hiring authority as “no record.
- Establish pilot peer-mentoring programs for youth aging out of foster care.
- Revise regulations to provide 10 day notice of proceedings and hearings to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents or kin providing care.

S.45 also establishes a Commission to study and report on the development of a foster care review system independent of DCF, directs the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) to identify areas in which there is a need for increasing culturally competent services, creates a Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Review Panel to review the repeated entry of the same children into the DCF caseload, gives a child over the age of 7 who is not placed with their siblings the right to petition the court for a re-determination of its decision authorizing a separate placement, and addresses the rights of foster parents and kinship caretakers.

**b. Dual-Status Youth – Rep. Dykema**

***Sub-Committee Members***

Chair: Representative Carolyn C. Dykema

Members: Representatives Michelle Dubois, Kimberly Ferguson, Danielle Gregoire, Jonathan Hecht, and Senator John Keenan

***Purpose***

The Sub-Committee on dual-involved youth was tasked to address the root causes of the delinquent behaviors of said youths with special attention to childhood trauma. The Sub-Committee examined how child welfare services, schools, and the justice system hold youth accountable, while also providing the evidence-based, therapeutic supports that increase their likelihood of success as they mature into adults. Often, dual-status youth are involved with the state’s child welfare system from a very young age. Therefore, the Commonwealth has a duty and a unique opportunity to positively intervene at critical junctures in a meaningful way.

***Research***

The Sub-Committee held hearings with agency stakeholders, including DYS and DCF; convened meetings with court officials and advocates, including Citizens for Juvenile Justice and the Committee for Public Counsel Services; and conducted intensive academic and policy research in order to develop substantive policy and legislative recommendations.

***Presentation and Final Report***

A presentation of completed findings and legislative recommendations was held on

March 31, 2017. To access the complete list of recommendations, please see the Sub-Committee Report on Dual-Status Youth found [in this link](#).

A summary of the legislative recommendation and outcomes is below.

### ***Legislative Recommendations***

Representative Dykema filed H.3579, *An Act to Support Dual-Status Youth in the Commonwealth* in January 2017. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and it received a public hearing on June 19, 2017.

This bill:

- Directs DCF to conduct an assessment of Family Recourse Centers (FRCs) to see what services are used and what services should be expanded.
- Directs DCF to survey kinship caregivers to assess the need for additional supports.
- Directs all state agencies that work with justice-involved youth to collect and report relevant demographic and outcome data.\*
- Codifies existing juvenile court sentencing practices that prioritize least restrictive options and diversion where possible.
- Creates a framework for expungement of juvenile records for low-level crimes.\*
- Creates a pilot program within DYS to expand the Hampden County roundtable model for dual-status youth to other counties.
- Codifies standards and requirements for hiring and training of school resource officers.\* Updates antiquated statutes that required District Attorneys to keep lists of potential juvenile offenders in schools and replaces it with language to identification and support at-risk youth rather than criminalizing them.
- Requires youth identified by District Attorneys for Community-Based Justice (CBJ) programs to have their parents notified of their identification.
- Requires trauma screening to be conducted by District Attorneys before arraignment.

***\*Included in the Criminal Justice Reform Bill – S. 2371***

Sections of this bill were included in S.2170, *An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform*, which was the Senate's omnibus criminal justice bill. After the Senate debated this bill, it was redrafted as S.2200 and sent to the House of Representatives. Representative Dykema filed a number of amendments to the bill and ultimately three components of her bill, H.3579, were included in the final Criminal Justice Reform bill, S.2371, which was signed into law on April 13, 2018. Those three components included:

- Directing all state agencies that work with justice-involved youth to collect and report relevant demographic and outcome data in the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board made up of 21 members.
- Creating the Childhood Trauma Task Force which consists of the same membership.
- Codifying standards and requirements for hiring and training school resource officers and creating a framework for expungement of juvenile records for low-level crimes.



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## **XI. FY18 & FY19 Budgets**

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The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities actively engages with the annual state budget beginning in January from when the Governor files his budget, followed by the House and Senate budgets which are later revised, conferenced and then sent as one document to the Governor for review including amendments and vetoes, and then the Legislature's final response with veto overrides. The Committee tracks, reviews, proposes and supports line item appropriations and directive language for the administration, staff, services and programs provided by seven state human service agencies and commissions that it oversees as well as other line items that relate to the Committee's mandate. The Committee also reviews any related proposed changes to rules, regulations, policies and statutes in the budget. Chair Khan and Chair Lovely, on behalf of the Committee, proposed budget amendments to give voice to vulnerable individuals' needs and support and enhance the necessary services and programs provided by the agencies the Committee oversees.

For instance, the Committee has consistently advocated maintaining the agency reporting language in the budget for a number of line items (see below) which have been consistently deleted in the Governor's budgets. Reporting language permits the Legislature to perform its crucial oversight function and informs budget proposals. This included reporting language that: (1) gives advance notice to the Legislature before implementing eligibility or benefit restrictions, and, (2) requires the DCF to report on its services, workforce, safely keeping children in their homes, kinship family support, shelter services, 51A reports, timely and independent Fair Hearings, maximizing federal reimbursements and changes to its regulations and guidelines.

Moreover, an amendment was filed and adopted in the FY18 budget to prevent the Governor's proposal to count parents' Supplemental Security Income (SSI) when calculating their TAFDC benefits. The Governor's language would have resulted in approximately 4,400 families losing their TAFDC benefits as well as drastically cutting benefits for children in another 1,400 families. Many families would have lost 40% of their income and could have become homeless.

An amendment was accepted in the FY18 budget that extended the time allowed for the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force to complete its mandate which included assisting with the implementation of new child abuse prevention guidelines. Both Chair Lovely and Chair Khan serve on this Task Force.

An amendment was accepted in the FY18 budget that created the Task Force on Child Welfare Data Reporting. Please see page 36 for more details on the work of this Task Force.

Another amendment addressed the "SNAP Gap" by directing the Department of Transitional Assistance and MassHealth to study the feasibility of developing a common application for individuals that would allow individuals to elect SNAP benefits while applying for MassHealth. The SNAP Gap is the difference between the number of low-income Massachusetts residents receiving MassHealth who are likely SNAP eligible and the number of people actually receiving SNAP. In Massachusetts, the size of this gap is over 700,000 residents. For many years the state has administered these food and health programs separately. Closing the SNAP Gap would allow

low-income residents to qualify for federally funded SNAP benefits. Benefits to closing the SNAP Gap include more low-income students qualifying for free school meals, more SNAP dollars in the local economy as every \$1 yields a \$1.73 economic ripple, and a reduction in MassHealth administrative costs since MassHealth uses SNAP eligibility to renew eligibility for MassHealth.

#### **a. FY18 Budget Appropriation Highlights**

##### **Department of Children and Families**

The FY18 Budget appropriated **\$976.4M**, \$28.M more than in FY17, to support the child welfare system and protect children at risk of neglect or abuse. The Department works to strengthen vulnerable families and protect their children which sometimes require removing children from their homes. The increase in the DCF budget is due in large part to the cost of out-of-home placements for children.

