



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 437

January Session, 2011

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1106

Senate, April 7, 2011

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) There is established the
2 Department of Early Education and Child Development. The
3 department head shall be the Commissioner of Early Education and
4 Child Development, who shall be appointed by the Governor in
5 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, of the
6 general statutes, as amended by this act, with the powers and duties as
7 prescribed in said section 4-8 of the general statutes.

8 (b) The Department of Early Education and Child Development is
9 the designated agency to administer and operate school readiness
10 programs, Head Start programs, the family resource center program,
11 established pursuant to section 10-4o of the general statutes, as
12 amended by this act, child care programs, facilities and licensing, the

13 birth-to-three program, established pursuant to section 17a-248 of the
14 general statutes, as amended by this act, professional development
15 activities relating to early childhood education and other relevant early
16 childhood programs and services.

17 (c) The Department of Early Education and Child Development
18 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 of the general
19 statutes to carry out the provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this
20 act.

21 (d) The commissioner may employ necessary staff, within available
22 appropriations. Such necessary staff of the Department of Early
23 Education and Child Development shall be in the classified state
24 service.

25 (e) The commissioner may enter into contracts for the furnishing by
26 any person or agency, public or private, of services necessary for the
27 proper execution of the duties of the department subject to the
28 approval of the Attorney General in accordance with law.

29 (f) Except as otherwise limited by the provisions of chapter 10 of the
30 general statutes, the commissioner may accept contributions, grants,
31 gifts, donations, services or other financial assistance from any
32 governmental unit, any public agency or the private sector. The
33 commissioner is authorized to apply for, receive and distribute any
34 federal or private funds or contributions available for training and
35 education of personnel.

36 (g) The commissioner may perform any other acts that may be
37 necessary and appropriate to carry out the functions of the department
38 as set forth in sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act and chapters 8, 10,
39 10a, 12, 17a, 17b and 19a of the general statutes.

40 (h) The commissioner shall submit to the Governor and the General
41 Assembly an annual report relating to the activities, recommendations
42 and accomplishments of the department, in accordance with the
43 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

44 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Department of Early
45 Education and Child Development shall (1) create a unified set of
46 reporting requirements for the programs described in subsection (b) of
47 section 1 of this act, for the purpose of collecting the data elements
48 necessary to perform quality assessments and longitudinal analysis; (2)
49 compare and analyze the data collected pursuant to subdivision (1) of
50 this subsection with the data collected in the state-wide public school
51 information system, pursuant to section 10-10a of the general statutes,
52 for population-level analysis of children and families; (3) develop and
53 update appropriate early learning standards and assessment tools for
54 children age birth to five years, inclusive, that are age and
55 developmentally appropriate and that are aligned with existing
56 learning standards as of July 1, 2014, and assessment tools for students
57 in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive; (4) continually monitor
58 and evaluate all early childhood education and child care programs
59 and services, focusing on program outcomes in satisfying the health,
60 safety, developmental and educational needs of all children; (5)
61 develop indicators that assess strategies designed to strengthen the
62 family through parental involvement in a child's development and
63 education, including children with special needs; (6) increase the
64 availability of early childhood education and child care programs and
65 services and encourage the providers of such programs and services to
66 work together to create multiple options that allow families to
67 participate in programs that serve the particular needs of each family;
68 (7) provide information and technical assistance to persons seeking
69 early childhood education and child care programs and services; (8)
70 assist state agencies and municipalities in obtaining available federal
71 funding for early childhood education and child care programs and
72 services; (9) provide technical assistance and consultation to licensed
73 providers of early childhood education and child care programs and
74 services and assist any potential provider of such programs and
75 services in obtaining the necessary licensure and certification; (10)
76 create, implement and maintain a quality rating and improvement
77 system that covers home-based, center-based and school-based early
78 child care and learning; (11) maintain a system of accreditation

79 facilitation to assist early childhood education and child care programs
80 and services in achieving national standards and program
81 improvement; (12) assist in the expansion of municipal and regional
82 capacity to develop and implement the early education and child
83 development system, as described in section 3 of this act; (13) create
84 partnerships between state agencies and philanthropic organizations
85 to assist in the implementation of the early education and child
86 development system; (14) facilitate the establishment and maintenance
87 of local and regional early childhood councils, as described in section 3
88 of this act; (15) align the department's policy and program goals with
89 those of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet, pursuant to section
90 10-16z of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the Head
91 Start advisory committee, pursuant to section 10-16n of the general
92 statutes, as amended by this act; (16) ensure a coordinated and
93 comprehensive state-wide system of professional development for
94 providers of early childhood education and child care programs and
95 services; and (17) provide funds for the development and
96 administration of comprehensive early childhood councils, as
97 described in section 3 of this act, including creating incentives for
98 regional and intermunicipal approaches.

99 (b) The Department of Early Education and Child Development
100 shall, in consultation with the Departments of Social Services, Public
101 Health, Education, Children and Families, Developmental Services and
102 Higher Education, coordinate the provision of early childhood
103 education and child care programs and services, including, but not
104 limited to, home visitation services, nutrition and food services, early
105 screening and intervention services, family support, literacy and
106 engagement services, early language development services and any
107 other services necessary to promote the health and well-being of the
108 mother, father and child age birth to eight years.

109 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Department of Early
110 Education and Child Development shall establish an early education
111 and child development system to improve child health, safety and
112 learning. The department shall consolidate existing early childhood

113 education and child care programs and services serving children ages
114 birth to eight, inclusive, into a coordinated system that attempts to (1)
115 increase oral language development, (2) reduce the academic
116 achievement gap, (3) increase participation in school readiness
117 programs, (4) decrease special education placements, and (5) increase
118 parent engagement, family literacy and parenting skills.

119 (b) The early education and child development system shall (1)
120 develop family-centered services that assist families in their
121 communities; (2) utilize asset-based and strength-based approaches;
122 (3) provide families with opportunities for choice in services including
123 quality child care; (4) integrate early childhood education and special
124 education services; (5) ensure that services and systems are culturally
125 relevant to those families receiving such services from such systems;
126 (6) emphasize targeted research-based interventions; (7) organize
127 services into a coherent system; (8) establish a comprehensive and
128 accessible delivery system for early childhood education and child care
129 services; (9) focus on performance measures to ensure that services are
130 accountable, effective and accessible to the consumer; (10) pursue
131 funding from private donors and organizations; (11) promote
132 universal access to school readiness programs; (12) ensure
133 nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation; (13) encourage and
134 promote the establishment of local and regional early childhood
135 councils, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this
136 section, that implement local and regional birth-to-eight systems; and
137 (14) any other activities that will assist in the provision of early
138 childhood education and child care programs and services.

