



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

***Raised Bill No. 391***

LCO No. 1805

\*01805\_\_\_\_\_HS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES FOR THE  
UNEMPLOYED UNDER THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-749 of the 2010 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate  
5 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability  
6 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker  
7 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance  
8 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department  
9 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,  
10 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the  
11 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies  
12 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of  
13 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain  
14 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer  
15 such program within the existing budgetary resources available.

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

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

50 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)  
51 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended  
52 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process which assures  
53 that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal  
54 access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement  
55 scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process;  
56 (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged  
57 fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments;  
58 (9) an extended period of program and payment eligibility when a  
59 parent who is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary  
60 interruption in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a  
61 waiting list for the child care subsidy program that reflects the priority  
62 and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
63 which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this information  
64 in the annual report required to be issued annually by the Department  
65 of Social Services to the Governor and the General Assembly in  
66 accordance with subdivision (10) of section 17b-733. Such action will  
67 include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of  
68 state and length of time on such waiting list.

69 (d) The commissioner shall process and make a determination on a  
70 properly completed application for program benefits not later than  
71 thirty days after receipt of such application.

72 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) On or after January 1, 1998, a provider under the child care  
73 subsidy program that qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives  
74 payment for child care services for recipients under this section shall  
75 be reimbursed for such services until informed by the Department of  
76 Social Services of the parent's ineligibility.

77 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt  
78 from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services with the  
79 following information in order to maintain eligibility for  
80 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,  
81 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all

82 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;  
83 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider  
84 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized  
85 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic  
86 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC  
87 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

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

91 [(g)] (h) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing  
92 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
93 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state  
94 agencies a copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the  
95 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families  
96 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the  
97 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to  
98 the Administration for Children and Families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	17b-749

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Social Services to process all properly completed applications under the Care 4 Kids program within thirty days.

*[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.]*