- **Administration, Clinical and Support Services**, 4800-0015, \$98.4M, a \$2.8M increase over FY17.
- **Services for Children and Families, Foster Care and Adoption Services**, 4800-0038, \$289.6M, a \$5.6M increase over FY17.
- **Family Stabilization and Support Services**, 4800-0040, \$47.6M, a \$600K increase over FY17 to keep children safely in or return them safely to their homes. Approximately in 75% of all DCF neglect and abuse cases, children can remain safely at home with the appropriate services.
- **Family Support Services**, 4800-0040, was funded at \$47.6M, a \$600K increase over FY17 to provide services to help families stay together safely and prevent child neglect. The vast majority of children involved with DCF live with their families with these supports and services.
- **Group Residential Care Services**, 4800-0041, \$278.6M, a \$13.6M increase over FY17 funds a growing caseload. Although fewer children are placed in congregate care than in family foster care, congregate care is significantly more expensive and at times congregate care has been used due to the lack of a foster home placement. This line funds services for approximately 1,600 children and for short term placements such as the STARR Program (Stabilization, Assessment and Rapid Reintegration)
- **Foster Care Recruitment**, 4800-0058, level funded at \$250K to address the current shortage of foster homes.
- **Family Resource Centers**, 4800-0200, 4000-0051, \$9.7M and \$500K respectively, a \$300K decrease in funding over FY17 for state-wide centers that connect at-risk families to community and state services, and provide education programs, counseling, recreation activities and peer support. They provide a mechanism for the Juvenile Court to refer families to in order to fulfill the requirement of recent legislation replacing the CHINS program with a system of community-based services for families and children requiring assistance (CRA).
- **Child Welfare Training Institute**, 4800-0091, \$2.7M, a \$205K increase over FY17 to train newly hired social workers.
- **Social Workers**. 4800-1100, funded at \$236.8M, a \$13.3M increase over FY17 to increase staffing and lower caseloads in order to better monitor and serve families that present risk factors.

- **Task Force on Child Welfare Data Reporting**, Outside Section 128, was established to make recommendations to the Legislature about how to improve child welfare data reporting so that information would be available to both the public and Legislature including basic caseload data and child outcome data.

**Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

- **Grandparent Commission**, 0950-0030, \$112K, a \$12K increase over FY17 to focus on the concerns of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**, 4000-0007, received \$675K, a decrease of \$325K from FY17.
- **Common Application Language**, 4000-0300, requires EOHHS to report to the Legislature on the feasibility of creating a common application for MassHealth, SNAP, TAFDC and Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children.

**Department of Developmental Services**

The budget funded program and service for individuals with disabilities including job training, community-based supports and family supports at **\$1.95B**, a \$44.4M increase over FY17.

- **Community Residential Services**, 5920-2000 was funded at \$1.1B, a \$47.6M increase over FY17.
- **Turning 22**, 5920-2000 was funded at \$23.1M, a \$4.8M increase over FY17 to fund services for young adults during the portion of the year when they turn 22 years old and are transitioning from special education services to adult services.
- **Community Day and Work Programs**, 5920-2025, was funded at \$202M, a \$10.6M increase over FY17.
- **Respite Family Supports**, 5920-3000 was level funded at \$63.5M, a \$500K increase over FY17.

**Department of Early Education and Care**

Funded at **\$578M**.

- **Child Care Rate Increase**, 1599-6903, \$39.7M, a \$3.5M increase over FY17 was appropriated for rate increases for low-paid human services workers.
- **Center Child Care Rate Increase**, 3000-1042, \$15M was appropriated for salary increases and professional development for early education educators, a \$2.5M increase over FY17.
- **Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**, 3000-2000 was level funded at \$6.7M.
- **Supportive and TANF Child Care**, 3000-3060, was funded at \$223.2M for current and recent recipients of TAFDC and families involved with DCF, a small increase over FY17. Longstanding language providing that TAFDC recipients whose incomes are far below the poverty level will not be charged related fees and that families who were involved with DCF are eligible for child care under this line item for a year after the DCF case closes.
- **Income Eligible Child Care**, 3000-4060 was funded at \$255.4M, a \$2.9M increase over FY17 providing child care subsidies for low and moderate income families not eligible

for other child care assistance. The wait list as of May 2017 for these subsidies was 26,000 children.

- **Early Education and Care Workforce Statewide Study**, 3000-1020, was appropriated \$100K for a new study to make recommendations on improving professional development and higher education opportunities to enhance the quality of the early education and care workforce.

#### Department of Transitional Assistance

Transitional Assistance programs help low income individual and families meet their basic needs and improve their lives. They were funded at **\$625.8M**, a \$31.7M decrease over FY17 due to the assumption of a decrease in the caseload which was expected with an improving economy leading to more employment opportunities.

- **Administration**, 4400-1000, \$62.3M a \$400K increase over FY18.
- **SNAP Processing and Outreach**, 4400-1001, funded at \$4.4M, a \$1.4M increase over FY17 for programs to increase the participation of the individual eligible but not currently signed up. Part of this account pays for a grant to Project Bread.
- **Domestic Violence Workers**, 4400-1025, funded at \$1.6M, a \$200K increase over FY17.
- **Caseworkers**, 4400-1100, was funded at \$71.6M, level funded. This line funds new hires to process benefit cases in a timely manner.
- **Employment Services**, 4401-1000, received \$14.2M, a \$1.5M increase over FY17.
- **TAFDC, Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children**, 4403-2000, received \$163M, a \$28M decrease from FY17 due to an expected lower caseload. This line includes language barring counting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits in determining TAFDC eligibility as in FY17.
- **Back-To-School Clothing Allowance**, 4403-2000, provided a \$300 one-time payment in September for back-to-school clothing for children in need. This is a \$50 increase over FY17.
- **Teen Living Programs**, 4403-2119, received \$10M, level funded.
- **EAEDC, Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children**, 4408-1000 was funded at \$62.3M, a \$16.9M decrease from FY17.

#### Department of Youth Services

The Department Youth Services was funded at **\$178.7M** which is approximately level funding.

- **Residential Services for Detained Population**, 4200-0200, \$28.6M, a \$600K increase over FY17.
- **Residential Services for Committed Population**, 4200-0300, was funded at \$119M, a \$3M increase over FY17.

#### Department of Agriculture

- **Emergency Food Assistance**, 2511-0105, \$18M, a \$300K increase over FY17.

#### Department of Housing and Community Development

- **Emergency Assistance Family Shelters and Services**, 7004-0101, \$156M, a \$500K increase over FY17 to provide shelter to lower-income homeless families with children.

- **Shelters and Services for Homeless Individuals**, 7004-0102, \$46M, a \$500K increase over FY17.
- **Home and Healthy for Good**, \$2M, level funding, 7004-0104 that helps chronically homeless individuals remain housed.
- **HomeBASE**, 7004-0108, \$30.1M, a \$1.8 M decrease over FY17, provides housing assistance for one year to families who are qualified to stay in Emergency Assistance Shelters to avoid a shelter or to move from a shelter into housing.
- **Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP)**, 7004-3045, was level funded at \$500K. These funds help preserve tenancies of people with disabilities through the Housing Court preventing homelessness.
- **Alternative Housing Voucher Program**, 7004-9030, was funded at \$5.5M, a \$900K increase over FY17 for rental assistance programs for non-elderly disabled households.
- **RAFT**, 7004-9316, \$15M, a \$2M increase over FY17 to provide up to \$4K in assistance for one year to help prevent families from becoming homeless.

**Department of Mental Health**

- **Juvenile Court Clinics**, 5055-0000, \$9.2M with a \$3.5M earmark for Juvenile Court Clinics, a \$100K increase over FY17.

**Disabled Persons Protection Commission**

- **Administration**, 1107-2501, \$3.1M, a \$1.1M increase over FY18.

**Trial Court**

- **Juvenile Justice Pilot**, 0339-1005, \$250K, a \$50K increase over FY17 for a juvenile justice diversionary pilot project.
- **Housing Court Expansion**, 0036-0002, \$1M to fund the expansion to additional court houses.

**b. FY19 Budget Appropriation Highlights**

**Office of the Child Advocate**

- **Administration**, 0930-0100, **\$1.2M**, a \$400K increase over FY18 for the Office of the Child Advocate to fund its broadened responsibilities overseeing the Commonwealth's child protective services.
- **Mandates**, Two new mandates were added to the Child Advocates' responsibilities: (1) to review reports of child abuse, neglect and sexual abuse in Department of Children and Families' group homes in order to identify trends and ensure a quick response, and, (2) to review approximately 20,000 Foster Care Service Plans to ensure that the recommendations are implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate permanent placements for children who have been removed from their homes.

**Department of Children and Families**

**\$990.3M** was appropriated for DCF, a \$13.4M increase over FY18. This increase will primarily fund the cost of additional out-of-home care for children (9,598) following a series of tragedies in the past few years and the opioid crisis impact on families.