139 (c) The department, through the early education and child
140 development system, shall assist municipalities in establishing local
141 and regional early childhood councils. Such early childhood councils
142 shall (1) develop and coordinate a comprehensive plan for an early
143 childhood system for their community, and (2) utilize local, state and
144 private resources to implement the comprehensive plan. Such early
145 childhood councils may perform or supersede the functions of school
146 readiness councils, as described in section 10-16r of the general

147 statutes, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, (A)
148 policy and program planning; (B) systems development; (C)
149 encouragement of community participation, emphasizing substantial
150 parental involvement; (D) data collection, analysis and evaluation with
151 a focus on program and service outcomes; and (E) the allocation of
152 resources.

153 (d) For purposes of this section, the department may seek funding
154 from private and philanthropic organizations and may enter into
155 agreements with such private and philanthropic organizations to assist
156 in the planning and implementation of the early education and child
157 development system.

158 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Department of Early
159 Education and Child Development may enter into agreements with
160 other state agencies for the purpose of coordinating early childhood
161 education and child care programs and services. Such agreements may
162 (1) identify opportunities to align such programs and services to meet
163 the needs of children and families; (2) implement an accountability
164 framework to measure program and services outcomes; (3) identify
165 common requirements for funding from various sources and any
166 waiver provisions related to such requirements that can be
167 accommodated by the agreement; (4) identify barriers under state or
168 federal law to the effective utilization of interagency agreements; (5)
169 work with qualified local and regional planning groups to determine
170 the most effective means of structuring agreement requirements; and
171 (6) focus agreements to areas including, but not limited to, maternal
172 and child health, literacy, family support and early childhood
173 education and child care.

174 (b) The department shall include in all contracts with providers of
175 early childhood education and child care program and services a
176 provision requiring such providers to participate in any existing
177 interagency agreement developed pursuant to this section.

178 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) On or before February 1, 2015,
179 and annually thereafter, the Department of Early Education and Child

180 Development shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
181 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
182 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
183 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education, higher
184 education and employment advancement, human services and public
185 health on the progress made toward achieving the objectives of the
186 early education and child development system, established pursuant
187 to section 3 of this act, for children ages birth to eight years, inclusive,
188 and the implementation of interagency agreements, as described in
189 section 4 of this act, with particular attention to child outcomes and a
190 continuum of quality services.

191 Sec. 6. Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
192 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

193 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
194 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
195 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Revenue
196 Services, Banking Commissioner, Commissioner of Children and
197 Families, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, Commissioner of
198 Correction, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
199 Commissioner of Early Education and Child Development, State Board
200 of Education, Commissioner of Emergency Management and
201 Homeland Security, Commissioner of Environmental Protection,
202 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,
203 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Liquor Control
204 Commission, Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
205 Commissioner of Public Safety, Commissioner of Social Services,
206 Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of Motor
207 Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of Public
208 Works, Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, Chief Information Officer,
209 the chairperson of the Public Utilities Control Authority, the executive
210 director of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the
211 executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and
212 Tourism, and the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs. As
213 used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means the

214 Commissioner of Education.

215 Sec. 7. Section 4-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the
216 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

217 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the
218 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department
219 of Administrative Services, Department of Revenue Services,
220 Department of Banking, Department of Agriculture, Department of
221 Children and Families, Department of Consumer Protection,
222 Department of Correction, Department of Economic and Community
223 Development, Department of Early Education and Child
224 Development, State Board of Education, Department of Emergency
225 Management and Homeland Security, Department of Environmental
226 Protection, Department of Public Health, Board of Governors of
227 Higher Education, Insurance Department, Labor Department,
228 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of
229 Developmental Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of
230 Social Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Motor
231 Vehicles, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Public
232 Works and Department of Public Utility Control.

233 Sec. 8. Section 10-160 of the general statutes is repealed and the
234 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

235 The [state] Department of Early Education and Child Development
236 shall encourage the development of a network of school readiness
237 programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended
238 by this act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, and 17b-749a, as amended
239 by this act, in order to:

240 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that
241 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal
242 schooling;

243 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable
244 and accredited programs;

245 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and
246 prevent the duplication of services;

247 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources
248 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the
249 implementation of programs;

250 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in
251 children prior to their reaching the age of five;

252 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

253 (7) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental
254 involvement in a child's development and education; and (B)
255 enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the
256 children, including children with disabilities;

257 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special
258 education services for school age children and to avoid grade
259 repetition;

260 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into
261 programs available to children who are not disabled; and

262 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness
263 programs and their coordination with the services of child care
264 providers.

265 Sec. 9. Section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the
266 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

267 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16s, inclusive, as amended by
268 this act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this
269 act, and 17b-749c, as amended by this act:

270 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
271 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
272 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, as amended
273 by this act, and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning

274 experience of not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred
275 eighty days for eligible children, except as provided in subsection (d)
276 of section 10-16q, as amended by this act;

277 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age
278 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
279 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
280 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

281 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
282 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
283 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
284 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
285 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
286 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
287 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a
288 grant pursuant to section 10-16u, as amended by this act;

289 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
290 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
291 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to
292 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

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

299 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in
300 subsection (d) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act;

301 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Education] Early
302 Education and Child Development; and

303 (8) "Department" means the Department of [Education] Early
304 Education and Child Development.

305 (b) The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
306 Development shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For
307 purposes of this section and section 10-16u, as amended by this act,
308 school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the
309 Department of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
310 shall include local and regional boards of education, regional
311 educational service centers, family resource centers and providers of
312 child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head Start
313 programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet such
314 standards established by the Commissioner of [Education] Early
315 Education and Child Development. The department shall establish
316 standards for school readiness programs. The standards may include,
317 but need not be limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions,
318 curriculum content, including preliteracy development, lesson plans,
319 parent involvement, staff qualifications and training, transition to
320 school and administration. The department shall develop age-
321 appropriate developmental skills and goals for children attending such
322 programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the
323 [Commissioners] Commissioner of Higher Education [and Social
324 Services] and other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing
325 education training program for the staff of school readiness programs.
326 For purposes of this section, prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications"
327 means there is in each classroom an individual who has at least the
328 following: (1) A credential issued by an organization approved by the
329 Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
330 and nine credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits
331 or more, in early childhood education or child development from an
332 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of
333 Higher Education or regionally accredited; (2) an associate's degree
334 with nine credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits
335 or more, in early childhood education or child development from such
336 an institution; (3) a four-year degree with nine credits or more, and on
337 and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood
338 education or child development from such an institution; or (4)
339 certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early

340 childhood education or special education, and on and after July 1,
341 2015, "staff qualifications" means there is in each classroom an
342 individual who has at least the following: (A) A bachelor's degree in
343 early childhood education or childhood development, or in a related
344 field approved by the Commissioner of [Education] Early Education
345 and Child Development from an institution of higher education
346 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or
347 regionally accredited; or (B) certification pursuant to section 10-145b
348 with an endorsement in early childhood education or special
349 education.

