



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

***Raised Bill No. 5500***

LCO No. 1851

\*01851\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (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 developmentally  
5 appropriate early care and education services and playgroups for  
6 children under six years of age who reside in homeless shelters. The  
7 program shall be designed to bolster the school readiness skills of  
8 young children who lack a residence due to poverty or domestic  
9 violence.

10 (b) Within available appropriations, the commissioner shall award  
11 up to five grants to day care centers to provide a full-day program for  
12 children described in subsection (a) of this section, in accordance with  
13 this section, and to provide transportation for such children between  
14 such shelters and centers. Such full-day programs shall include a  
15 prekindergarten curriculum, enrichment activities, mentoring, meals,  
16 preventive medical services, including, but not limited to, hearing tests

17 and any other component specified by the commissioner in regulations  
18 adopted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

19 (c) The commissioner shall award up to five grants to home  
20 visitation providers to provide playgroups for children described in  
21 subsection (a) of this section in accordance with this section. Home  
22 visitation providers eligible to receive a grant under this subsection  
23 shall include local Early Head Start and Nurturing Families providers  
24 and other home visitation providers that address the family  
25 strengthening of the parent and the developmental needs of the child,  
26 as determined by the commissioner.

27 (d) Recipients of a grant under this section shall link children and  
28 families served under the grant, when appropriate, with assessment  
29 and referral services, which may include, but need not be limited to,  
30 health and learning services such as a medical home for the parent and  
31 child, mental health services, services under the birth-to-three program  
32 and nutrition assistance through the WIC program, as defined in  
33 section 17b-290 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes.

34 (e) Any day care center or home visitation provider seeking a grant  
35 under this section shall apply to the commissioner at such time and in  
36 such manner as the commissioner prescribes. In awarding initial grants  
37 under the program, the commissioner shall give preference to centers  
38 and providers that serve the towns of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The  
39 commissioner shall assess the effectiveness of the grants at least  
40 annually to determine the level of impact on family stabilization and  
41 school readiness.

42 (f) The commissioner shall seek additional funding, for the purpose  
43 of providing grants under this section, through resources available  
44 pursuant to (1) the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act,  
45 42 USC 102, et seq., (2) philanthropic donations, and (3) other public  
46 and private sources including, but not limited to, Medicaid.

47 (g) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with

48 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish criteria for grants and to  
49 implement this section.

50 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one hundred fifty thousand  
51 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the  
52 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose  
53 of funding grants pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To ensure that young children in homeless shelters are provided school readiness skills through day care programs and playgroups in preparation for entry into the public school system, and to link such children where necessary to appropriate services for assessment, health and nutrition.

*[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.]*