- **Reporting Requirements, 4800-0015.** The Legislature continues to require DCF to report on its services and workforce including safely keeping children in their homes, kinship family support, shelter services, 51A reports, Fair Hearings, maximizing federal reimbursements, and changes to its regulations and guidelines.
- **Administration, Clinical Support Services, 4800-0015,** \$102.4M, a \$4M increase over FY18 to hire needed new employees and lease new office space.
- **Local and Regional Mgt. of Services (Lead Agencies), 4800-0030,** \$6.7M, a \$1.3M increase over FY18 to coordinate central, regional and area office clinical support services.
- **Services for Children and Families, Family-Based Foster Care, 4800-0038,** \$298.8M, a \$8.8M increase over FY18 to fund the Foster Care Rate Increase, the clothing allowance, foster care rate increases and a projected increase in caseload.
- **Family Stabilization and Support Services, 4800-0040,** \$50.5M, a \$2.9M increase over FY18 for a provider preventive services rate increase. This service keeps children supported in their homes or reunifies them safely after they have been placed in foster care helping to avoid the trauma of family disruption when possible as well as the additional cost to the state of out-of-home placement.
- **Group Care (Congregate) Services, 4800-0041,** \$285.8M, a \$7.2M increase over FY18 allocation to fund congregate care including the annualization of Chapter 257 rate increases. Though fewer children are placed in congregate care than in family foster homes, congregate care is significantly more expensive. Every 10 children in congregate care costs over \$1M a year.
- **Foster Care Recruitment Campaign, 4800-0058,** \$750K, a \$500K increase over FY18 for an intensified campaign to find potential adoptive or foster parents.
- **Child Welfare Training Institute, 4800-0091,** \$2.7M, level funding for DCF's training budget for new DCF hires as well as for training all DCF employees on new regulations.
- **Family Resource Centers, 4800-0200,** \$15.1M, a \$5.4M increase over FY18 for all centers across the state serving at-risk youth and families and those suffering from natural disasters.

### EOHHS

- **Homeless Youth Shelter and Assistance, 4000-0007,** \$3.3M, a \$2.2M increase over FY18.
- **Family Resource Centers, 4000-0051,** \$500K, level funding.

### Department of Developmental Services

**\$1.9B** in total was appropriated, a \$49.6M increase over FY18.

- **Administration, 5911-1003,** \$69M, a \$1.2M increase over FY18 for the administration and operations.
- **Transportation Services, 5911-2000,** \$24.3M, a \$2.2M increase over FY18 to provide transportation for clients to community-based day and work programs.
- **Community Residential Supports, 5920-2000,** \$1.2B, level funding for community-based residential programs, including intensive individual supports for adults with developmental disabilities.

- **State-Operated Residential Supports, 5920-2010, \$211.6M, a \$3.5 increase over FY18** for state operated community-based residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities including community health services.
- **Community Day and Work Programs, 5920-2025, \$210.7M, an \$8.6M increase over FY18** to provide day and work programs to encourage the highest level of independence and to maximize community involvement and participation.
- **Respite Family Services, 5920-3000, \$65M, a \$1.5M increase over FY18** to provide needed respite for families and intensive family support.
- **Autism Waiver Division and Reporting, 5920-3010, \$7M, a \$500K increase over FY18.** The requirement to report to Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities on the number of contracted support services provided for families with autistic children under the Autism Waiver was included in the line item as in FY18.
- **Autism Omnibus Services, 5920-3020, \$18M, a \$4.7M increase over FY18** to provide autism services to families.
- **Turning 22, 5920-5000, \$25.2M, a \$2M increase over FY18** for services for emerging adults with disabilities during the transition year when they turn 22 including community-based residential services, employment services and family support.

**Department of Early Education and Care**

**\$620.7M** in total was appropriated for the Department, a \$43M increase over FY18. This funding will promote improvements in program quality for young children and families.

- **Center-Based Child Care Rate Increase, 3000-1042, \$20M, a \$5M increase over FY18** to support high-quality programs through a provider rate increase.
- **Child Care Resource and Referral Centers, 3000-2000, \$8.7M, a \$2M increase over FY18** for the regional administration and coordination of services provided by child care resource and referral agencies.
- **Children’s Trust Fund, 3000-2050, \$1.2M, a \$100K increase over FY18** to support at-risk parents of young children through intensive home visits.
- **Supportive and TANF Childcare, 3000-3060, \$235.8M, a \$13.7M increase over FY18** for Early Education and Care services for children with active DCF cases and for families currently involved with, or transitioning from, Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children.
- **Head Start, 3000-5000, \$9.6M, a \$200K increase over FY18** to fund Head Start Programs throughout the state.
- **Home Visiting, 3000-7000, \$14.7M, a \$500K increase over FY18** for home visiting programs that provide guidance on effective parenting, child development and connections to other services.
- **Family Support and Engagement, 3000-7050, \$13.7M, a \$200K increase over FY18** to establish a statewide network to provide school readiness and family support with community partnership councils, family networks, school districts, educational collaboratives and parent-child home programs.
- **EEC Provider Higher Education Opportunities, 3000-7066, \$10M, new funding** to establish a workforce development initiative to coordinate professional development and higher education opportunities in conjunction with community colleges.

### Department of Housing and Community Development

- **Emergency Assistance Family Shelter and Services**, 7004-0101, \$162.7M, a \$6.8M increase over FY18 to provide emergency shelters for families and maintaining language that requires advance notice to the Legislature before implementing any negative changes to the Emergency Assistance program.
- **Eligibility/Benefits Restriction Reporting**, 7004-0101, requires notice to the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities before imposing any new eligibility or benefits restrictions as in past years.
- **Tenancy Preservation Program**, 7004-3045, \$1.3M, a \$800K increase over FY18 to help preserve the tenancy of an individual with disabilities through the Housing Court.
- **Alternative Housing Voucher Program**, 7004-9030, \$6.2M, a \$1.2M increase over FY18 to provide rental assistance programs for individuals with disabilities who are not elderly.

### Department of Transitional Assistance

\$658.5M, in total was allocated to the Department which is a \$32.7M increase over FY18.

- **Administration**, 4400-1000, \$62.7M, a \$400K increase over FY18.
- **SNAP Participation Rate Program**, 4400-1001, \$7.3M, a \$2.9M increase over FY18 for outreach to communities including the Project Bread Hotline to increase participation in the federally funded SNAP program (formerly Food Stamps) to fight hunger.
- **Healthy Incentives Program**, 4400-1004, \$4M, a \$2.6M increase over FY18 including \$1.5M, new funding, to enable SNAP participants to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at Farmers Markets throughout the state. Senior citizens comprise 50% of program participants.
- **Caseworkers**, 4400-1100, \$72.8M, a \$2M increase over FY18 for additional staff to efficiently process cases. The DTA call line has a 20 minute average wait time and in January there was a backlog of 40,000 unprocessed documents causing nutrition benefits to be cut off or delayed.
- **TAFDC, Children's Clothing Allowance**, 4403-2000, \$201.6M, \$38.6M increase over FY18 to support a higher caseload than expected including families who escaped Hurricane Maria. It also includes a \$350 Clothing Allowance, \$50 more than in FY18, to help low-income families purchase back-to-school and winter clothes for their children. Some of this appropriation funds services for families who lose TAFDC eligibility because of increased earnings. These families are eligible for four months of transitional benefits after TAFDC ends, starting at \$280/month and reducing to \$70 in the fourth month.
- **Eligibility/Benefit Restriction Reporting**, 4403-2000, 4408-1000, maintains language to give advance notice to the Legislature before implementing eligibility or benefit restrictions and requires clients to be notified of their eligibility for child care benefits. This provides time for the Legislature to act to prevent or modify proposed cuts in benefits or eligibility rules.
- **SNAP Work Program Transportation**, 4403-2008, \$1.5M, new funding to provide transportation assistance for SNAP recipients to travel to their federally required work activity if they are able-bodied adults with dependents.
- **Asset Limit Raise**, Outside Section 53, raised the asset limit for families who receive assistance from \$2,500 to \$5,000.