350 (c) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
351 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
352 Development shall establish a grant program to provide spaces in
353 accredited school readiness programs for eligible children who reside
354 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p or in former
355 priority school districts as provided in this subsection. Under the
356 program, the grant shall be provided, in accordance with this section,
357 to the town in which such priority school district or former priority
358 school district is located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year
359 period based on an applicant's designation as a priority school district
360 for the initial year of application, except that if a school district that
361 receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as
362 a priority school district at the end of such five-year period, such
363 former priority school district shall continue to be eligible to receive a
364 grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards shall be made
365 annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual
366 evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
367 superintendent of schools for such priority school district or former
368 priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant
369 funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to the
370 [Departments of Education and Social Services] Department of Early
371 Education and Child Development. The [departments] department
372 shall [jointly] review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
373 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
374 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness

375 council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as amended by this act;
376 (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide for the
377 issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited school
378 readiness programs, provided, after the initial requests for proposals,
379 facilities that have been approved to operate a child care program
380 financed through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities
381 Authority and have received a commitment for debt service from the
382 Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
383 Development pursuant to section 17b-749i, as amended by this act, are
384 exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests for
385 proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
386 17b-749a, as amended by this act, in order to extend the hours and
387 days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide
388 child day care services for children attending such programs.

389 (d) (1) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
390 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
391 Development shall establish a competitive grant program to provide
392 spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible children
393 who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school or a former
394 priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, (B)
395 in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending
396 order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of
397 section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district
398 pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a town formerly a town
399 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in
400 said subdivision (2). A town in which a priority school is located, a
401 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
402 10-16r, as amended by this act, for a region in which such a school is
403 located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision
404 may apply for such a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred
405 seven thousand dollars per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be
406 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
407 as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph
408 (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards
409 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a

410 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
411 and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional
412 school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection
413 (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the
414 Department of [Education] Early Education and Child Development.
415 In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall
416 give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness
417 councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant in
418 excess of one hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or
419 more priority schools in such district. A town or regional school
420 readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use
421 the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of
422 accredited school readiness programs.

423 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
424 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town
425 received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is
426 no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a
427 phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
428 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
429 this subsection.

430 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
431 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
432 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
433 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
434 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
435 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
436 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
437 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
438 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
439 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
440 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following
441 the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
442 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
443 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the

444 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
445 this subsection.

446 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
447 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph
448 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June
449 30, 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if
450 the town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
451 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

452 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
453 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
454 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
455 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
456 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
457 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
458 section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except that such per child cost
459 shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round, and (B)
460 multiplying the number of additional or decreased slots the districts
461 have requested for the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid by
462 the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said
463 section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except such per child cost shall
464 be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If said sum exceeds
465 the available appropriation, such number of requested additional slots
466 shall be reduced, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, to
467 stay within the available appropriation.

468 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
469 this section are not expended, the Commissioner of [Education] Early
470 Education and Child Development may deposit such unexpended
471 funds in the account established under section 10-16aa and use such
472 unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of said section
473 10-16aa.

474 (B) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
475 section are not expended pursuant to said subsection (c) or deposited
476 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the Commissioner of

477 [Education] Early Education and Child Development may use such
478 unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs. The
479 commissioner may use such funds for purposes including, but not
480 limited to, (i) assisting local school readiness programs in meeting and
481 maintaining accreditation requirements, (ii) providing training in
482 implementing the preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks,
483 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (iii) developing a
484 state-wide preschool curriculum, (iv) developing student assessments
485 for students in grades kindergarten to two, inclusive, (v) developing
486 and implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool
487 and kindergarten student learning, (vi) developing and implementing
488 strategies for children to transition from preschool to kindergarten,
489 (vii) providing for professional development, including assisting in
490 career ladder advancement, for school readiness staff, and (viii)
491 providing supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for
492 grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

493 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal
494 years ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, 2011, inclusive, the Department
495 of [Education] Early Education and Child Development may retain up
496 to one hundred ninety-eight thousand two hundred dollars of the
497 amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination,
498 program evaluation and administration.

499 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
500 this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, shall not
501 discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion
502 or disability. For purposes of this section, a nonsectarian program
503 means any public or private school readiness program that is not
504 violative of the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the State of
505 Connecticut or the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the
506 United States of America.

507 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
508 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
509 16u, as amended by this act, shall be used to supplant federal, state or

510 local funding received by such town for early childhood education,
511 provided a town may use an amount determined in accordance with
512 this subsection for coordination, program evaluation and
513 administration. Such amount shall be at least twenty-five thousand
514 dollars but not more than seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be
515 determined by the Department of [Education, in consultation with the
516 Department of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
517 Development based on the school readiness grant award allocated to
518 the town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
519 16u, as amended by this act, and the number of operating sites for
520 coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount
521 shall be increased by an amount equal to local funding provided for
522 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and
523 administration, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Each town
524 that receives a grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-
525 16u, as amended by this act, shall designate a person to be responsible
526 for such coordination, program evaluation and administration and to
527 act as a liaison between the town and the [Departments of Education
528 and Social Services] Department of Early Education and Child
529 Development. Each school readiness program that receives funds
530 pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, shall
531 provide information to the department or the school readiness council,
532 as requested, that is necessary for purposes of any school readiness
533 program evaluation.

534 (h) For the first three years a town receives grants pursuant to this
535 section, such grants may be used, with the approval of the
536 commissioner, to prepare a facility or staff for operating a school
537 readiness program and shall be adjusted based on the number of days
538 of operation of a school readiness program if a shorter term of
539 operation is approved by the commissioner.

540 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
541 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
542 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
543 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who

544 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
545 readiness program located outside such region.

546 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
547 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for
548 purposes of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the
549 determination of average daily membership pursuant to subdivision
550 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-261.

551 (k) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
552 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
553 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
554 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

555 Sec. 10. Section 10-16q of the general statutes is repealed and the
556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

557 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
558 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
559 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
560 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
561 children of working parents and parents in education or training
562 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
563 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
564 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
565 insurance company and information on whether the child is
566 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
567 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
568 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
569 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
570 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
571 training in such practices; (5) nutrition services; (6) referrals to family
572 literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide
573 for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
574 (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of children from
575 different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other
576 communities; (8) a plan of transition for participating children from the

577 school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer
578 of records from the program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan
579 for professional development for staff, including, but not limited to,
580 training (A) in preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to
581 assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for
582 families participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d, as
583 amended by this act; and (11) an annual evaluation of the effectiveness
584 of the program. On and after July 1, 2000, school readiness programs
585 shall use the assessment measures developed pursuant to section 10-
586 16s, as amended by this act, in conducting their annual evaluations.

