



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5426

LCO No. 430

00430_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS GRANT ELIGIBILITY.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the
2 general statutes, as amended by section 32 of public act 03-6 of the June
3 30 special session, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
4 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

5 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
6 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
7 program to provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness
8 programs for eligible children who reside in an area served by a
9 priority school or a former priority school as provided for in
10 subdivision (2) of this subsection. A town in which such a school is
11 located or a regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection
12 (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located may
13 apply for such a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred
14 thousand dollars per priority school. [Eligibility] (A) Prior to July 1,
15 2004, eligibility for grants pursuant to this subdivision shall be
16 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
17 as having a priority school for the initial year of application. (B) On

18 and after July 1, 2004, eligibility for grants pursuant to this subdivision
19 shall be determined annually, except that towns and regional school
20 readiness councils that received grants prior to July 1, 2004, shall be
21 eligible for grants until the end of the five-year period for which they
22 were eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. Grant
23 awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and
24 a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
25 and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional
26 school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection
27 (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the
28 Department of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this
29 subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications
30 submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within
31 available appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred
32 thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such
33 district. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant
34 pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for
35 such children from providers of accredited or approved school
36 readiness programs.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate the requirement that eligibility for competitive school readiness grants is determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school for the initial year of application and to provide that eligibility be determined annually based on priority school designations each 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.]