- **The Cap on Kids (Family Cap)**, Outside Section 23A repealed the Cap on Kids which denied TAFDC benefits to 8,700 children conceived while their family was receiving assistance. This was vetoed by the Governor and not overridden.
- **EAEDC (Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children)**, 4408-1000, \$76.3M, slightly lower than the FY 18 appropriation due to a declining caseload.

**Department of Youth Services**

\$178.3M in total for the Department which is a \$400K decrease over FY18.

- **Administration**, 4200-0010, \$4.3M, a \$100K increase over FY18.
- **Residential Services for Detained Population**, 4200-0200, \$29.4M, a \$500K increase over FY18.
- **Enhanced Teacher Salaries**, 4200-0500, \$1.1M, level funding.

**MA Commission for the Blind**

\$22.9M in total for the Commission, a \$503K increase over FY18.

- **Community Services for the Blind**, 4110-1000, \$6.7M, a \$3.5M increase over FY18 appropriation to fund local programs, including news and information services for reading-impaired audiences.
- **Turning 22**, 4110-2000, \$13.7M, a \$139K increase over FY18 for individuals who are aging out of services for youth.

**MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

- **Administration**, 4125-0100, \$5.8M, a \$800M increase over FY18 for the Commission's operation and services.

**MA Rehabilitation Commission**

\$50M in total for the Commission, a \$600K increase over FY18.

- **Independent Living Centers**, 4120-0200, \$7.1M, a \$1.1M increase over FY18 for Independent Living Centers for persons with multiple disabilities.
- **Head Injury Treatment**, 4120-6000, \$16.4M, a \$400K increase over FY18 to provide services for individuals who have experienced serious head trauma.

**Department of Agriculture**

- **Emergency Food Assistance**, 2511-0105, \$18.4M, a \$700K increase over FY18.

**Department of Mental Health**

- **Juvenile Court Clinics**, 5055-0000, \$10.8M including a \$3.5M earmark for Juvenile Court Clinics. This is a \$1.6M increase over FY18 to expand the court clinics.

**Disabled Persons Protection Commission**

- **Administration**, 1107-2501, \$4.2M, a \$1.1M increase over FY18.

**Office of the Commissioner of Probation**

- **Community Based Residential Re-Entry Programs**, 0339-1011, \$5M, a new appropriation.

### **Trial Court**

- **Juvenile Justice Pilot**, 0339-1005, \$350K, a \$100K increase over FY18.

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## **XII. Projects of the Joint Committee**

As Chairs of the Joint Committee, Chair Khan and Chair Lovely have felt very strongly that not all of the Committee work has to be about legislation. Important improvements to the Commonwealth can be made through submitting comments to regulations, submitting recommendations for policy and even conversations with stakeholders. The sections below highlight some of the work done in the 190<sup>th</sup> Session.

### **a. Foster Care Review Unit**

As required by Chapter 197 of the Massachusetts General Laws and Federal mandates, DCF must conduct a review of each foster care case at least every six months. The Foster Care Review Unit is within DCF and conducts case reviews six months after a child enters foster care and every six months thereafter until the child is 22 years of age if the child is still in the Department's care.

In February/March of 2018, the Committee received regulation and policy changes that DCF had delayed promulgating in order for the Committee to review them. These regulation and policy changes were reviewed by the Committee and feedback was shared with DCF. The Chairs of the Committee and the DCF Commissioner met to discuss the comments and to discuss improvements in technology that were being developed to improve many of these concerns. Since March of 2018, FCRU improvements have been the first item discussed at the Quarterly Meetings between the Chairs of the Committee and the DCF Commissioner. Progress has been made.

### ***Status of Improvements:***

During FY17, the FCRU worked with the EOHHS/DCF Information Technology Department on the development of a FCRU module in i-FamilyNET. This module will allow for the tracking of member attendance, determinations and other key measures in order to strengthen the Foster Care Case Reviews.

DCF is also working to develop an automated scheduling system for case reviews. Once implemented, the system will send 30-day notices to all invitees, allowing for earlier notification. This workload reduction will permit FCRU managers to better support case workers, and provide timely review, approval, and release of reports to families and DCF social workers.

By early 2019, DCF is on track to achieve most goals and benchmarks set forth in their work plan for improvements. This includes new trainings, completing redrafting of FCRU policies, and ongoing recruitment efforts. New data collection and reporting mechanisms will be complete and able to be reviewed by FY21.

### ***Volunteer Foster Care Case Reviewer Recruitment:***

There are currently 14,000 Foster Care Reviews conducted yearly at DCF but there are not enough volunteer reviewers. The Foster Care Review Panel, that facilitates the reviews, consists of a Case Reviewer from the FCRU, an Administrative Staff person from DCF and a Volunteer Case Reviewer. During many of the discussions on the improvements to the FCRU it became clear that recruitment efforts needed to be ramped up in order to meet the need of the number of reviews being conducted.

During the summer of 2018, Chair Khan's office assisted DCF in their Volunteer Foster Care Case Reviewer recruitment. A list was developed of organizations to contact that might be interested in being Volunteer Care Reviewers, preparing material to use when talking with organizations and to follow-up with organizations to discuss this volunteer opportunity.

Social media models were prepared including tweets, Facebook posts, Instagram posts, newsletter notes, and press releases for Representatives to share with their constituents. The Committee asked if the Representatives would be willing to host recruitment events in their districts as well. Many Representatives shared the recruitment information on social media and in their newsletters during the summer months.

### **b. Mandated Reporters and PAWS**

The Chairs of the Committee convened a group to discuss the improvements to the mandated reporter statutes. The group discussed the complexities of the different options there are in relation to who should be considered a mandated reporter. It was decided by the group that a bill would need to be filed to mandate the OCA to convene a group to make recommendations to the legislature in order to update this statute. This legislation is described on page 16 of this report.

On July 31, 2018 the House and Senate voted to enact a conference committee report, *S.2646, An Act to protect animal welfare and safety in cities and towns*. The Governor signed it into law on August 8, 2018. This legislation (Chapter 219 of the Acts of 2018) included a Commission, Chaired by the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, to study and report on the feasibility and cost of mandating that employees and contractors of DCF, employees and contractors of the Department of Elder Affairs and investigators for DPPC report known or suspected animal cruelty, abuse and neglect, and of mandating that Animal Control Officers report known or suspected abuse of children and elderly and disabled persons. This Commission met through the end of 2018 and will continue to meet into the fall of 2019. A report will be written by November of 2019.

### **c. Cliff Effect**

On September 24-26, 2017, in Portland, Maine, Chair Khan and Senator Lewis attended, with nearly 100 other executive and legislative leaders, business, philanthropy, parents and community organizations, a conference to discuss the Cliff Effect. The Cliff Effect is,

*The benefit ‘cliff’ occurs when even a \$0.50 increase in hourly wages leads to the complete termination of a benefit, and a dramatic net loss of resources. The unintended consequence of this design either leads to a disincentive towards economic mobility, or leads to a situation in which the parent or guardian is working harder, but is financially worse off.<sup>1</sup>*

This was a starting point for collaboration and peer learning over the next two years to build a foundation to reduce family poverty.

In the past five years, there has been a significant shift in approaches to working with low-income parents to achieve economic stability. Increasingly, programs and policymakers focus on systems that work with the whole family, recognizing the effect of a parent’s education, economic stability and overall health on a child’s trajectory, and similarly the impact of children’s health and education on parent’s success. The initiative launched on September 2017 will continue through May 2019. NCSL has set up a partnership between all the New England states to collaborate and provide supports to the States, to identify goals and develop plans to support parents in achieving greater employment and economic stability as well as to share best practices. The project brings together public and private sector stakeholders in workforce development, human services, civil rights, health services and education to identify policy opportunities and challenges faced by states seeking to implement whole-family approaches to economic opportunity that benefit low-income parents.