587 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of
588 the Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
589 Development school readiness component of the program offered by a
590 school readiness provider shall not exceed six thousand six hundred
591 fifty dollars.

592 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
593 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of [Education] Early
594 Education and Child Development school readiness program offered
595 by a school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand three
596 hundred forty-six dollars.

597 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-
598 16p, as amended by this act, the Department of [Education] Early
599 Education and Child Development shall not provide funding to any
600 school readiness provider that (A) on or before January 1, 2004, first
601 entered into a contract with a town to provide school readiness
602 services pursuant to this section and is not accredited on January 1,
603 2007, or (B) after January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a
604 town to provide school readiness services pursuant to this section and
605 does not become accredited by the date three years after the date on
606 which the provider first entered into such a contract, except that the
607 Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
608 may grant an extension of time for a school readiness program to
609 become accredited or reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such

610 extension, the Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
611 Development conducts an on-site assessment of any such program and
612 maintains a report of such assessment completed in a uniform manner,
613 as prescribed by the commissioner, that includes a list of conditions
614 such program must fulfill to become accredited or reaccredited, (ii) the
615 program is licensed by the Department of Public Health if required to
616 be licensed by chapter 368a, (iii) the program has a corrective action
617 plan that shall be prescribed by and monitored by the Commissioner
618 of [Education] Early Education and Child Development, and (iv) the
619 program meets such other conditions as may be prescribed by the
620 commissioner. During the period of such extension, such program
621 shall be eligible for funding pursuant to said section 10-16p, as
622 amended by this act.

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

626 (c) A local or regional board of education may implement a sliding
627 fee scale for the cost of services provided to children enrolled in a
628 school readiness program.

629 (d) A town or school readiness council may file a waiver application
630 to the Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
631 Development on forms provided by the department for the purpose of
632 seeking approval of a school readiness schedule that varies from the
633 minimum hours and number of days provided for in subdivision (1) of
634 subsection (a) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or from the
635 definition of a year-round program pursuant to subdivision (7) of said
636 subsection (a). The [Department of Education] department may [, in
637 consultation with the Department of Social Services,] approve any
638 such waiver if the departments find that the proposed schedule meets
639 the purposes set forth in the provisions of section 10-16o, as amended
640 by this act, concerning the development of school readiness programs
641 and maximizes available dollars to serve more children or address
642 community needs.

643 Sec. 11. Section 10-16r of the general statutes is repealed and the
644 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

645 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
646 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u, as amended
647 by this act, shall convene a local school readiness council or shall
648 establish a regional school readiness council pursuant to subsection (c)
649 of this section. Any other town may convene such a council. The chief
650 elected official of the town or, in the case of a regional school district,
651 the chief elected officials of the towns in the school district and the
652 superintendent of schools for the school district shall jointly appoint
653 and convene such council. Each school readiness council shall be
654 composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or the official's designee; (2)
655 the superintendent of schools, or a management level staff person as
656 the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4) representatives from
657 local programs such as Head Start, family resource centers, nonprofit
658 and for-profit child day care centers, group day care homes,
659 prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day care home
660 providers; (5) a representative from a health care provider in the
661 community; and (6) other representatives from the community who
662 provide services to children. The chief elected official shall designate
663 the chairperson of the school readiness council.

664 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
665 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
666 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
667 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
668 act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this act,
669 and 17b-749c, as amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among
670 providers of school readiness programs; (3) assist in the identification
671 of (A) the need for school readiness programs and the number of
672 children not being served by such a program, and (B) for priority
673 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, the number of children not
674 being served by such a program and the estimated operating cost of
675 providing universal school readiness to eligible children in such
676 districts who are not being served; (4) submit biannual reports to the

677 Department of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
678 on the number and location of school readiness spaces, estimates of
679 future needs, and the factors identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of
680 this subsection; (5) cooperate with the department in any program
681 evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures developed
682 pursuant to section 10-16s, as amended by this act, for purposes of
683 evaluating the effectiveness of school readiness programs; (6) identify
684 existing and prospective resources and services available to children
685 and families; (7) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to
686 children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before
687 and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
688 programs; (8) exchange information with other councils, the
689 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
690 families; (9) make recommendations to school officials concerning
691 transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and (10)
692 encourage public participation.

693 (c) Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate
694 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood
695 education in a region may establish a regional school readiness
696 council. If a priority school is located in at least one of such school
697 districts, the regional school readiness council may apply for a grant
698 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act.
699 The regional school readiness council may perform the duties outlined
700 in subdivisions (2) to (10), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section.

701 Sec. 12. Section 10-16s of the general statutes is repealed and the
702 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

703 [(a)] The [Commissioners of Education and Social Services]
704 Commissioner of Early Education and Child Development shall
705 develop [an agreement] a plan to define the duties and responsibilities
706 of [their departments] the department concerning school readiness
707 programs. The [commissioners] commissioner shall consult with other
708 affected state agencies. The agreement shall include, but not be limited
709 to, a multiyear interagency agreement to establish and implement an

710 integrated school readiness plan. [Functions to be described and
711 responsibilities to be undertaken by the two departments shall be
712 delineated in the agreement.] On or before January 1, 2010, and
713 annually thereafter, the [Commissioners of Education and Social
714 Services] commissioner shall submit such agreement, in accordance
715 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Early Childhood Education
716 Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z, as amended by this
717 act, and to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
718 having cognizance of matters relating to education and human
719 services.

720 [(b) On or before January 1, 2008, the commissioners shall adopt
721 assessment measures of school readiness programs for use by such
722 programs in conducting their annual evaluations pursuant to section
723 10-16q. The commissioners may adopt the assessment measures used
724 for Head Start programs.]

