



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1334

January Session, 2005

* SB01334HS_APP033105 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CHILD CARE
SUBSIDY PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
4 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
5 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
6 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance
7 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department
8 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,
9 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the
10 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies
11 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of
12 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
13 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
14 such program within the existing budgetary resources available. Any
15 unexpended funds appropriated for the purposes of this section shall
16 not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
17 expenditure for the purposes of this section during the next fiscal year.
18 The department shall use a portion of any such unexpended funds to
19 enhance outreach efforts concerning the availability of child care

20 services under the program.

21 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
22 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
23 income up to [fifty] seventy-five per cent of the state-wide median
24 income, except the commissioner, [(1) may increase the income level to
25 up to seventy-five per cent of the state-wide median income, (2)] upon
26 the request of the Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive
27 the income standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on
28 or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families
29 are eligible for the child care subsidy program. [, and (3) on and after
30 March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-
31 five per cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and
32 recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary
33 family assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in
34 accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
35 requirements for such waiver of income standards.]

36 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
37 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
38 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
39 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
40 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
41 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
42 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
43 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
44 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
45 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
46 standards under [subdivision (2) of] subsection (b) of this section, and
47 working families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and
48 safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed;
49 (3) a reimbursement system for child care services which account for
50 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
51 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
52 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
53 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen

54 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
55 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
56 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
57 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process which assures
58 that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal
59 access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement
60 scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process;
61 (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged
62 fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments;
63 and (9) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that reflects
64 the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this
65 subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this
66 information in the annual report required to be issued annually by the
67 Department of Social Services to the Governor and the General
68 Assembly in accordance with subdivision (10) of section 17b-733. Such
69 action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child,
70 region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

71 (d) The commissioner shall establish intake procedures to
72 implement the provisions of this section. Such procedures shall
73 include, but not be limited to, allowing (1) parents and guardians to
74 list a child care provider as an additional contact for all
75 correspondence regarding child care subsidies from the department
76 and any entity with whom the department contracts to administer the
77 program, and (2) child care providers, who have obtained income
78 information from parents and guardians, to assist in the processing of
79 child care subsidy program applications on behalf of such parents or
80 guardians. The department and any entity with whom the department
81 contracts to administer the program shall grant presumptive program
82 eligibility to parents or guardians who supply income information to
83 child care providers in accordance with the provisions of this
84 subsection, provided such income information establishes that the
85 income of such persons does not exceed program limits. In no event
86 shall such period of presumptive eligibility exceed thirty calendar days
87 from the date on which the child care provider forwards such income

88 information to the department.

89 [(d)] (e) On or after January 1, 1998, a provider under the child care
90 subsidy program that qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives
91 payment for child care services for recipients under this section shall
92 be reimbursed for such services until informed by the Department of
93 Social Services of the parent's ineligibility.

94 [(e)] (f) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
95 from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services with the
96 following information in order to maintain eligibility for
97 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
98 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
99 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
100 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
101 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
102 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
103 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
104 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

105 [(f)] (g) On or after January 1, 1998, the commissioner shall adopt
106 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
107 implement the provisions of this section.

108 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is
109 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
110 *1, 2005*):

111 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
112 Social Services, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human
113 resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation for state
114 financial assistance in developing and operating child day care centers
115 for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or
116 environmental conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall
117 be available for the operating costs of any such day care center unless
118 it has been licensed by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to
119 section 19a-80. Such financial assistance shall be available for a

120 program of a municipality, of a human resource development agency
121 or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel,
122 equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and
123 remodeling of physical facilities of such day care centers. Such contract
124 shall provide for state financial assistance, within available
125 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of
126 the cost of such program as determined by the Commissioner of Social
127 Services, if not federally assisted, or (2) equal to one-half of the amount
128 by which the net cost of such program as approved by the
129 commissioner exceeds the federal grant-in-aid thereof. Effective July 1,
130 2005, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the unit cost
131 reimbursement rate paid to a service provider under the program for
132 children under three years of age by an amount equal to the
133 percentage increase required to equalize the unit cost reimbursement
134 rate for children three years of age and older to the unit rate cost
135 reimbursement rate for such children under the school readiness
136 program established pursuant to section 10-16p, provided the
137 Commissioner of Social Services determines that the service provider
138 meets standards established by the department in accordance with this
139 section which are comparable to the standards prescribed in subsection
140 (b) of section 10-16p. Effective July 1, 2005, the Commissioner of Social
141 Services shall increase the unit cost reimbursement rate paid to a
142 service provider under the program for children three and four years
143 of age and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in
144 school pursuant to section 10-15c, to an amount equal to the unit cost
145 reimbursement rate for the school readiness program established
146 pursuant to section 10-16p, provided the Commissioner of Social
147 Services determines that the service provider meets standards
148 established by the department in accordance with this section which
149 are comparable to the standards prescribed in subsection (b) of section
150 10-16p. The Commissioner of Social Services may authorize child day
151 care centers provided financial assistance pursuant to this subsection
152 to apply a program surplus to the next program year. The
153 commissioner shall consult with directors of child day care centers in
154 establishing fees for the operation of such centers.The commissioner

155 shall establish standards for the operation of child day care center
156 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
157 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
158 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff
159 qualifications and training and administration.

160 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-16n of the general statutes is
161 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
162 *1, 2005*):

163 (a) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
164 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
165 program to assist nonprofit agencies and local and regional boards of
166 education, which are federal Head Start grantees, in (1) establishing
167 extended-day and full-day, year-round, Head Start programs or
168 expanding existing Head Start programs to extended-day or full-day,
169 year-round programs, (2) enhancing program quality, and (3)
170 increasing the number of children served. The commissioner, after
171 consultation with the committee established pursuant to subsection (c)
172 of this section, shall establish criteria for the grants, provided (A) at
173 least twenty-five per cent of the funding for such grants shall be for the
174 purpose of enhancing program quality, and (B) such grants shall be
175 utilized to ensure that the unit cost reimbursement rate on an hourly
176 basis shall be equal to the unit cost reimbursement for the school
177 readiness program established pursuant to section 10-16p, if the
178 commissioner determines that the Head Start program provider meets
179 standards developed by the commissioner which are comparable to
180 the standards prescribed in subsection (b) of section 10-16p. Nonprofit
181 agencies or boards of education seeking grants pursuant to this section
182 shall make application to the Commissioner of Education on such
183 forms and at such times as the commissioner shall prescribe. All grants
184 pursuant to this section shall be funded within the limits of available
185 appropriations or otherwise from federal funds and private donations.
186 At least seventy-five per cent of the funding pursuant to this section
187 shall be allocated to Head Start programs established prior to July 1,
188 1992. All full-day, year-round Head Start programs funded pursuant

189 to this section shall be in compliance with federal Head Start
190 performance standards.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-749
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	8-210(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16n(a)

HS

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP