



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 336

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5134

House of Representatives, April 1, 2008

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CABINET.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16s of the 2008 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

4 (a) The Commissioners of Education and Social Services shall
5 develop an agreement to define the duties and responsibilities of their
6 departments concerning school readiness programs. The
7 commissioners shall consult with other affected state agencies and
8 with the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The agreement shall
9 include, but not be limited to, a multiyear interagency agreement to
10 establish and implement an integrated school readiness plan.
11 Functions to be described and responsibilities to be undertaken by the
12 two departments shall be delineated in the agreement.

13 (b) (1) There shall be an Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The

14 cochairpersons of the cabinet shall be the Governor, or the Governor's
15 designee, and the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
16 designee. The cabinet shall consist of the Secretary of the Office of
17 Policy and Management or the secretary's designee, the Comptroller or
18 the Comptroller's designee, the Commissioners of Social Services,
19 Higher Education, Public Health, Children and Families, Mental
20 Health and Addiction Services and Developmental Services or the
21 commissioners' designees, the cochairpersons of each of the joint
22 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
23 matters relating to education and human services or the
24 cochairpersons' designees, the executive director of the Commission on
25 Children, or the director's designee, [and] the director of the Office of
26 Workforce Competitiveness, or the director's designee, the executive
27 director of the Children's Trust Fund, or the director's designee, the
28 Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee, the executive
29 director of the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority,
30 or the director's designee, one person representing a local or regional
31 school readiness council appointed by the president pro tempore of the
32 Senate, [and] a representative of the Connecticut Head Start
33 Association appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
34 two persons representing parent organizations, one each appointed by
35 the majority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a
36 representative of the Connecticut Academy of Pediatrics and a
37 representative of Torrington Child Care Collaborative, Inc., each
38 appointed by the Governor. The Department of Education shall
39 provide administrative services to the Early Childhood Education
40 Cabinet and the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy
41 Council established pursuant to Executive Order No. 13, issued by
42 Governor M. Jodi Rell, on February 7, 2006.

43 (2) Within available appropriations, the Early Childhood Education
44 Cabinet shall (A) advise the Commissioner of Education on policies
45 and initiatives to meet the goals established in section 10-16o, (B) no
46 later than July 1, 2008, begin a state-wide longitudinal evaluation of the
47 school readiness program, in consultation with the Department of
48 Social Services and the Department of Education, that examines the

49 educational progress of children from prekindergarten programs to
50 grade three, inclusive, (C) develop budget requests for the early
51 childhood program, and (D) promote consistency of quality and
52 comprehensiveness of early childhood services.

53 (c) On or before January 1, 2008, the commissioners shall adopt
54 assessment measures of school readiness programs for use by such
55 programs in conducting their annual evaluations pursuant to section
56 10-16q of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. The
57 commissioners may adopt the assessment measures used for Head
58 Start programs.

59 (d) (1) Not later than December 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
60 Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall develop and implement an
61 accountability plan for early child education services. The plan shall
62 identify and define appropriate population indicators and program
63 and system measures of the readiness of children to enter
64 kindergarten. Not later than December 31, 2008, and annually
65 thereafter, the cabinet shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
66 section 11-4a, on the measures implemented in accordance with this
67 subdivision to the Office of Policy and Management and to the joint
68 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
69 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
70 education, human services and higher education and employment
71 advancement.

72 (2) As part of the plan implemented pursuant to subdivision (1) of
73 this subsection, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet, in
74 consultation with the Department of Education and the Office of Policy
75 and Management, shall consider the development of data sharing
76 agreements between state agencies and shall analyze whether the data
77 can be combined to assess the progress of children toward school
78 readiness.

79 (3) Providers of early childhood education that receive state funding
80 shall employ the program measures developed pursuant to
81 subdivision (1) of this subsection to evaluate the effectiveness of their

82 services. Not later than June 30, 2009, and annually thereafter, each
83 such provider shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
84 11-4a, the results of such evaluation to the Early Childhood Education
85 Cabinet.

86 (e) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet established under this
87 section shall develop minimum standards and a range of higher
88 standards of quality for all early care and education programs
89 receiving state funding. Not later than December 31, 2008, and
90 annually thereafter, the cabinet shall report, in accordance with the
91 provisions of section 11-4a, on the plan developed in accordance with
92 this subsection to the joint standing committees of the General
93 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and
94 the budgets of state agencies, education, human services and higher
95 education and employment advancement.

96 (f) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet established under this
97 section shall, in consultation with the Office of Workforce
98 Competitiveness, develop a quality workforce development plan for
99 school readiness. Such plan shall explicitly address how to meet the
100 requirements of subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the 2008
101 supplement to the general statutes through a dual approach of: (1)
102 Supporting the workforce in obtaining required degrees and
103 credentials; and (2) encouraging students in institutions of higher
104 education to pursue degrees in early childhood education. Not later
105 than December 31, 2008, and annually thereafter, the cabinet shall
106 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the plan
107 developed in accordance with this subsection to the joint standing
108 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
109 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education,
110 human services and higher education and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2008	10-16s

KID *Joint Favorable C/R*

HS

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5134*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CABINET.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill adds 10 members to the 15-member Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The cabinet was established in 2005 to advise on school readiness issues, evaluate current school readiness programs, establish program standards, and develop a workforce development plan in consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. It must also develop and implement annual accountability plans for early child education services by December 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

CABINET MEMBERSHIP

The cabinet currently consists of the following state officials or their designees:

1. governor and education commissioner, who serve as co-chairpersons;
2. Office of Policy and Management secretary;
3. Children and Families, Developmental Services, Higher Education, Public Health, and Social Services commissioners;
4. Education and Human Services committee co-chairpersons; and
5. Commission on Children executive director.

A representative of a local or regional school readiness council and one from the Connecticut Head Start Association are also cabinet

members.

The bill adds the following officials or their designees:

1. comptroller and child advocate,
2. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner, and
3. Office of Workforce Competitiveness, Children’s Trust Fund, and Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority directors.

It also adds two representatives of parent organizations, one each appointed by the House and Senate majority leaders, and one representative of the Torrington Child Care Collaborative and the Connecticut Academy of Pediatrics, each appointed by the governor.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 9 Nay 0 (02/28/2008)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/13/2008)