725 Sec. 13. Section 10-16u of the general statutes is repealed and the
726 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

727 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2002] 2012, and each fiscal year
728 thereafter, the Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
729 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
730 Development shall provide grants, within available appropriations, to
731 eligible school readiness program providers pursuant to subsection (b)
732 of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, to provide spaces in
733 accredited school readiness programs for eligible children who reside
734 in transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c, except for
735 transitional school districts eligible for grants pursuant to subsection
736 (c) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act. Under the program, the
737 grant shall be provided to the town in which such transitional school
738 district is located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period
739 based on a school district's designation as a transitional school district
740 in the initial year of application, except that grants pursuant to this
741 section shall not be provided for transitional school districts eligible for
742 grants pursuant to subsection (c) of [said] section 10-16p, as amended

743 by this act. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
744 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
745 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
746 transitional school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of
747 grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to
748 the [Departments of Education and Social Services] Department of
749 Early Education and Child Development. The [departments shall
750 jointly] department shall review such plans and [shall each] may
751 approve [the portion of] such plan [within its jurisdiction] for funding.
752 The plan shall meet the requirements specified in subsection (c) of
753 [said] section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

754 Sec. 14. Section 17b-749a of the general statutes is repealed and the
755 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

756 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services, in consultation with the
757 Commissioner of Education,] Early Education and Child Development
758 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to (1)
759 purchase directly or provide subsidies to parents to purchase child day
760 care services provided by any elementary or secondary school, nursery
761 school, preschool, day care center, group day care home, family day
762 care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or
763 regional board of education, provided, if the commissioner purchases
764 such services directly, [he] the commissioner shall give preference to
765 purchasing from providers of full-day and year-round programs; and
766 (2) award grants to providers of school readiness programs, as defined
767 in section 10-16p, as amended by this act, to increase the hours of
768 operation of their programs in order to provide child care for children
769 attending such programs. The commissioner, for purposes of
770 subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall model the program on the
771 program established pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this
772 act.

773 (b) No funds received by a provider pursuant to this section shall be
774 used to supplant federal funding received for early childhood
775 education on behalf of children in an early childhood education

776 program.

777 (c) The [Commissioners of Social Services and Education]
778 Commissioner of Early Education and Child Development shall: (1)
779 Coordinate the development of a range of alternative programs to
780 meet the needs of all children; (2) foster partnerships between school
781 districts and private organizations; (3) provide information and
782 assistance to parents in selecting an appropriate school readiness
783 program; and (4) work to ensure, to the extent possible, that school
784 readiness programs allow open enrollment for all children and allow
785 families receiving benefits for such a program to choose a public or
786 accredited private program.

787 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is
788 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
789 *1, 2014*):

790 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services, in consultation with the
791 Commissioner of Education,] Early Education and Child Development
792 shall establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide,
793 on a competitive basis, supplemental quality enhancement grants to
794 providers of child day care services or providers of school readiness
795 programs pursuant to section 10-16p, as amended by this act, and
796 section 10-16u, as amended by this act. Child day care providers and
797 school readiness programs may apply for a supplemental quality
798 enhancement grant at such time and on such form as the
799 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
800 Development prescribes.

801 Sec. 16. Section 17b-749f of the general statutes is repealed and the
802 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

803 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services, in consultation with the
804 Commissioner of Education,] Early Education and Child Development
805 shall develop and implement a performance-based evaluation system
806 to evaluate licensed child day care centers, within available
807 appropriations. Such a performance-based evaluation system shall be

808 similar to the Head Start Performance Standards in 45 CFR 1304.

809 (b) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
810 Child Development shall conduct, within available appropriations, a
811 longitudinal study that examines the developmental progress of
812 children and their families both during and following participation in
813 a child day care program.

814 (c) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
815 Development shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with
816 section 11-4a, on or before January 1, [1998] 2012, on the
817 implementation of the performance-based evaluation system and on
818 the longitudinal study, and annually thereafter on the cumulative
819 results of the evaluations.

820 Sec. 17. Section 17b-749g of the general statutes is repealed and the
821 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

822 (a) There is established a child care facilities loan guarantee
823 program for the purpose of guaranteeing loans for the expansion or
824 development of child care and child development centers in the state.
825 The program shall contain any moneys required by law to be
826 deposited in the program, including, but not limited to, any moneys
827 appropriated by the state, premiums and fees for guaranteeing loans,
828 and proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease or rental of collateral
829 relating to loan guarantees. Any balance remaining in the program at
830 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the program for
831 the fiscal year next succeeding. The program shall be used to guarantee
832 loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and to pay reasonable
833 and necessary expenses incurred for administration under this section.
834 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
835 Development may enter into a contract with a quasi-public agency,
836 banking institution or nonprofit corporation to provide for the
837 administration of the program, provided no loan guarantee shall be
838 made from the program without the authorization of the commissioner
839 as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The total aggregate
840 amount of guarantees from the program, with respect to the insured

841 portions of the loan, may not exceed at any one time an amount equal
842 to three times the balance in the guarantee program.

843 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
844 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may
845 guarantee the repayment of loans, including, but not limited to,
846 principal and interest, to a lending institution that has provided
847 funding for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or
848 improvement of child care and child development facilities. The total
849 aggregate of any loan guarantee under this section shall be not less
850 than twenty per cent and shall not exceed fifty per cent of the principal
851 amount of the obligation, as determined by approved underwriting
852 standards approved by the commissioner, and upon such terms and
853 conditions as the commissioner may prescribe. The term of any loan
854 guarantee shall be determined by the useful life of the improvement
855 but in no event shall exceed thirty years. The commissioner shall
856 arrange by contract with each lending institution or the borrower to
857 safeguard the interests of the program in the event of a default by the
858 borrower, including, at the discretion of the commissioner, provision
859 for notice to the program of default by the borrower, for foreclosure or
860 other realization upon any security for the loan, for the time and
861 conditions for payment to the lending institution by the program of the
862 amount of any loss to the lending institution guaranteed by the
863 program and for the disposition of the proceeds realized from any
864 security for the loan guaranteed. When it appears desirable for a
865 temporary period upon default or threatened default by the borrower,
866 the commissioner may authorize payments of installments of principal
867 or interest, or both, from the program to the lending institution, and of
868 taxes and insurance, which payments shall be repaid under such
869 conditions as the program may prescribe and the program may also
870 agree to revise terms of financing when such appears pertinent. Upon
871 request of the lending institution, the commissioner may at any time,
872 under such equitable terms and conditions as it may prescribe, consent
873 to the release of the borrower from his liability under the loan or
874 consent to the release of parts of any secured property from the lien of
875 the lending institution.

876 (c) Priority for loan guarantees shall be given to financing child care
877 centers and child development centers that (1) have obtained
878 accreditation from the National Association for the Education of
879 Young Children or have an application pending for such accreditation,
880 [and] (2) are included in a local school readiness plan, and (3) shall
881 promote the colocation of programs endorsed by the [Commissioners
882 of Education and Social Services] Commissioner of Early Education
883 and Child Development pursuant to section 4b-31. School readiness
884 programs, licensed child care providers or nonprofit developers of a
885 child care center operating under a legally enforceable agreement with
886 child care providers are eligible for such guaranteed loans.

887 (d) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
888 Child Development may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
889 provisions of chapter 54, to establish procedures and qualifications for
890 application for guarantees under this section.

