



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Amendment

LCO No. 3870

HB0549603870HDO

Offered by:

REP. STAPLES, 96th Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.

REP. KERENSKY, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5496

File No. 361

Cal. No. 229

"AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10-16o of the general statutes, as amended by
4 section 10 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and
5 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

6 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school
7 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as
8 amended by this act, 10-16u and 17b-749a, as amended, in order to:

9 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that
10 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal
11 schooling;

12 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable
13 and accredited or approved programs;

14 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and
15 prevent the duplication of services;

16 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources
17 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the
18 implementation of programs;

19 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in
20 children prior to children reaching the age of five;

21 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs, including,
22 but not limited to, early reading first, Head Start, child care, early
23 education for children with disabilities and any other preschool
24 program funded under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary
25 Education Act of 1965;

26 (7) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental
27 involvement in a child's development and education; and (B)
28 enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the
29 children, including children with disabilities;

30 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special
31 education services for school age children and to avoid grade
32 repetition;

33 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into
34 programs available to children who are not disabled and that school
35 readiness programs are appropriately reimbursed for children eligible
36 for special education and related services; and

37 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness
38 programs and their coordination with the services of child care
39 providers.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is

41 amended by adding subdivision (10) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

42 (NEW) (10) "Credential" means a Child Development Associate
43 issued by the Council for Professional Recognition, or an American
44 Montessori Instructor for children aged three to six years, issued by the
45 American Montessori Association, or otherwise meeting such criteria
46 as may be established by the Commissioner of Education, in
47 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services.

48 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
49 amended by section 48 of public act 01-173 and section 11 of public act
50 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the following is
51 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

52 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for
53 school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u,
54 school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the
55 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of
56 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers
57 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,
58 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that
59 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.
60 The department shall establish standards for school readiness
61 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
62 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
63 preliteracy development based on scientifically based reading
64 research, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications and
65 training, transition to school and administration. The department shall
66 develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for children
67 attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the
68 Commissioners of Higher Education, [and] Social Services and Public
69 Health and other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing
70 education training program for the staff of school readiness programs.
71 For purposes of this section, on and after July 1, 2003, "staff
72 qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual who has
73 at least the following: [(1)] (A) A credential issued by an organization

74 approved by the Commissioner of Education and ~~[nine]~~ six credits or
75 more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early
76 childhood education or child development from an institution of
77 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
78 Education or regionally accredited; [(2)] (B) an associate's or four-year
79 degree in early childhood education or child development from such
80 an institution; [or (3) a] (C) an associate's or four-year degree with six
81 credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more,
82 in early childhood education or child development from such an
83 institution; or (D) certification pursuant to section 10-145 with an
84 endorsement in early childhood education or special education.

85 (2) Credentialed staff shall be in classrooms from nine o'clock a.m.
86 to five o'clock p.m. at each full-time program. During any other hour
87 of a full-time program, trained staff shall be present in the classrooms
88 in the absence of credentialed staff. Trained staff shall be instructed in
89 the care of children pursuant to instruction protocols developed by the
90 local school readiness council.

91 Sec. 4. Section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by section
92 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

94 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
95 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
96 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
97 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
98 children of working parents and parents in education or training
99 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
100 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
101 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
102 insurance company and information on whether the child is
103 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
104 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
105 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
106 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for

107 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
108 training in such practices based on the report completed by the Early
109 Reading Success Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j; (5)
110 nutrition services; (6) referrals to family literacy programs that
111 incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of
112 literacy through access to public library services; (7) admission policies
113 that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and
114 economic backgrounds and from other communities; (8) a plan of
115 transition for participating children from the school readiness program
116 to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the
117 program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan for professional
118 development for staff, including, but not limited to, training (A) in
119 preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to assure respect for
120 racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for families
121 participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and (11) an
122 annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On and after
123 July 1, 2000, school readiness programs shall use the assessment
124 measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s in conducting their
125 annual evaluations.

126 (b) The per child cost of the Department of Education school
127 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
128 provider shall not exceed the foundation, as defined in subdivision (9)
129 of section 10-262f, as amended. A school readiness provider may
130 provide child day care services and the cost of such child day care
131 services shall not be subject to such per child cost limitation.

132 (c) A local or regional board of education may implement a sliding
133 fee scale for the cost of services provided to children enrolled in a
134 school readiness program.

135 (d) A school readiness program or a group of school readiness
136 programs may apply for a federal early reading first competitive grant
137 in accordance with provisions set forth in the No Child Left Behind
138 Act, P.L. 107-110.