Goals:

- To identify program and policy opportunities at the local, state and federal level that will improve employment equity and economic stability for low-income parents and that will move toward ending intergenerational poverty for families.
- To support state-driven policies and systems that improves access to and success in education, training and employment for parents.  
To develop a regional learning community focused on whole-family approaches to employment equity that is adaptable to other regions.

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### **XIII. Committee Chair Appointments to Task Forces, Work Groups, and Commissions**

#### **a. Legislative Task Force for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse**

In 2014, the Massachusetts Legislature authorized the creation of a task force on child sexual abuse prevention (SECTION 34. Chapter 431 of the acts of 2014) to be co-chaired by the state child advocate and the executive director of the Children’s Trust. The purpose of the task force is to develop guidelines and tools for the development of sexual abuse prevention and intervention plans by organizations serving children and youth. The Chairs of the Committee and their designees have participated in the Task Force since its creation.

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<sup>1</sup> Indiana Institute for Working Families. The Cliff Effect: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back – Policy Design as a Disincentive for Economic Mobility. October 2012.

The task force will recommend policies and procedures for implementation and oversight of the guidelines as well as strategies for incentivizing such organizations to develop and implement sexual abuse prevention and intervention plans. The task force will also develop a 5-year plan for using community education and other strategies to increase public awareness about child sexual abuse, including how to recognize signs, minimize risk and act on suspicions or disclosures of such abuse.

For Additional Information: [https://childrenstrustma.org/uploads/audio-files/SAP\\_task\\_Force\\_factsheet.pdf](https://childrenstrustma.org/uploads/audio-files/SAP_task_Force_factsheet.pdf) and <https://www.childrenstrustma.org/our-programs/preventing-child-sexual-abuse>

#### **b. DYS Safety Task Force**

In the fall of 2016, DYS, with the support of AFSCME Local 1358, established the DYS Safety Task Force. The Safety Task Force is charged with “making recommendations for reducing injury to youth in the care and custody of DYS and reducing injury to DYS staff sustained as a result of incidents involving youth on staff assaults and the need by staff to intervene during client on client assaults.” With representation from the Legislature, AFSCME, and child serving and oversight agencies including DYS, the Safety Task Force undertook a comprehensive review of relevant policies, practices, data, outcomes, and active plans within the agency. The Task Force concluded its work with the recommendations set forth in this report for improving safety in the DYS secure programs.

Over the course of twelve months, the Safety Task Force met nine times. Six of the sessions focused on DYS policies, procedures and practices to help the members gain a better understanding of DYS operations and to give them a context for evaluating their relevance and impact on safety in secure programs. The last three sessions were dedicated to discussion and deliberation on the findings and recommendations that the Safety Task Force would put forward to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The DYS Safety Task Force consisted of the following members:

- Gretchen Carleton, Assistant Director of Program Operations, DCF representing Commissioner Linda Spears
- Margaret Chow-Menzer, Deputy Commissioner, Administration and Finance, DYS
- James Durkin, Legislative Director, AFSCME Council 93
- Paul Faria, Staff Representative, AFSCME Council 93
- Senator Jennifer Flanagan, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and Shannon Moore, Legislative and Budget Director
- Peter J. Forbes, Commissioner, DYS, Chair
- Richard Harrigan, Steward, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1358
- Representative Kay Khan, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and Ernestina Mendes, Research Director
- Patricia Mackin, Undersecretary, EOHHS representing Secretary Mary Lou Sudders
- Dan Morse, President, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1358

- Maria Mossaides, Child Advocate, OCA
- Representative James O’Day and Cinda Danh, Legislative Aide
- Ruth Rovezzi, Deputy Commissioner, Operations, DYS
- Carmel Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner, Field Operations, EEC representing Commissioner Thomas L. Weber
- Senator Bruce Tarr and Harak Shah, Legislative Counsel

The Safety Task Force’s recommendations, as highlighted below, constitute actions that DYS can implement to enhance the efforts currently undertaken by the Department to increase safety. In developing the recommendations, the DYS Safety Task Force organized its findings and recommendations into three categories: (1) Staffing; (2) Expectations, Programming and Consistent Messaging; and, (3) Incident Responses and Outcomes.

A link to the DYS Safety Task Force Report [can be found here](#).

**c. Task Force on Child Welfare Data Reporting**

For many years Chair Khan hosted discussions with DCF, the OCA and Mass Law Reform on the need to amend the General Laws to reflect the reports DCF could produce for the legislature that were the most useful for decision-making purposes. A review process began which led to, in 2017, Mass Law Reform drafting a budget amendment for the creation of a task force to examine this issue in greater detail. Chair Khan filed the amendment and it was included in the House Budget. Senator Flanagan, the former Senate Chair of the Committee, filed a similar amendment to the Senate budget which was adopted, conferenced and became Outside Section 128 of the FY18 Budget. This language created the Task Force on Child Welfare Data Reporting. Both Committee Chairs are actively represented on the Task Force.

The main objectives of the Task Force are below.

*“The task force shall develop basic data measures, progress measures and key outcome measures to inform the legislature and the public about the status and demographics of the caseload of the department of children and families, the department’s progress in achieving child welfare goals, including safety, permanency and well-being, the status of proceedings in the juvenile court department that involve children in the department’s caseload and the status of children who are or have been involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.”<sup>2</sup>*

The Task Force on Child Welfare Data consists of the following members:

- Executive Branch Agencies: Executive Office of Health and Human Services, DCF, and the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)
- Legislative Branch: Senate and House Committees on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
- Judicial Branch: Committee for Public Council Services

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<sup>2</sup> Section 128 of the FY18 Budget

- Advocacy Entities: Children’s League of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Child Welfare Experts: Kennedy School Professor and Purchase of Service providers.

The Juvenile Court determined that although it would not be appropriate for them to participate in all of the meetings, they would nonetheless review and comment on the drafts when requested.

The Task Force on Child Welfare Data began meeting before the FY18 Budget language was finalized. The first meeting was convened on September 26, 2017 and was Co-Chaired by the DCF Commissioner and the Child Advocate. From there the Task Force met monthly discussing goals and scope of work, existing federal reporting data and how to use that data in reporting, outcome measures for children involved in Massachusetts cases, as well as creating a new quarterly report which are now being published on the [DCF website](#).

Additionally, the Task Force has drafted a new DCF annual report that will include data over a specified time, benchmark data, data that indicates how Massachusetts is doing compared to federal standards and analysis as to why data over time has changed. This new annual report will be produced for the first time to display the FY18 data by early 2019.

Subgroups were formed and the Committee staff participated in discussions about the current statutory language and budget language that mandates reports from DCF. This group prepared language that will eliminate reports that the Task Force deems are not needed, defines appropriate reporting timelines, as well as new language for the new reporting mechanisms. Looking ahead the Task Force will be working to include said language in the FY20 budget through discussions with House and Senate Ways and Means as well as filing budget amendments.

Please see the Interim Report by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force in Appendix B.

**d. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission**

The Massachusetts Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY) was established through Outside Section 208 of the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget, signed into law on July 8, 2012. The UHY Commission was then reconstituted through Chapter 450 of the Acts of 2014. The purpose of the Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth is to study and make recommendations regarding services for unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts, to ultimately provide comprehensive and effective responses to the unique needs of this population. The Chairs of the Committee and their designees have participated in the Commission since its creation.

For Additional Information: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/ma-unaccompanied-homeless-youth-commission>

**e. PAWS**

Please see Section XII, Subsection b, page 32.