891 Sec. 18. Section 10-4o of the general statutes is repealed and the
892 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

893 (a) The Department of [Education, in conjunction with the
894 Department of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
895 Development shall coordinate a family resource center program to
896 provide comprehensive child care services, remedial educational and
897 literacy services, families-in-training programs and supportive services
898 to parents who are recipients of temporary family assistance and other
899 parents in need of such services. The family resource centers shall be
900 located in or associated with public schools, and any family resource
901 center established on or after July 1, 2000, shall be located in a public
902 elementary school unless the Commissioner of [Education] Early
903 Education and Child Development waives such requirement. The
904 commissioner shall determine the manner in which the grant
905 recipients of such program, such as municipalities, boards of education
906 and child care providers shall be selected. The family resource center
907 shall provide: (1) Quality full-day child care and school readiness
908 programs for children age three and older who are not enrolled in

909 school and child care for children enrolled in school up to the age of
910 twelve for before and after regular school hours and on a full-day basis
911 during school holidays and school vacation, in compliance with all
912 state statutes and regulations governing child day care and, in the case
913 of the school readiness programs, in compliance with the standards set
914 for such programs pursuant to section 10-16p, as amended by this act;
915 (2) support services to parents of newborn infants to ascertain their
916 needs and provide them with referrals to other services and
917 organizations and, if necessary, education in parenting skills; (3)
918 support and educational services to parents whose children are
919 participants of the child care services of the program and who are
920 interested in obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent. Parents
921 and their preschool age children may attend classes in parenting and
922 child learning skills together so as to promote the mutual pursuit of
923 education and enhance parent-child interaction; (4) training, technical
924 assistance and other support by the staff of the center to family day
925 care providers in the community and serve as an information and
926 referral system for other child care needs in the community or
927 coordinate with such systems as may already exist in the community;
928 (5) a families-in-training program to provide, within available
929 appropriations, community support services to expectant parents and
930 parents of children under the age of three. Such services shall include,
931 but not be limited to, providing information and advice to parents on
932 their children's language, cognitive, social and motor development,
933 visiting a participant's home on a regular basis, organizing group
934 meetings at the center for neighborhood parents of young children and
935 providing a reference center for parents who need special assistance or
936 services. The program shall provide for the recruitment of parents to
937 participate in such program; and (6) a sliding scale of payment [, as
938 developed in consultation with the Department of Social Services,] for
939 child care services at the center. The center shall also provide a teen
940 pregnancy prevention program for adolescents emphasizing
941 responsible decision-making and communication skills.

942 (b) The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
943 Development, in consultation with representatives from family

944 resource centers, within available appropriations, shall develop
945 guidelines for family resource center programs. The guidelines shall
946 include standards for program quality and design and identify short
947 and long-term outcomes for families participating in such programs.
948 The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
949 Development, within available appropriations, shall provide a copy of
950 such guidelines to each family resource center. Each family resource
951 center shall use the guidelines to develop a program improvement
952 plan for the next twelve-month period and shall submit the plan to the
953 department. The plan shall include goals to be used for measuring
954 such improvement. The department shall use the plan to monitor the
955 progress of the center. Family resource centers in existence on July 1,
956 1997, shall be given a preference for grants for school readiness
957 awarded by the Department of [Education or the Department of Social
958 Services] Early Education and Child Development and for financing
959 pursuant to sections 10a-194c, 17b-749g, as amended by this act, and
960 17b-749h, as amended by this act.

961 (c) The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
962 Development, within available appropriations, shall provide for a
963 longitudinal study of family resource centers every three years.

964 (d) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
965 Development may provide grants to municipalities, boards of
966 education and child care providers to carry out the purposes of
967 subsection (a) of this section. Each family resource center shall have a
968 program administrator who has at least two years of experience in
969 child care, public administration or early childhood education and a
970 master's degree in child development, early childhood education or a
971 related field.

972 (e) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
973 Development may accept and receive on behalf of the department or
974 any family resource center, subject to section 4b-22, any bequest,
975 devise or grant made to the department or any family resource center
976 for the purpose of establishing a new family resource center or

977 expanding an existing center, and may hold and use such property for
978 the purpose specified in such bequest, devise or gift.

979 Sec. 19. Section 17b-733 of the general statutes is repealed and the
980 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

981 The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
982 Development shall be the lead agency for child day care services in
983 Connecticut. The department shall: (1) Identify, annually, existing
984 child day care services and maintain an inventory of all available
985 services; (2) provide technical assistance to corporations and private
986 agencies in the development and expansion of child day care services
987 for families at all income levels, including families of their employees
988 and clients; (3) study and identify funding sources available for child
989 day care including federal funds and tax benefits; (4) study the cost
990 and availability of liability insurance for child day care providers; (5)
991 provide, in conjunction with the [Departments] Department of
992 [Education and] Higher Education, ongoing training for child day care
993 providers including preparing videotaped workshops and distributing
994 them to cable stations for broadcast on public access stations, and seek
995 private donations to fund such training; (6) encourage child day care
996 services to obtain accreditation; (7) develop a range of financing
997 options for child care services, including the use of a tax-exempt bond
998 program, a loan guarantee program and establishing a direct revolving
999 loan program; (8) promote the colocation of child day care and school
1000 readiness programs pursuant to section 4b-31; (9) establish a
1001 performance-based evaluation system; (10) develop for
1002 recommendation to the Governor and the General Assembly measures
1003 to provide incentives for the private sector to develop and support
1004 expanded child day care services; (11) provide, within available funds
1005 and in conjunction with the temporary family assistance program as
1006 defined in section 17b-680, child day care to public assistance
1007 recipients; (12) develop and implement, with the assistance of the
1008 Child Day Care Council and the Departments of [Public Health, Social
1009 Services, Education,] Higher Education, Children and Families,
1010 Economic and Community Development and Consumer Protection, a

1011 state-wide coordinated child day care and early childhood education
1012 training system (A) for child day care centers, group day care homes
1013 and family day care homes that provide child day care services, and
1014 (B) that makes available to such providers and their staff, within
1015 available appropriations, scholarship assistance, career counseling and
1016 training, advancement in career ladders, as defined in section 4-124bb,
1017 through seamless articulation of levels of training, program
1018 accreditation support and other initiatives recommended by the
1019 [Departments] Department of [Social Services, Education and] Higher
1020 Education; (13) plan and implement a unit cost reimbursement system
1021 for state-funded child day care services such that, on and after January
1022 1, 2008, any increase in reimbursement shall be based on a requirement
1023 that such centers meet the staff qualifications, as defined in subsection
1024 (b) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act; (14) develop, within
1025 available funds, initiatives to increase compensation paid to child day
1026 care providers for educational opportunities, including, but not limited
1027 to, (A) incentives for educational advancement paid to persons
1028 employed by child day care centers receiving state or federal funds,
1029 and (B) support for the establishment and implementation by the
1030 Labor Commissioner of apprenticeship programs for child day care
1031 workers pursuant to sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, which
1032 programs shall be jointly administered by labor and management
1033 trustees; (15) evaluate the effectiveness of any initiatives developed
1034 pursuant to subdivision (14) of this section in improving staff retention
1035 rates and the quality of education and care provided to children; and
1036 (16) report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the
1037 status of child day care in Connecticut. Such report shall include (A) an
1038 itemization of the allocation of state and federal funds for child care
1039 programs; (B) the number of children served under each program so
1040 funded; (C) the number and type of such programs, providers and
1041 support personnel; (D) state activities to encourage partnership
1042 between the public and private sectors; (E) average payments issued
1043 by the state for both part-time and full-time child care; (F) range of
1044 family income and percentages served within each range by such
1045 programs; and (G) age range of children served.

