



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 151**

February Session, 2004

House Bill No. 5428

*House of Representatives, March 18, 2004*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. GIANNAROS of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS STAFF QUALIFICATIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as  
2 amended by section 15 of public act 03-6 of the June 30 special session,  
3 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
4 *1, 2004*):

5 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school  
6 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school  
7 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department  
8 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,  
9 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and  
10 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, as  
11 amended, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other  
12 programs that meet such standards established by the Commissioner  
13 of Education. The department shall establish standards for school

14 readiness programs. The standards may include, but need not be  
 15 limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content,  
 16 including preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement,  
 17 staff qualifications and training, and administration. The department  
 18 shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for  
 19 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation  
 20 with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social Services and  
 21 other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing education  
 22 training program for the staff of school readiness programs. For  
 23 purposes of this section, on and after July 1, 2004, "staff qualifications"  
 24 means there is in each classroom an individual who has at least the  
 25 following: (1) A credential issued by an organization approved by the  
 26 Commissioner of Education and nine credits or more, and on and after  
 27 July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or  
 28 child development from an institution of higher education accredited  
 29 by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or regionally  
 30 accredited; (2) an associate's degree with nine credits or more, and on  
 31 and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood  
 32 education or child development from such an institution; [or] (3) a  
 33 four-year degree with nine credits or more, and on and after July 1,  
 34 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or child  
 35 development from such an institution; or (4) certification pursuant to  
 36 section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or  
 37 special education.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

**ED**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 5428

**AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS STAFF QUALIFICATIONS****SUMMARY:**

Under current law, on and after July 1, 2004, school readiness programs must have a person in each classroom with at least: (1) nine or more credits in early childhood education or child development from an accredited higher education institution and a credential from an organization approved by the education commissioner; or (2) an associate's or four-year degree in early childhood education or child development.

As of July 1, 2005, the bill: (1) increases the minimum required number of early childhood education or child development credits from nine to 12 for staff holding credentials from a commissioner-approved organization; (2) allows the associate's or four-year degree to be in any field, as long as the person earned at least nine, and on or after July 1, 2005, 12 early childhood education or child development credits; and (3) adds a Connecticut teaching certificate with an early childhood or special education endorsement as an acceptable credential.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 27      Nay 1