



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5482

January Session, 2005

* HB05482JUD 050205 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-67x of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There shall be a Child Poverty Council consisting of the
4 following members or their designees: The Secretary of the Office of
5 Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the
6 speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the
7 Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the
8 Commissioners of Children and Families, Social Services, Correction,
9 Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Addiction Services,
10 Transportation, Public Health, Education, Economic and Community
11 Development and Health Care Access, the Labor Commissioner, the
12 Chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Child
13 Advocate, the chairperson of the State Prevention Council, the
14 chairperson of the Children's Trust Fund and the executive [director]
15 directors of the Commission on Children and the Commission on
16 Human Rights and Opportunities. The Secretary of the Office of Policy
17 and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be the chairperson
18 of the council. The council shall develop a ten-year plan, to begin June
19 8, 2004, to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state

20 by fifty per cent.

21 (b) The plan shall contain: (1) An identification and analysis of the
22 occurrence of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis of the long-term
23 effects of child poverty on children, their families and their
24 communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to municipalities
25 and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and private
26 programs that address child poverty, (5) the percentage of the target
27 population served by such programs and the current state funding
28 levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and analysis of
29 any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs, and (7) procedures
30 and priorities for implementing strategies to achieve a fifty per cent
31 reduction in child poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such
32 procedures and priorities shall include, but not be limited to, (A)
33 vocational training and placement to promote career progression [] for
34 parents of children living in poverty, (B) educational opportunities,
35 including higher education opportunities, and advancement for such
36 parents and children, including, but not limited to, preliteracy, literacy
37 and family literacy programs, (C) housing for such parents and
38 children, (D) day care and after-school programs and mentoring
39 programs for such children and for single parents, (E) health care
40 access for such parents and children, including access to mental health
41 services and family planning, (F) treatment programs and services,
42 including substance abuse programs and services, for such parents and
43 children, and (G) accessible childhood nutrition programs.

44 (c) In developing the plan, the council shall consult with experts and
45 providers of services to children living in poverty and parents of such
46 children. The council shall hold at least one public hearing on the plan.
47 After the public hearing, the council may make any modifications that
48 the members deem necessary based on testimony given at the public
49 hearing.

50 (d) Funds from private and public sources may be accepted and
51 utilized by the council to develop and implement the plan and the
52 provisions of this section.

53 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the council shall submit the plan,
54 in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
55 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
56 appropriations and human services and to the select committee of the
57 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
58 along with any recommendations for legislation and funding
59 necessary to implement the plan.

60 (f) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, until
61 January 1, 2015, the council shall report, in accordance with section 11-
62 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
63 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and human services
64 and to the select committee of the General Assembly having
65 cognizance of matters relating to children on the implementation of the
66 plan, [and] progress made toward meeting the child poverty reduction
67 goal specified in subsection (a) of this section and the extent to which
68 state actions are in conformity with the plan. The council shall meet at
69 least quarterly to review and coordinate state agency efforts to meet
70 the child poverty reduction goal specified in subsection (a) of this
71 section.

72 (g) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Office of Policy and
73 Management shall: (1) Establish administrative procedures, through
74 memoranda of agreement, coordination of services or other means, to
75 improve access by eligible children and families to services that
76 diminish poverty or negative outcomes related to poverty, (2) require
77 that state contracts related to services for low-income children and
78 families include performance-based standards and outcome measures
79 related to the child poverty reduction goal specified in subsection (a) of
80 this section, (3) establish a common protocol among state agencies for a
81 standard assessment concerning barriers to employment, including
82 transportation, child care, education and substance abuse issues, to
83 expedite referrals and access to services, and (4) within available
84 appropriations, increase outreach and education to low-income
85 families regarding available services and resources.

86 (h) Within available appropriations, the council shall appoint a
87 consumer committee to advise it regarding strategies to reduce child
88 poverty. The consumer committee shall include, but not be limited to,
89 a parent of a child living in poverty, a community leader, a municipal
90 elected official and a child advocate.

