



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6356

January Session, 2005

* _____HB06356HS_APP032405_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING YOUNG CHILDREN LIVING IN HOMELESS SHELTERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Social Services, in consultation with the Child Day Care Council
3 established under section 17b-748 of the general statutes, shall
4 establish a competitive grant program to provide day care services to
5 children under six years of age who reside in homeless shelters. Under
6 the program, the commissioner shall award up to five grants to day
7 care centers to provide full day programs for such children, in
8 accordance with this section, and to provide transportation for such
9 children between the shelters and the centers. The full day program
10 shall include a prekindergarten curriculum, enrichment activities,
11 mentoring, meals, preventative medical services such as hearing tests
12 and any other component specified by the commissioner in regulations
13 adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Any day care center
14 seeking a grant shall apply to the Department of Social Services at such
15 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes.

16 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in
17 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, for purposes of the
18 program.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before January 1,

20 2006, the Commissioners of Children and Families and Education shall
21 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
22 statutes, to the select committee of the General Assembly having
23 cognizance of matters relating to children and to the joint standing
24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
25 relating to education regarding the educational stability of children
26 and youth committed to the care and custody of the Commissioner of
27 Children and Families. The report shall include data from the 2004-
28 2005 school year for children and youth in the custody of the
29 Department of Children and Families regarding: (1) The percentage of
30 children who remained in the same school for the entire school year
31 and the percentage of children who changed schools one, two, three or
32 four or more times in the school year; (2) the percentage of children
33 who were suspended from school one, two or three or more times; (3)
34 the percentage of children who are behind grade level; (4) the
35 percentage of children who are receiving special education services;
36 and (5) the percentage of children who did not achieve the mastery
37 goal level on the state-wide mastery examinations under section 10-
38 14n of the general statutes, in reading and mathematics.

39 (b) The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
40 shall summarize the steps the Department of Children and Families
41 and the Department of Education have taken to: (1) Reduce the
42 number of school changes children in care of the Department of
43 Children and Families experience during the academic year; (2) reduce
44 delays in reenrollment when a school change is necessary; (3) ensure
45 the timely transfer of school records, grades and credits when a school
46 change becomes necessary; (4) provide assistance to children and
47 youth in the care of the Department of Children and Families so such
48 children and youth do not fall behind their peers academically; and (5)
49 implement the memorandum of February 15, 2005, from the
50 Commissioners of Children and Families and Education to all school
51 superintendents regarding extension of the protections of the
52 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., to
53 certain children and youth in the care and custody of the Department