1046 Sec. 20. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1047 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1048 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1049 Child Development shall establish and operate a child care subsidy
1050 program to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child
1051 care services for families with a parent or caretaker who is working,
1052 attending high school or who receives cash assistance under the
1053 temporary family assistance program from the Department of [Social
1054 Services] Early Education and Child Development and is participating
1055 in an approved education, training, or other job preparation activity.
1056 Services available under the child care program shall include the
1057 provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen
1058 or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The
1059 department shall open and maintain enrollment for the child care
1060 subsidy program and shall administer such program within the
1061 existing budgetary resources available. The department shall issue a
1062 notice on the department's Internet web site and shall provide written
1063 notice to recipients of program benefits and to service providers any
1064 time the department closes the program to new applications, changes
1065 eligibility requirements or changes program benefits, provided the
1066 department shall not be required to issue such notice when the
1067 department expands program eligibility. Any change in the
1068 department's acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements
1069 or program benefits for which the department is required to give
1070 notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty
1071 days after the department issues such notice.

1072 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
1073 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
1074 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
1075 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
1076 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
1077 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
1078 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
1079 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are

1080 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
1081 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
1082 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
1083 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
1084 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
1085 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
1086 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

1087 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
1088 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
1089 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
1090 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
1091 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
1092 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
1093 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
1094 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
1095 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
1096 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
1097 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
1098 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
1099 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
1100 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
1101 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
1102 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
1103 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
1104 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
1105 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
1106 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
1107 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
1108 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers
1109 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which
1110 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding
1111 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative
1112 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate
1113 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover
1114 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment

1115 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy
1116 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
1117 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
1118 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
1119 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
1120 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
1121 issued annually by the Department of [Social Services] Early Education
1122 and Child Development to the Governor and the General Assembly in
1123 accordance with subdivision (10) of section 17b-733, as amended by
1124 this act. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income,
1125 age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

1126 (d) Not later than January 1, 2011, an applicant determined to be
1127 eligible for program benefits shall remain eligible for such benefits for
1128 a period of not less than eight months from the date that such
1129 applicant is determined to be eligible, provided the commissioner has
1130 not determined, during such eight-month period, that the applicant's
1131 circumstances have changed so as to render the applicant ineligible for
1132 program benefits. The commissioner shall not make an eligibility
1133 determination for a recipient of program benefits more than one time
1134 per eight-month period, except as provided in subsection (e) of this
1135 section.

1136 (e) Not later than October 15, 2011, the commissioner shall submit a
1137 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
1138 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1139 matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets
1140 of state agencies concerning eligibility redeterminations made on an
1141 eight-month basis. Such report shall include an analysis of
1142 overpayments of program benefits made by the department and
1143 administrative costs incurred by the department as a result of
1144 eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and
1145 after October 15, 2011, the commissioner may make eligibility
1146 redeterminations on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the
1147 department's overpayments of program benefits have increased in
1148 comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and December

1149 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
1150 redetermination period.

1151 (f) A provider under the child care subsidy program that qualifies
1152 for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child care
1153 services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for such
1154 services until informed by the Department of [Social Services] Early
1155 Education and Child Development of the recipient's ineligibility.

1156 (g) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
1157 from licensing shall provide the Department of [Social Services] Early
1158 Education and Child Development with the following information in
1159 order to maintain eligibility for reimbursement: (1) The name, address,
1160 appropriate identification, Social Security number and telephone
1161 number of the provider and all adults who work for or reside at the
1162 location where care is provided; (2) the name and address of the child's
1163 doctor, primary care provider and health insurance company; (3)
1164 whether the child is immunized and has had health screens pursuant
1165 to the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment
1166 Services Program under 42 USC 1396d; and (4) the number of children
1167 cared for by the provider.

1168 (h) On or after January 1, 1998, the commissioner shall adopt
1169 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1170 implement the provisions of this section.

1171 (i) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing committees
1172 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1173 human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a
1174 copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
1175 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
1176 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
1177 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
1178 the Administration for Children and Families.

1179 Sec. 21. Section 17b-749d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1180 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1181 Each licensed child day care provider receiving funding directly
1182 from the Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1183 Development shall adopt a sliding fee scale based on family income.
1184 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1185 Development shall develop a minimum sliding fee scale which may be
1186 adjusted upward by each such licensed day care program. All income
1187 derived from such fees shall be used to support the child day care
1188 program.

1189 Sec. 22. Section 19a-80f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1190 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1191 (a) As used in this section, "facility" means a child day care center, a
1192 group day care home and a family day care home, as defined in section
1193 19a-77, and a youth camp, as defined in section 19a-420.

1194 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1195 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
1196 designee, shall provide to the Department of [Public Health] Early
1197 Education and Child Development all records concerning reports and
1198 investigations of suspected child abuse or neglect, including records of
1199 any administrative hearing held pursuant to section 17a-101k: (1)
1200 Occurring at any facility, and (2) by any staff member or licensee of
1201 any facility and by any household member of any family day care
1202 home, as defined in section 19a-77, irrespective of where the abuse or
1203 neglect occurred.

1204 (c) The Department of Children and Families and the Department of
1205 [Public Health] Early Education and Child Development shall jointly
1206 investigate reports of abuse or neglect occurring at any facility. All
1207 information, records and reports concerning such investigation shall
1208 be shared between agencies as part of the investigative process.

1209 (d) The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education and Child
1210 Development shall compile a listing of allegations of violations that
1211 have been substantiated by the Department of [Public Health] Early
1212 Education and Child Development concerning a facility during the

1213 prior three-year period. The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early
1214 Education and Child Development shall disclose information
1215 contained in the listing to any person who requests it, provided the
1216 information does not identify children or family members of those
1217 children.