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## **XIV. Appendix**

### **a. Agencies and Commissions Overseen by the Joint Committee**

#### ***i. Department of Children and Families***

DCF works in partnership with families and communities to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. In most cases, DCF is able to provide supports and services to keep children safe with parents or family members. When necessary, DCF provides foster care or finds new permanent families for children through kinship, guardianship or adoption.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-children-families>

Phone Number: (617) 748-2000

Email: [DCFCommissioner@state.ma.us](mailto:DCFCommissioner@state.ma.us)

Ombudsman's Office

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/more-about-the-office-of-the-ombudsman>

Phone Number: (617) 748-2444

Email: [DCFombudsman@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:DCFombudsman@MassMail.State.MA.US)

#### ***ii. Departments of Developmental Services***

DDS creates, in partnership with others, innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to, their communities as valued members.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-developmental-services>

Phone Number: (617) 727-5608

Ombudsman's Office

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/news/dds-ombudsman>

Phone Number: (617) 624-7526

#### ***iii. Departments of Transitional Assistance***

DTA assists and empowers low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long term economic self-sufficiency. DTA serves one in eight residents of the Commonwealth with direct economic assistance (cash benefits) and food assistance (SNAP benefits), as well as workforce training opportunities.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-transitional-assistance>

Phone Number: (877) 382-2363

Ombudsman's Office

Phone Number: (617) 348-5354



***iv. Departments of Youth Services***

As the Juvenile Justice agency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, DYS promotes positive change in the youth in our care and custody.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-youth-services>

Phone Number: (617) 727-7575

***v. Massachusetts Commission for the Blind***

MCB provides the highest quality rehabilitation and social services to Massachusetts residents who are blind, leading to their independence and full community participation.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind>

Phone Number: (617) 727-5550

Email: [MCBInfo@state.ma.us](mailto:MCBInfo@state.ma.us)

***vi. Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

MCDHH provides accessible communication, education, and advocacy to consumers and private and public entities so that programs, services, and opportunities throughout Massachusetts are fully accessible to persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>

Phone Number: (617) 740-1600

TTY (617) 740-1700

***vii. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission***

MRC helps individuals with disabilities to live and work independently. MRC is responsible for Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Living and eligibility determination for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal benefits programs.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-rehabilitation-commission>

Phone Number: (617) 204-3600

Email: [MRC.generalinformation@Massmail.State.MA.US](mailto:MRC.generalinformation@Massmail.State.MA.US)

Ombudsman's Office

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mrc-ombudsman>

Phone Number: (617) 204-3600

**b. Bills Reported Out of the Joint Committee**

Docket / Bill No.	Document Title	Sponsor	Recommendation	190th Session
H40	An Act relative to financial literacy	Office of the State Treasurer	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H75	An Act relative to familial dysautonomia	Ashe, Brian M. (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Finance then House Ways and Means
H76	An Act to authorize the town of Foxborough to establish additional mandated reporters in the town of Foxborough for the purposes of the protection and care of children	Barrows, F. Jay (HOU)	Favorable	House Steering, Policy and Scheduling, then Read second and ordered to a third reading
H77	An Act to authorize the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to establish additional mandated reporters for the purpose of the protection and care of children	Barrows, F. Jay (HOU)	Accompanied by H4491	Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then House Ways and Means. House Ways and Means added amendment substituting it for H4852. Went to House Steering then House Ways and Means, amendment passed, referred to Senate Ways and Means.
H78	An Act relative to the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Boldyga, Nicholas A. (HOU)	Study	
H79	An Act relative to the well-being of public assistance recipients	Boldyga, Nicholas A. (HOU)	Study	
H80	An Act to establish a registry of caretakers found to have substantiated abuse against persons with intellectual disability or developmental disability	Campbell, Linda (HOU)	Accompanied by H4026	House Ways and Means
H81	An Act providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children	Cassidy, Gerard (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Finance, then H4528, then House Rules, then H1188, then House Ways and Means
H82	An Act to provide an income tax exemption for families caring for their elderly relatives at home	Chan, Tackey (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means
H83	An Act relative to family day care disclosures	Cronin, Claire (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H84	An Act to further provide a rental arrearage program	Decker, Marjorie (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means

H85	An Act relative to the well-being and care of a child	Decker, Marjorie (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H86	An Act relative to health disparities council	Dwyer, James J. (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, then H4528, then House Rules, then H1188, Then House Ways and Means
H87	An Act establishing the Massachusetts foster care review office	Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (HOU)	Study	
H88	An Act to provide a pilot program for low interest loans to families with a child suffering from a terminal illness	Frost, Paul K. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H89	An Act relative to special education funding	Galvin, William C. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H90	An Act relative to establishing paternity	Garry, Colleen M. (HOU)	Study	
H91	An Act relative to programs to promote self-sufficiency and decrease dependence on government provided assistance	González, Carlos (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means
H92	An Act to establish an office of youth development	González, Carlos (HOU)	Accompanied by H122	Health Care Financing, then Study
H93	An Act regarding the use of aversive therapy	Gregoire, Danielle (HOU)	Study	
H94	An Act requiring the Department of Transitional Assistance to track and report on the use of emergency shelter services by families	Gregoire, Danielle (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means
H95	An Act ensuring the appropriate and timely payment and residential service placement for children deemed to be a safety risk	Howitt, Steven S. (HOU)	Study	
H96	An Act relative to the tuition of children in department of housing and community development family shelters	Kafka, Louis L. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H97	An Act relative to education or training activities for purposes of meeting the Department of Transitional Assistance work requirement	Kafka, Louis L. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means

H98	An Act relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities	Khan, Kay (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, then House Ways and Means
H99	An Act providing standards for in-home parent coaching	Kulik, Stephen (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means
H100	An Act creating a means for tracking the unmet need of individuals with developmental disabilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Lewis, Jack (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H101	An Act improving public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs	Livingstone, Jay D. (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, then S612 then Senate Ways and Mean
H102	An Act relative to proof of residency	Lombardo, Marc T. (HOU)	Study	
H103	An Act relative to the utilization of the systematic alien verification for entitlements program by the Commonwealth	Lombardo, Marc T. (HOU)	Study	
H104	An Act establishing a foster parents' bill of rights	McKenna, Joseph D. (HOU)	Accompanied by H. 4492	Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then House Rules, then then House Ways and Means
H105	An Act relative to strengthening public assistance programs	O'Connell, Shaunna L. (HOU)	Study	
H106	An Act relative to the out-of-state use of cash assistance	O'Connell, Shaunna L. (HOU)	Study	
H107	An Act relative to establishing a commission on child welfare and safety	O'Connell, Shaunna L. (HOU)	Study	
H108	An Act relative to lawful permanent resident status	O'Connell, Shaunna L. (HOU)	Study	
H109	An Act providing for enhanced protection of children and investigation of abuse and neglect allegations	Poirier, Elizabeth A. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H110	An Act relative to ensuring the safety of residents of facilities under the authority of the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services	Poirier, Elizabeth A. (HOU)	Study	

H111	An Act relative to the licensure and regulation of au pair and nanny agencies by the Department of Early Education and Care	Poirier, Elizabeth A. (HOU)	Study	
H112	An Act affirming inclusion of people with disabilities on commissions of the Commonwealth	Provost, Denise (HOU)	Favorable	Rules of the two branches, Recommend not to pass, rules suspended, second read, House Rules, House Ways and Means
H113	An Act affirming inclusion of individuals with disabilities within civil rights protections and nondiscrimination provisions in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Provost, Denise (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H114	An Act to prevent homelessness among recipients of transitional assistance	Provost, Denise (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H115	An Act to end child homelessness	Provost, Denise (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H116	An Act relative to a loan repayment program for human service workers	Roy, Jeffrey (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H117	An Act relative to the payment of funeral expenses for poor and indigent persons	Scibak, John W. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H118	An Act providing for a study by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services relative to nonprofit group homes	Stanley, Thomas M. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H119	Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls	Tyler, Chynah (HOU)	Favorable	Rules of two branches, House Rules, House Ways and Means
H120	An Act establishing a permanent commission on the social status of Black men and boys	Tyler, Chynah (HOU)	Favorable, Accompanied by H2797	Rules of the two branches, House Rules, House Ways and Means
H121	An Act preventing funds deposited in children's savings accounts from counting against cash assistance benefits	Tyler, Chynah (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means