91 ~~[(g)]~~ (i) For purposes of this section, the Secretary of the Office of
92 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be
93 responsible for coordinating all necessary activities, including, but not
94 limited to, scheduling and presiding over meetings and public
95 hearings.

96 ~~[(h)]~~ (j) The council shall terminate on June 30, 2015.

97 Sec. 2. Section 17b-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
98 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

99 The Labor Department, in cooperation with the Department of
100 Social Services, shall provide information and assistance in obtaining,
101 within available appropriations, the federal earned income credit
102 established pursuant to 26 USC 32, to each applicant for or recipient of
103 assistance from the department. The Labor Department, in cooperation
104 with the Department of Revenue Services, shall promote the earned
105 income credit program to recipients of benefits pursuant to section
106 17b-112. The Labor Department, in cooperation with the Department
107 of Social Services and the Child Poverty Council, shall, within
108 available appropriations, promote the federal earned income credit to
109 municipalities, public and private employers, community
110 organizations and other entities that have frequent contact with low-
111 income families and shall promote federal welfare to work tax credit
112 programs and federal work opportunity tax credit programs to public
113 and private employers.

114 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Social
115 Services, the Commissioner of Education and the Labor Commissioner
116 shall, within available appropriations and in consultation with literacy
117 volunteers and organizations that promote literacy, incorporate child

118 and family literacy standards and goals into family resource center
119 programs, temporary family assistance programs, "Jobs First"
120 programs and other similar programs deemed appropriate by said
121 commissioners.

122 Sec. 4. Section 10-266t of the general statutes is repealed and the
123 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

124 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall award grants annually, in
125 accordance with this section and section 10-266u, to local and regional
126 boards of education identified as priority school districts pursuant to
127 section 10-266p. In addition, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000,
128 and June 30, 2001, the commissioner shall provide a grant to any local
129 or regional board of education in a town which does not qualify for a
130 grant pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-266p for said fiscal years
131 but does qualify for a grant pursuant to subsection (b) of said section
132 for said fiscal years. The grants shall provide funds for extended
133 school building hours for public schools in such districts for academic
134 enrichment and support, and recreation programs for students in the
135 districts. Such programs may be conducted in buildings other than
136 public school buildings, provided the board of education is able to
137 demonstrate to the commissioner that the facility in which the
138 program will be run can adequately support the academic goals of the
139 program and a plan is in place to provide adequate academic
140 instruction.

141 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall provide a grant estimate
142 annually to each priority school district. The estimated grant shall be
143 calculated as follows: Each district's average daily membership, as
144 defined in subdivision (2) of section 10-261, divided by the total of all
145 priority school districts' average daily membership, multiplied by the
146 amount appropriated for the grant program minus the amounts
147 specified in subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-266u.

148 (c) (1) Annually, each such district shall file a grant application with
149 the Commissioner of Education, in such form and at such time as he

150 prescribes. The application shall identify the local distribution of funds
151 by school and operator, with program specification, hours and days of
152 operation.

153 (2) Each such district shall solicit applications for individual school
154 programs, on a competitive basis, from town and nonprofit agencies,
155 prioritize the applications and select applications for funding within
156 the total grant amount allocated to the district. District decisions to
157 fund individual school programs shall be based on specified criteria
158 including: (A) Total hours of operation, (B) number of students served,
159 (C) total student hours of service, (D) total program cost, (E) estimate
160 of volunteer hours, or other sources of support, (F) community
161 involvement, commitment and support, (G) nonduplication of existing
162 services, (H) needs of the student body of the school, (I) unique
163 qualities of the proposal, and (J) responsiveness to the requirements of
164 this section and section 10-266u. Each district shall submit to the
165 commissioner all proposals received as part of its grant application
166 and documentation of the review and ranking process for such
167 proposals.

