



House Bill No. 5824

Public Act No. 08-85

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

(5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, unless the context otherwise requires.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

(b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of the Department of Education school readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six thousand six hundred fifty dollars.

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(2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, the per child cost of the Department of Education school readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six thousand nine hundred twenty-five dollars, except that such per child cost shall be increased for the month of January, 2008, and each month thereafter. The increase shall be determined by the department so that the cost of the increase shall equal fifty per cent of what the department estimates on January 1, 2008, will be unspent by June 30, 2008, from the appropriation for purposes of subsection (c) of section 10-16p of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. In no event shall such increase cause the per child cost to exceed eight thousand two hundred sixty-six dollars.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, the Department of Education shall not provide funding to any school readiness provider that (A) on or before January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a town to provide school readiness services pursuant to this section and is not accredited on January 1, 2007, or (B) after January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a town to provide school readiness services pursuant to this section and does not become accredited by the date three years after the date on which the provider first entered into such a contract, except that the Commissioner of Education may grant an extension of time for a school readiness program to become accredited or reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such extension, the Department of Education conducts an on-site assessment of any such program and maintains a report of such assessment completed in a uniform manner, as prescribed by the commissioner, that includes a list of conditions such program must fulfill to become accredited or reaccredited, (ii) the program is licensed by the Department of Public Health, (iii) the program has a corrective action plan that shall be prescribed by and monitored by the Commissioner of Education, and (iv) the program meets such other conditions as may be prescribed by

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the commissioner. During the period of such extension, such program shall be eligible for funding pursuant to said section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

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

Approved May 27, 2008