H122	An Act to establish an office of youth development	Williams, Bud (HOU)	Favorable with Changes (Accompanied by H92)	Health Care Financing Study
H783	An Act to improve permanency and placement stability	Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H1190	An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors	Khan, Kay (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, H4014, House Ways and Means, H4664, House Steering, Policy, and Scheduling, second read, H4014 rejected, new draft H4664, third read, passed in House, Senate Rules, Second read, S2641 Third Reading, amended to S2647, Referred to committee on Bills in Third Reading
H1952	An Act to bring child support home	Barber, Christine P. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H1953	An Act to support the transition to adult services for persons with disabilities	Cusack, Mark J. (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	Health Care Financing, Discharged to House Ways and Means
H1954	An Act supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities	Dykema, Carolyn C. (HOU)	Discharge to Another Committee	Public Health, Health Care Financing, accompanied by S1222, House Ways and Means
H1955	An Act relative to foster parent rights	Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (HOU)	Accompanied by H4492	Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, House Rules, then House Ways and Means
H1956	Resolve to re-establish the Brain Injury Commission	Ferguson, Kimberly N. (HOU)	Discharge to Another Committee	
H1957	An Act improving outcomes for transition age youth	Garballey, Sean (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H1958	An Act updating the terminology and investigative practices related to the protection of persons with disabilities	Garballey, Sean (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means
H1959	An Act for the continuous skilled care of fragile children in the Commonwealth	Garlick, Denise C. (HOU)	Discharge to Another Committee	
H1960	An Act providing for a study by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services relative to nonprofit group homes	Garry, Colleen M. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means

H1961	An Act relative to the loss of state benefits	Golden, Thomas A. (HOU)	Study	
H1962	An Act relative to foster care recruitment	Jones, Bradley H. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H1963	An Act relative to the protection of children	Jones, Bradley H. (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied study Order for H4528
H1964	An Act establishing a commission to study medical abuse claims	Lyons, James J. (HOU)	Study	
H1965	An Act relative to proof of residency	Lyons, James J. (HOU)	Study	
H1966	An Act relative to public benefit requirements	Lyons, James J. (HOU)	Study	
H1967	An Act relative to cueing and supervision in the PCA program	O'Day, James J. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H1968	An Act establishing a commission on the status of children and youth	Tucker, Paul (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	Rules of two branches, House Rules
H1969	An Act establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education	Ultrino, Steven (HOU)	Favorable	Rules of two branches, House Rules
H2796	An Act Providing immediate childcare assistance to homeless families	Decker, Marjorie (HOU)	Accompanied by H4293	House Ways and Means
H2797	An Act establishing a permanent commission on the social status of men and boys of color	Holmes, Russell E. (HOU)	Favorable (Accompanied H120)	Rules of two branches, House Rules, House Ways and Means
H2798	An Act relative to the re-homing of children	Lawn, John J. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H2799	An Act relative to youth emancipation alternatives	Lewis, Jack (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H2800	An Act to provide notice to counsel of changes in a child's or a young adult's placement and other events	Meschino, Joan (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H2801	An Act to provide for the alternative method of examining competency	O'Day, James J. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H2802	An Act regarding background checks on foster parents	O'Day, James J. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H2803	An Act to ensure the protection of DCF social workers	O'Day, James J. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H2804	An Act ensuring equal access to services for all residents of the Commonwealth	Rushing, Byron (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, House Ways and Means

H2805	An Act establishing an independent office of quality assurance for developmentally disabled persons	Scaccia, Angelo M. (HOU)	Favorable with Changes	House Ways and Means
H2807	An Act relative to public assistance for working families and the creation of a pilot program to address the impacts of the cliff effect	Tosado, José F. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H3042	An Act relating to online mandated reporter training and neglect panel	Collins, Nick (HOU)	Accompanied by H4491	new draft f H77 and H3042, Health Care Financing, H4494, Rules of the two branches, House Ways and Means, amendment substituted to H4582, House Steering, Second and Third read, Amendment adopted
H3150	An Act relative to fair pay for comparable work	Khan, Kay (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H3463	An Act relative to the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative	Vega, Aaron (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing. Accompanied study order H4528, House Rules
H3517	An Act providing diaper benefits for certain parents	Pignatelli, Smitty (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H3657	An Act to improve child safety	Whelan, Timothy R. (HOU)	Favorable	House Steering, Policy and Scheduling, second reading
H3681	An Act establishing a low vision registry	Whelan, Timothy R. (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H3801	An Act relative to enhancing public transparency to support quality care outcomes in all child serving organizations	Garry, Colleen M. (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, study order with H4528
H3802	An Act relative to disability awareness training	Moran, Michael J. (HOU)	Study	
H3847	An Act relative to early intervention services for children with prenatal exposure to opioids	Haddad, Patricia A. (HOU)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied study order for H4528
H4026	An Act to establish a registry of caretakers found to have substantiated abuse against persons with intellectual disability or developmental disability	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	House Ways and Means
H4074	establishing a program to promote infant sleep safety	DiZoglio, Diana (HOU)	Favorable (accompanied S2239)	Health Care Financing, accompanied study order S2535



H4104	An Act relative to background checks by the Department of Youth Services	Khan, Kay (HOU)	Favorable	House Ways and Means
H4293	An Act providing immediate child care assistance to homeless families	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	H2796, House Ways and Means
H4467	relative to newborn infant products	DiZoglio, Diana (HOU)	Study	
H4491	An Act relative to mandated reporter reform	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	New Draft of H77 reported favorable	new draft of H77 and H3042, Health Care Financing, H4494, Rules of the two branches, House Ways and Means, amended to H4852, House Steering, Placed on Orders of the Day, Rules Suspended
H4492	An Act Foster Parents Bill of Rights	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	new draft of H104 and H1955, Rules of the two branches, House Rules, House Ways and Means
H4541	An Act relative to community based day support services	Ashe, Brian M. (HOU)	Study	
S25	An Act improving outcomes for transition age youth	Barrett, Michael J. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S26	An Act to promote choice for people with cognitive disabilities and their families	Barrett, Michael J. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, Senate Ways and Means
S27	An Act relative to juvenile justice data	Boncore, Joseph A. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S28	An Act preventing funds deposited in children's savings accounts from counting against cash assistance benefits	Chang-Diaz, Sonia (SEN)	Favorable with Changes	Senate Ways and Means
S29	An Act to promote child well-being, community supervision and efficient use of state resources	Creem, Cynthia Stone (SEN)	Discharge to Another Committee	
S30	An Act to bring child support home	Creem, Cynthia Stone (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S31	An Act establishing a low vision registry	Cyr, Julian (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied study order for S2535

S32	An Act improving the children's medical security program and simplifying the administration process	DiDomenico, Sal N. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Study
S33	An Act ensuring continuous healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the Department of Children and Families	DiDomenico, Sal N. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied H607, House Ways and Means
S34	An Act to lift the cap on kids	DiDomenico, Sal N. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S35	An Act to promote employment	Donnelly, Kenneth J. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S36	An Act establishing the healthy incentives program	Donoghue, Eileen M. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S37	An Act promoting financial stability and asset development	Eldridge, James B. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S38	An Act establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education	Eldridge, James B. (SEN)	Favorable	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S39	An Act to SAVE Massachusetts tax dollars	Fattman, Ryan C. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate rules
S40	An Act creating an electronic backpack for foster children	Fattman, Ryan C. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S41	An Act relative to the re-homing of children	Flanagan, Jennifer L. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S42	An Act relative to creating a loan repayment program for human service workers	Flanagan, Jennifer L. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S43	An Act to assist families caring for elders	Flanagan, Jennifer L. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, Senate Ways and Means
S44	An Act to protect children's mental health services	Flanagan, Jennifer L. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing. Accompanied study order S2535, Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S45	An Act strengthening protection of children in the Commonwealth	Flanagan, Jennifer L. (SEN)	Accompanied by 2520	Senate Ways and Means
S46	An Act creating a Bill of Rights for people experiencing homelessness	Forry, Linda Dorcena (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S47	An Act relative to fair pay for comparable work	Forry, Linda Dorcena (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S48	An Act to promote the appropriate treatment of young children	Forry, Linda Dorcena (SEN)	Favorable with Changes	Senate Ways and Means