168 (3) Grants to individual school programs shall be limited to a range
169 of twenty to eighty thousand dollars per school, based on school
170 enrollment.

171 (d) Each district, shall: (1) Demonstrate, in its grant application, that
172 a district-wide and school building needs assessment was conducted,
173 including an inventory of existing academic enrichment and support,
174 and recreational opportunities available during nonschool hours both
175 within and outside of school buildings; (2) ensure equal program
176 access for all students and necessary accommodations and support for
177 students with disabilities; (3) provide a summer component, unless it
178 is able to document that sufficient summer opportunity already exists;
179 (4) include in its application a schedule and total number of hours that
180 it determines to be reasonable and sufficient for individual school
181 programs; (5) support no less than ten per cent of the cost of the total
182 district-wide extended school building hours program and provide

183 documentation of local dollars or in-kind contributions, or both; and
184 (6) contract for the direct operation of the program, unless it is able to
185 document that no providers are interested or able to provide a cost
186 efficient program.

187 (e) All programs funded pursuant to this section shall: (1) Offer both
188 academic enrichment and support and recreation experiences, (2) be
189 open to all resident students in the district, (3) be designed to ensure
190 communication with the child's teacher and ties to the regular school
191 curriculum, (4) be clearly articulated with structured and specified
192 experiences for children but able to accommodate the irregular
193 participation of any one child, (5) provide for community involvement,
194 (6) investigate the use of the National Service Corps, (7) coordinate
195 operations and activities with existing programs and the agencies
196 which operate such programs, (8) provide for parent involvement in
197 program planning and the use of parents as advisers and volunteers,
198 and (9) provide for business involvement or sponsorship. Programs
199 within a district may vary in terms of times of operation and nature of
200 the program. All programs which operate in a public school shall have
201 access to existing special facilities and equipment in the public school
202 and shall have the written endorsement of the school principal and
203 superintendent of schools for the school district.

204 (f) Grant funds may be used to hire personnel to provide for the
205 instruction and supervision of children and for necessary support costs
206 such as food, program supplies, equipment and materials, direct cost
207 of building maintenance, personnel supervision and transportation but
208 shall not be used for indirect costs.

209 (g) The Commissioner of Education may negotiate the contents of a
210 district's grant application or refuse to authorize a grant if he finds the
211 proposal costs are not reasonable or necessary or the selection of
212 specific local building programs over others was not justified by the
213 process and the data.

214 (h) Notwithstanding subsections (d) and (e) of this section, a school

215 district may charge fees for participation in after-school academic
 216 enrichment, support or recreational programs, provided the fees are
 217 calculated on a sliding scale based on ability to pay and no fee exceeds
 218 seventy-five per cent of the average cost of participation. No school
 219 district may exclude a student from participation in such after-school
 220 academic enrichment, support and recreational programs due to
 221 inability to pay a fee.

222 (i) Within available appropriations, grant funds shall be used for
 223 specialized mentoring services targeted within school districts to meet
 224 the academic, emotional and social needs of children ages six through
 225 sixteen living in poverty. Such specialized mentoring services shall be
 226 prioritized for: (1) Families receiving temporary family assistance, (2)
 227 families with a custodial parent under the age of twenty, and (3)
 228 families in which the primary caretaker is a grandparent. Such
 229 specialized mentoring services shall include, but not be limited to,
 230 literacy, financial literacy, career and scholastic guidance. Funding for
 231 such specialized mentoring services may include school and business
 232 partnerships and private funds.

233 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is
 234 appropriated to the Labor Department, from the General Fund, for the
 235 fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for the purpose of promoting the
 236 federal earned income credit, federal welfare to work programs and
 237 federal work opportunity tax credit programs.

238 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is
 239 appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General
 240 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for the purpose of
 241 promoting the federal earned income credit, federal welfare to work
 242 programs and federal work opportunity tax credit programs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	4-67x
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	17b-16

Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-266t
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*