



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 1176

LCO No. 3895

03895_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT INITIATIVE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is created an Early
2 Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of
3 the Commissioners of Education, Social Services, Public Health,
4 Children and Families and Mental Retardation, or their designees, and
5 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
6 secretary's designee. The cabinet shall advise the Governor on matters
7 relating to school readiness programs.

8 (b) Within available appropriations, the Early Childhood Advisory
9 Cabinet shall advise the Commissioner of Education on policies and
10 initiatives to meet the goals established in section 10-160 of the general
11 statutes.

12 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is created a State-Wide
13 Early Childhood Pilot Program. The Department of Education shall,
14 within available appropriations, maintain a competitive grant program
15 for the purpose of assisting local and regional boards of education,

16 regional educational service centers, family resource centers, providers
17 of child day care services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general
18 statutes, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other
19 programs that meet the standards established by the Commissioner of
20 Education for new school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-
21 16p of the general statutes.

22 (b) Applicants for grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this
23 section shall apply annually to the Commissioner of Education at such
24 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. In
25 determining whether to award an applicant a grant, the commissioner,
26 in consultation with the Early Childhood Advisory Cabinet established
27 pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall consider, but not be limited to,
28 the following factors: (1) The specific objectives and description of the
29 proposed program; (2) the cost of the proposed program; (3) the
30 number of children who will benefit; (4) the relative wealth of the
31 municipality in which the program will be located; and (5) whether the
32 proposed program is likely to (A) increase student achievement, and
33 (B) reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation.

34 (c) Any applicant awarded a grant pursuant to this section shall use
35 the Preschool Curriculum Framework and Benchmarks for Children in
36 Preschool Programs adopted by the State Board of Education in its
37 program.

38 (d) In no case shall an award made pursuant to this section, when
39 calculated on a per pupil basis, exceed the maximum per child cost of
40 the Department of Education school readiness component pursuant to
41 subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by
42 this act.

43 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is
44 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
45 *1, 2005*):

46 (b) [The] (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child

47 cost of the Department of Education school readiness component of
48 the program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
49 thousand [four] nine hundred dollars.

50 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
51 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education school
52 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
53 provider shall not exceed seven thousand two hundred twenty-five
54 dollars.

55 (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care services
56 and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject to such
57 per child cost limitation.

58 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
59 the Commissioner of Education may award grants of up to three
60 thousand dollars to existing employees of a school readiness program
61 for the purpose of earning an associate degree in child development.
62 The commissioner, in consultation with the Early Childhood Advisory
63 Cabinet established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall develop
64 criteria for the awarding of such grants.

65 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
66 the Commissioner of Education shall provide technical assistance and
67 training to school readiness programs to assist in the application of the
68 Preschool Curriculum Framework and Benchmarks for Children in
69 Preschool Programs adopted by the State Board of Education.

70 Sec. 6. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is amended by adding
71 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

72 (NEW) (h) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of
73 Education shall develop a state-wide examination for kindergarten
74 that measures whether or not a student has mastered essential grade-
75 level skills in reading, language arts and mathematics.

76 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,

77 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Early
78 Childhood Advisory Cabinet established pursuant to section 1 of this
79 act, shall develop a program to provide all parents of newborn
80 children with information regarding early childhood development.
81 Said program shall be administered by the Children's Trust Fund,
82 established pursuant to section 17a-50 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16q(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-14n
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To create an Early Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet and a Early Childhood pilot program, to increase funding for school readiness programs, to enhance preschool teacher training, to create a kindergarten assessment program and to provide parents of all newborn children with information regarding early childhood development.

[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.]