S49	An Act providing for an investigation and study by a special interagency task force relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system-involved girls	Forry, Linda Dorcena (SEN)	Favorable	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S50	An Act eliminating archaic language pertaining to individuals with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Jehlen, Patricia D. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Rules, Read second, New draft S2594
S51	An Act relative to eligibility for disability services	Keenan, John F. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S52	An Act updating terminology and investigative practices related to the protection of persons with disabilities	Keenan, John F. (SEN)	Favorable with Changes	Senate Ways and Means
S53	An Act relative to familial dysautonomia	Lesser, Eric P. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied H75, House Ways and Means
S54	An Act creating a means for tracking the unmet need of individuals with developmental disabilities in the Commonwealth	L'Italien, Barbara A. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S55	An Act relative to spouses as caregivers	L'Italien, Barbara A. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, Senate Ways and Means
S56	An Act relative to passage to independence	L'Italien, Barbara A. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S57	An Act to provide financial assistance for funeral and burial expenses of the deceased to those in need	L'Italien, Barbara A. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S58	An Act providing equal access to evaluations for children with disabilities	L'Italien, Barbara A. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, Study
S59	An Act establishing a commission on the status of children and youth	Lovely, Joan B. (SEN)	Favorable with Changes	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S60	An Act relative to cueing and supervision in the PCA program	Lovely, Joan B. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, Senate Ways and Means
S61	An Act establishing the Massachusetts foster care review office	Lovely, Joan B. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2521	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S62	An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors	Montigny, Mark C. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, Senate Rules

S63	An Act increasing the personal care allowance for long term care residents	Montigny, Mark C. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied study order S2535
S64	An Act to establish a registry of caretakers found to have substantiated abuse against persons with intellectual disability or developmental disability	Moore, Michael O. (SEN)	Accompanied by new draft S2213	Senate Ways and Means, Read Second, New draft S2606, Amendments adopted, Third reading, passed to be engrossed, House Ways and Means
S65	An Act relative to foster kids	O'Connor Ives, Kathleen (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S66	An Act relative to the well being of children	O'Connor Ives, Kathleen (SEN)	Favorable with Changes	Health Care Financing, accompanied study order S2535
S67	An Act providing guidelines for home visiting programs	O'Connor Ives, Kathleen (SEN)	Accompanied by H99	House Ways and Means
S68	An Act relative to SNAP nutritional reform	O'Connor, Patrick M. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S69	An Act to increase the safety of disabled individuals living in group homes	O'Connor, Patrick M. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2411	Senate Ways and Means
S70	An Act to ensure accountability in the Department of Transitional Assistance	Pacheco, Marc R. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S71	An Act relative to prevention of EBT fraud	Ross, Richard J. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S72	An Act to further reduce EBT fraud	Ross, Richard J. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S73	An Act relative to work requirements	Ross, Richard J. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S74	An Act relative to the counting of certain residences as affordable housing	Ross, Richard J. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2345	Rules of the two branches, Senate Rules
S75	An Act to keep siblings together	Spilka, Karen E. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S76	An Act protecting disabled persons from financial exploitation	Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Rules
S77	An Act relative to expungement from central registry	Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)	Accompanied by S2412	Senate Ways and Means
S78	An Act establishing the miracle league of Massachusetts	Welch, James T. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means

S79	An Act relative to public assistance for working families and the creation of a pilot program to address the impacts of the cliff effect	Welch, James T. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S2075	An Act providing diaper benefits for certain parents	Lovely, Joan B. (SEN)	Favorable	Senate Ways and Means
S2213	An Act to establish a registry of caretakers found to have substantiated abuse against persons with intellectual disability or developmental disability	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	S64, Senate Ways and Means
S2239	An Act establishing a newborn health and safe sleep pilot program	O'Connor, Patrick M. (SEN)	Favorable	Health Care Financing, accompanied study order S2535
S2345	Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to matters before the committee	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Study	
S2411	An Act to increase the safety of disabled individuals living in group homes	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	Senate Ways and Means
S2412	An Act relative to expungement from central registry	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	Senate Ways and Means
S2520	An Act strengthening protection of children in the Commonwealth	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Redraft	Senate Ways and Means
S2521	Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to foster care	Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (J)	Study	

**c. Reports of Interest to the Committee to the Joint Committee**

***i. Departments of Children and Families***

Legislative Report

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/dcf-commonly-requested-documents>

DCF Data Task Force - Interim Report

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UNzL7NBzU0E7hCMaKQmAht1ItSoGsTZO/view?usp=sharing>

***ii. Departments of Developmental Services***

Legislative Reports

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-legislative-reports>

***iii. Departments of Transitional Assistance***

Legislative Reports

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/department-of-transitional-assistance-legislative-reports>

***iv. Departments of Youth Services***

Reports

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dys-reports-and-resources>

Safety Task Force Report

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IHMYAqTS-ko0W390-ULLL44HQpdXE4-M/view?usp=sharing>

***v. Massachusetts Commissions for the Blind***

2017 Annual Report

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/12/MCB%202017%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

***vi. Massachusetts Commissions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

FY17 Chapter 171 Report and Annual Family Support Plan

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=8&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjb3-T9oofgAhVSxVkJHVn2CMQQFjAHegQIARAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmfofc.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FMass-Comm-for-the-Deaf-and-Hard-of-Hearing.pdf&usq=AOvVaw342ByVuciyG8DEMT7ASL5R>

***vii. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission***

Annual Report

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/mrc-annual-reports>

***viii. Commission on LGBTQ Youth***

Annual Recommendations for FY18 and FY19

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/annual-recommendations-commission-on-lgbtq-youth>

***ix. Office of the State Auditor***

MRC

<https://www.mass.gov/audit/audit-of-the-massachusetts-rehabilitation-commission>

DCF

<https://www.mass.gov/audit/audit-of-the-department-of-children-and-families>

***x. Office of the Child Advocate***

FY17 Annual Report

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/02/06/OCA%20FY17%20Annual%20Report%20.pdf>

FY16 Annual Report

[https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/11/07/Office%20of%20the%20Child%20Advocate%20Annual%20Report%20FY16\\_0.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/11/07/Office%20of%20the%20Child%20Advocate%20Annual%20Report%20FY16_0.pdf)

Interagency Working Group on Residential Schools

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/11/07/residential-schools-report-april-2017.pdf>

Child Fatality Review Needs Assessment

[Child Fatality Review Needs Assessment: Findings from the Local Teams](#)

[Child Fatality Review Needs Assessment: Findings from the State Team](#)

***xi. Legislative Task Force for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse***

Guidelines and Tools for the Development of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Plans by Youth-Serving Organizations in Massachusetts

<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/734799/ocn994222693.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

***xii. Kids Count***

The Annie E. Casey Foundation – Kids Count Data Center

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MA/2/0/char/0>

***xiii Disabled Persons Protection Commission***

Quarterly Report January-February-March 2018

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/06/15/dppc-quarterly-report-2018-q1.pdf>

Quarterly Report October-November-December 2017

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/06/15/dppc-quarterly-report-2017-q4.pdf>

DPPC Quarterly Report, July - August - September 2017

<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/784087/ocn892973172-2017-Q3.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

DPPC Quarterly Report, April - May - June 2017

<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/784086/ocn892973172-2017-Q2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

DPPC Quarterly Report, January - February - March 2017

<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/784085/ocn892973172-2017-Q1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

DPPC Annual Report FY17

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/06/15/dppc-annual-report-fy2017.pdf>

DPPC FY18 Report on Financial Abuse

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1T1\\_wTTeLkcOW4t3nhR7V0v-RT6q19TxO](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1T1_wTTeLkcOW4t3nhR7V0v-RT6q19TxO)

***xiv. Sub-Committees of the Joint Committee***

Dual-Status Youth

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1izdMohX1cfPVGNFvsRFbRay8fdRFTfxI/view?usp=sharing>

Child Welfare

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wGqHYnSpgh7IwqbYg6WVO05u63MXE29Z/view?usp=sharing>

***xv. PAWS***

Animal Cruelty and Protection Task Force – Findings and Recommendations July 2016

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/SD2649>