

**Support Permanency for all Children**  
**An Act to Support Permanency Placement of Foster Children**

Joint Committee on Children, Families And Persons with Disabilities  
Sponsored by Representative Stephen LeDuc  
House Bill 120 (as of 4/3/07)

**Proposal:**

Children 5 and over going into a DSS placement should be consulted regarding their choice(s) concerning their substitute caregiver and have their recommendations considered as the preferred placement resource(s).

**Why the legislation is necessary:**

- Research indicates better outcomes for children who transition less frequently.
- Research also shows that children placed within their community transition less often.
- Provide social workers with appropriate information to help identify placements.
- Placing a child with a familiar caring adult who already has a relationship with them creates a stable environment

**Impact:**

- The Department of Social Services has been gradually moving in the direction of putting children and youth into "restricted" foster homes. This legislation creates a requirement that will streamline the placement process by reducing the need to recruit alternative living arrangements who are strangers to the child.
- It helps identify a caring adult with a relationship with a child who will adjust more successfully to their new living situation.

**Financial Impact:**

There will be no additional cost. Implementation training could be incorporated into existing training programs.

**Who would implement it:**

DSS and the Courts

**How it would be implemented:**

- The Department will incorporate the implementation process adequate to train staff into preexisting training programs.
- The Courts would have to question the Department at the initial filing of Care and Protection proceeding and during the 72 hearing process to ensure this process took place.

**Please Contact:**

Bob Fitzpatrick in Representative Stephen LeDuc's office at 617-722-2915; or Eliza Wagner, Speak Out Team, at [ewagner@csrox.org](mailto:ewagner@csrox.org) or 617-989-9447 for questions regarding *An Act to Promote Youth Advocacy*.