



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 159

LCO No. 1538



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN
COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (4) of subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

4 (4) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for
5 the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not
6 reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has been
7 legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of
8 such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual
9 shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth
10 has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth
11 in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical education and
12 career school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until
13 such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until
14 another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may

15 place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable
16 foster home or in the home of a fictive kin caregiver, relative caregiver,
17 or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any
18 accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without
19 the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except
20 for good cause and unless the parents or guardian of such child are
21 notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be
22 heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the
23 commissioner. When placing such child or youth, the commissioner
24 shall provide written notification of the placement, including the name,
25 address and other relevant contact information relating to the
26 placement, to any attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent
27 the child or youth pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
28 commissioner shall provide written notification to such attorney or
29 guardian ad litem of any change in placement of such child or youth,
30 including a hospitalization or respite placement, and if the child or
31 youth absconds from care. The commissioner shall provide such written
32 notification not later than ten business days prior to the date of change
33 of placement in a nonemergency situation, or not later than two business
34 days following the date of a change of placement in an emergency
35 situation. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall [, if] (A)
36 give priority to a placement in the home of such child or youth's
37 grandparent or grandparents, provided such child or youth's
38 grandparent or grandparents agree to such placement and such home
39 conforms to the standards of the commissioner and (B) if such
40 placement in the home of such child or youth's grandparent or
41 grandparents is not possible, select a home, agency, institution or person
42 of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such
43 faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided
44 such home conforms to the standards of the commissioner. [and the
45 commissioner shall, when] When placing siblings, the commissioner
46 shall, if possible, place such children together. At least ten days prior to
47 transferring a child or youth to a second or subsequent placement, the
48 commissioner shall give written notice to such child or youth and such
49 child or youth's attorney of said commissioner's intention to make such

50 transfer, unless an emergency or risk to such child or youth's well-being
51 necessitates the immediate transfer of such child and renders such
52 notice impossible. Upon the issuance of an order committing the child
53 or youth to the commissioner, or not later than sixty days after the
54 issuance of such order, the court shall determine whether the
55 department made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his
56 or her parents or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if
57 such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not
58 possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests,
59 including the child's or youth's health and safety.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2020	46b-129(j)(4)

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to give priority to grandparents in the placement of children committed to the care of the commissioner.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]