



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7302

LCO No. 4842

04842_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING RATES PAID TO PROVIDERS UNDER 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 Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 July 1, 2007*):

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.

15 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for

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

30 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
31 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
32 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
33 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
34 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
35 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
36 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
37 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
38 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
39 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
40 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
41 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
42 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
43 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
44 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
45 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
46 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
47 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
48 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
49 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)

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

65 (d) On or after January 1, 1998, a provider under the child care
66 subsidy program that qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives
67 payment for child care services for recipients under this section shall
68 be reimbursed for such services until informed by the Department of
69 Social Services of the parent's ineligibility.

70 (e) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
71 from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services with the
72 following information in order to maintain eligibility for
73 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
74 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
75 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
76 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
77 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
78 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
79 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
80 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

81 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year

82 thereafter, the commissioner shall reimburse licensed providers of
83 child care services, participating in the child care subsidy program, at a
84 rate that is equal to the average reimbursement rate as determined by
85 the most recent child care market rate survey, undertaken by the
86 department on a biennial basis in accordance with federal law.

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

90 Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2007) For the fiscal year ending on June 30,
91 2008, the Commissioner of Social Services, shall increase the
92 reimbursement rate that the department pays to child care providers
93 who are not required to be licensed by an amount that is not less than
94 fifteen per cent of the rate paid to such providers on June 30, 2007.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	17b-749
Sec. 2	July 1, 2007	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide adequate reimbursement for child care services provided under the child care subsidy program.

[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.]