



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 453

LCO No. 3061

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS QUALITY
ENHANCEMENT GRANTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-749c of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Education, in consultation
4 with the Commissioner of [Education] Social Services, shall establish a
5 program, within available appropriations, to provide, on a competitive
6 basis, supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child
7 day care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant
8 to section 10-16p and section 10-16u. The Department of Education
9 shall distribute the grants by October first each year. If a child day care
10 provider or provider of a school readiness program does not use all of
11 the grant funds it received in one fiscal year, the funds may be
12 expended, in accordance with this section, in the following fiscal year.
13 Child day care providers and school readiness programs may apply
14 for a supplemental quality enhancement grant at such time and on
15 such form as the Commissioner of [Social Services] Education
16 prescribes.

17 (b) Priority for such grants shall be given to programs that are: (1)
18 Included in a local school readiness plan; (2) full-day, year-round
19 programs; and (3) accredited, as defined in subdivision (4) of
20 subsection (a) of section 10-16p.

21 (c) The grants shall be used to:

22 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National
23 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such
24 accreditation;

25 (2) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
26 health care, nutrition, family support services, parent education,
27 literacy and parental involvement, and community and home outreach
28 programs;

29 (3) Purchase educational equipment;

30 (4) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a child development
31 associate certificate;

32 (5) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined
33 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a
34 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions
35 are defined in such federal regulations;

36 (6) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and
37 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
38 Disabilities Act;

39 (7) Create a supportive network with family day care homes;

40 (8) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

41 (9) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

42 (10) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to
43 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h

44 and 17b-749i; and

45 (11) Establish a single point of entry system.

46 Sec. 2. The sum of four million dollars is appropriated to the
47 Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for
48 school readiness quality enhancement grants.

49 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for distribution of quality enhancement grants by the Department of Education rather than the Department of Social Services. To require the department to distribute the grants by October first each year and to specify that if a provider does not use all the grant funds in one year that the funds are available for expenditure in the following fiscal year.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. GAFFEY, 13th
SEN. HARTLEY, 15th