139 (e) The Department of Education may apply for federal dollars to
140 create, in collaboration with appropriate New England nonprofit and
141 public agencies, a New England center for teacher training in literacy.
142 The center will train new and continuing teachers, preschool through
143 elementary school, in instruction methods consistent with research
144 based reading instruction.

145 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-16r of the general statutes, as
146 amended by section 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
147 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
148 *1, 2002*):

149 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
150 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u shall convene
151 a local school readiness council or shall establish a regional school
152 readiness council pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any other
153 town may convene such a council. The chief elected official of the town
154 or, in the case of a regional school district, the chief elected officials of
155 the towns in the school district and the superintendent of schools for
156 the school district shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each
157 school readiness council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected
158 official, or the official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a
159 management level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3)
160 parents; (4) representatives from local programs such as Head Start,
161 family resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers,
162 group day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and
163 family day care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the
164 community who provide services to children or the community
165 including, but not limited to, librarians, child health experts and
166 business leaders. The chief elected official shall designate the
167 chairperson of the school readiness council.

168 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2002, the
169 presidents of institutions of higher education that provide teacher
170 education programs, or their designees, shall summarize and report to
171 the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education on the changes

172 made in the curricula of each such program to implement the
173 recommendations set forth in the report of the Early Reading Success
174 Panel pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes. On or before
175 February 1, 2003, said commissioners shall report, in accordance with
176 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
177 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
178 matters relating to education on such curricula changes.

179 Sec. 7. Subsection (g) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
180 amended by section 13 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
181 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
182 *passage*):

183 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
184 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
185 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
186 such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a town may use
187 the greater of (A) twenty-five thousand dollars, or (B) up to five per
188 cent but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount [received]
189 allocated pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
190 16u for coordination, program evaluation and administration, and (2)
191 if a town provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for
192 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and
193 administration, such town may use up to ten per cent but no more
194 than seventy-five thousand dollars of such amount for coordination,
195 program evaluation and administration. Each town that receives a
196 grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall
197 designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program
198 evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town
199 and the Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school
200 readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this section or
201 section 10-16u shall provide information to the department or the
202 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of
203 any school readiness program evaluation.

204 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as

205 amended by section 12 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
206 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
207 *1, 2002*):

208 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for
209 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant
210 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former
211 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional
212 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average
213 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school
214 district and in each former priority school district for the three years
215 prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average
216 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools
217 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe
218 need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall receive a
219 grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year or a
220 grant that is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

221 (2) Six and five-tenths per cent of the amount appropriated for
222 purposes of this section shall be used for the competitive grant
223 program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

224 (3) The Department of Education may retain up to five-tenths of one
225 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for
226 coordination, program evaluation and administration.

227 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
228 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is
229 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
230 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to
231 fifty per cent of] any amounts such town has not earmarked for
232 expenditure to (1) provide supplemental grants to other towns that are
233 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or (2)
234 enhance the system of professional development for pre-school
235 educators in programs receiving funds pursuant to this section.

236 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Education

237 shall oversee the 21st century community learning centers, as provided
238 for in the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110.

239 Sec. 10. Subsection (e) of section 10-265f of the general statutes, as
240 amended by section 21 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
241 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
242 *1, 2002*):

243 (e) (1) The pilot programs established pursuant to section 10-265j, as
244 amended, shall be funded from the amount appropriated for purposes
245 of this section. The department shall use ninety per cent of the
246 remaining funds appropriated for purposes of this section for grants to
247 priority school districts. Priority school districts shall receive grants
248 based on their proportional share of the sum of the products obtained
249 by multiplying the number of enrolled kindergarten students in each
250 priority school district for the year prior to the year the grant is to be
251 paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and reduced price
252 meals for all severe need schools in such district to the minimum
253 percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility. (2) The
254 department shall use nine per cent of such remaining funds for
255 competitive grants to school districts in which a priority elementary
256 school is located. In awarding grants to school districts in which
257 priority elementary schools are located, the department shall consider
258 the town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, of
259 the town in which the school district is located, or in the case of
260 regional school districts, the towns which comprise the regional school
261 district. Grants received by school districts in which priority
262 elementary schools are located shall not exceed one hundred thousand
263 dollars and shall be used for the appropriate purpose at the priority
264 elementary school. (3) The department may retain up to one per cent of
265 such remaining funds for coordination, program evaluation and
266 administration. (4) The district shall use not less than five per cent of
267 the grant funds to provide professional training for teachers and
268 principals in reading instruction at reading institutes approved by the
269 Commissioner of Education."

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2002</i>