



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 480

February Session, 2006

* SB00480HS_APP032106 *

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD CARE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Commissioner of Social
2 Services shall provide reimbursement under the Medicaid program for
3 services provided by a home health care agency, as defined in section
4 19a-490 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, in the
5 recipient's home or a substantially equivalent environment. For
6 purposes of such reimbursement, a substantially equivalent
7 environment may include, but not be limited to, facilities that provide
8 child day care services, as defined in subsection (a) of section 19a-77 of
9 the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, and after school programs,
10 as defined in section 10-16x of the 2006 supplement to the general
11 statutes.

12 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is
13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
14 *1, 2006*):

15 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
16 Social Services, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human
17 resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation for state
18 financial assistance in developing and operating child day care centers
19 for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or

20 environmental conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall
21 be available for the operating costs of any such day care center unless
22 it has been licensed by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to
23 section 19a-80, as amended. Such financial assistance shall be available
24 for a program of a municipality, of a human resource development
25 agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel,
26 equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and
27 remodeling of physical facilities of such day care centers. Such contract
28 shall provide for state financial assistance, within available
29 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of
30 the cost of such program as determined by the Commissioner of Social
31 Services, if not federally assisted, or (2) equal to one-half of the amount
32 by which the net cost of such program as approved by the
33 commissioner exceeds the federal grant-in-aid thereof. Effective July 1,
34 2006, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the unit cost
35 reimbursement rate paid to a service provider under the program for
36 children under three years of age so that such rate is equal to the unit
37 cost reimbursement rate for children three years of age and older
38 under the school readiness program established pursuant to section 10-
39 16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, provided the
40 Commissioner of Social Services determines that the service provider
41 meets standards established by the department in accordance with this
42 section which are comparable to the standards prescribed in subsection
43 (b) of section 10-16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes.
44 Effective July 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Social Services shall
45 increase the unit cost reimbursement rate paid to a service provider
46 under the program for children three and four years of age and
47 children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
48 pursuant to section 10-15c, so that such rate is an amount equal to the
49 unit cost reimbursement rate for the school readiness program
50 established pursuant to section 10-16p of the 2006 supplement to the
51 general statutes, provided the Commissioner of Social Services
52 determines that the service provider meets standards established by
53 the department in accordance with this section which are comparable
54 to the standards prescribed in subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the

55 2006 supplement to the general statutes. The Commissioner of Social
56 Services may authorize child day care centers provided financial
57 assistance pursuant to this subsection to apply a program surplus to
58 the next program year. The commissioner shall consult with directors
59 of child day care centers in establishing fees for the operation of such
60 centers.

61 Sec. 3. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

63 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
64 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
65 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
66 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance
67 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department
68 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,
69 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the
70 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies
71 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of
72 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
73 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
74 such program within the existing budgetary resources available.

75 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
76 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
77 income up to [fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except
78 the commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to] (1) sixty
79 per cent of the state-wide median income for the fiscal year ending
80 June 30, 2007, (2) seventy per cent of the state-wide median income for
81 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and (3) seventy-five per cent of the
82 state-wide median income [(2) upon] for the fiscal year ending June
83 30, 2009, and each fiscal year thereafter. Upon the request of the
84 Commissioner of Children and Families, the Commissioner of Social
85 Services may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that
86 children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of
87 Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program.

88 [and (3) on and after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility
89 level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for
90 applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility
91 for temporary family assistance.] The commissioner may adopt
92 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish income criteria
93 and durational requirements for such waiver of income standards.

94 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
95 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
96 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
97 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
98 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
99 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
100 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
101 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
102 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
103 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
104 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, and
105 working families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and
106 safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed;
107 (3) a reimbursement system for child care services [which account] that
108 accounts for differences in the age of the child, number of children in
109 the family, the geographic region and type of care provided by
110 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services
111 provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion
112 of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child
113 care directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
114 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
115 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process which assures
116 that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal
117 access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement
118 scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process;
119 (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged
120 fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments;
121 and (9) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that reflects

122 the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this
123 subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this
124 information in the annual report required to be issued annually by the
125 Department of Social Services to the Governor and the General
126 Assembly in accordance with subdivision (10) of section 17b-733. Such
127 action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child,
128 region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

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

134 (e) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
135 from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services with the
136 following information in order to maintain eligibility for
137 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
138 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
139 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
140 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
141 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
142 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
143 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
144 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

145 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
146 thereafter, the commissioner shall reimburse providers of child care
147 services, participating in the child care subsidy program, at a level
148 equivalent to the seventy-fifth percentile weekly market rate of the cost
149 of providing child care services. The seventy-fifth percentile weekly
150 market rate shall be determined by utilizing the most recent weekly
151 market rate of the cost of providing child care services in the state for
152 the period of time immediately preceding the rate period, as set forth
153 in the weekly market rate survey of child care providers, conducted
154 biennially by the Department of Social Services in accordance with

155 federal law.

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

159 Sec. 4. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of _____ dollars is
160 appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General
161 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose of
162 increasing reimbursement rates paid to state-funded child care centers
163 and providers of child care services participating in the child care
164 subsidy program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2006	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2006	8-210(b)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2006	17b-749
Sec. 4	July 1, 2006	New section

HS

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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