1218 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
1219 Commissioner of Children and Families has made a finding
1220 substantiating abuse or neglect: (1) That occurred at a facility, or (2) by
1221 any staff member or licensee of any facility, or by any household
1222 member of any family day care home and such finding is included on
1223 the state child abuse or neglect registry, maintained by the Department
1224 of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101k, such finding
1225 may be included in the listing compiled by the Department of [Public
1226 Health] Early Education and Child Development pursuant to
1227 subsection (d) of this section and may be disclosed to the public by the
1228 Department of [Public Health] Early Education and Child
1229 Development.

1230 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
1231 Commissioner of Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-101j,
1232 has notified the Department of [Public Health] Early Education and
1233 Child Development of suspected child abuse or neglect at a facility and
1234 if such child abuse or neglect resulted in or involves (1) the death of a
1235 child; (2) the risk of serious physical injury or emotional harm of a
1236 child; (3) the serious physical harm of a child; (4) the arrest of a person
1237 due to abuse or neglect of a child; (5) a petition filed by the
1238 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-112 or
1239 46b-129; or (6) sexual abuse of a child, the Commissioner of [Public
1240 Health] Early Education and Child Development may include a
1241 finding of child abuse or neglect in the listing under subsection (d) of
1242 this section and may disclose such finding to the public. If the
1243 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
1244 designee, notifies the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education
1245 and Child Development that such child abuse or neglect was not
1246 substantiated after investigation or reversed after appeal, the

1247 Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education and Child
1248 Development shall immediately remove such information from the
1249 listing and shall not further disclose any such information to the
1250 public.

1251 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, all
1252 records provided by the Commissioner of Children and Families, or
1253 the commissioner's designee, to the Department of [Public Health]
1254 Early Education and Child Development regarding child abuse or
1255 neglect occurring at any facility, may be utilized in an administrative
1256 proceeding or court proceeding relative to facility licensing. In any
1257 such proceeding, such records shall be confidential, except as provided
1258 by the provisions of section 4-177c, and such records shall not be
1259 subject to disclosure pursuant to section 1-210.

1260 Sec. 23. Section 17b-749e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1261 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1262 The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1263 Development shall establish and fund five regional accreditation
1264 projects, within available appropriations. The department shall select
1265 qualified applicants for each region through a request for proposal
1266 process. The department shall give priority to child day care facilities
1267 where at least twenty per cent of the children live with families
1268 earning less than seventy-five per cent of the state median income
1269 level.

1270 Sec. 24. Section 17b-749h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1271 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1272 (a) There is established a program to be known as the "child care
1273 facilities direct revolving loan program". The program shall contain
1274 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the program,
1275 including, but not limited to, any moneys appropriated by the state,
1276 premiums, fees, interest payments and principal payments on direct
1277 loans and proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease or rental of
1278 collateral relating to direct loans. Any balance remaining in the

1279 program at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the
1280 program for the next succeeding fiscal year. The program shall be used
1281 to make loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, to make loan
1282 guarantees and to pay reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in
1283 administering loans and loan guarantees under this section. The
1284 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1285 Development may enter into a contract with a quasi-public agency,
1286 banking institution or nonprofit corporation to provide for the
1287 administration of the loan program, provided no loan or loan
1288 guarantee shall be made from the fund without the authorization of
1289 the commissioner as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

1290 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1291 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may enter
1292 into a contract to provide financial assistance in the form of interest-
1293 free loans, deferred loans or guaranteed loans to child care providers
1294 or to nonprofit developers of a child care facility operating under a
1295 legally enforceable agreement with a child care provider, for costs or
1296 expenses incurred and directly connected with the expansion,
1297 improvement or development of child care facilities. Such costs and
1298 expenses may include: (1) Advances of loan proceeds for direct loans;
1299 (2) expenses incurred in project planning and design, including
1300 architectural expenses; (3) legal and financial expenses; (4) expenses
1301 incurred in obtaining required permits and approvals; (5) options to
1302 purchase land; (6) expenses incurred in obtaining required insurance;
1303 (7) expenses incurred in meeting state and local child care standards;
1304 (8) minor renovations and upgrading child care facilities to meet such
1305 standards and loans for the purpose of obtaining licensure under
1306 section 19a-77; (9) purchase and installation of equipment, machinery
1307 and furniture, including equipment needed to accommodate children
1308 with special needs; and (10) other preliminary expenses authorized by
1309 the commissioner. Loan proceeds shall not be used for the refinancing
1310 of existing loans, working capital, supplies or inventory.

1311 (c) The amount of a direct loan under this section may be up to
1312 eighty per cent of the total amount of investment but shall not exceed

1313 twenty-five thousand dollars for such facility as determined by the
1314 commissioner except that if an applicant for a loan under this section
1315 has an existing loan that is guaranteed by the child care facilities loan
1316 guarantee program, established under section 17b-749g, as amended
1317 by this act, the direct loan provided under this section shall not exceed
1318 twenty per cent of the investment. The amount of any guarantee and a
1319 direct loan under this section shall not exceed eighty per cent.

1320 (d) Each provider applying for a loan under this section shall submit
1321 an application, on a form provided by the commissioner that shall
1322 include, but is not limited to, the following information: (1) A detailed
1323 description of the proposed or existing child care facility; (2) an
1324 itemization of known and estimated costs; (3) the total amount of
1325 investment required to expand or develop the child care facility; (4) the
1326 funds available to the applicant without financial assistance from the
1327 department; (5) the amount of financial assistance sought from the
1328 department; (6) information relating to the financial status of the
1329 applicant, including, if available, a current balance sheet, a profit and
1330 loss statement and credit references; and (7) evidence that the loan
1331 applicant shall, as of the loan closing, own, have an option to purchase
1332 or have a lease for the term of the loan. Security for the loan may
1333 include an assignment of the lease or other subordination of any
1334 mortgage and the borrower shall be in default if the loan is not used
1335 for the intended purpose.

1336 (e) Payments of principal and interest on such loans shall be paid to
1337 the State Treasurer for deposit in the child care facilities direct
1338 revolving loan program established in subsection (a) of this section.

1339 (f) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1340 Development may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to
1341 carry out the provisions of this section. Such regulations may clarify
1342 loan procedures, repayment terms, security requirements, default and
1343 remedy provisions, and such other terms and conditions as said
1344 commissioner shall deem appropriate.

1345 Sec. 25. Section 8-210 of the general statutes is repealed and the

1346 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1347 (a) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1348 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may enter
1349 into a contract with a municipality or a qualified private, nonprofit
1350 corporation for state financial assistance for the planning, construction,
1351 renovation, site preparation and purchase of improved or unimproved
1352 property as part of a capital development project for neighborhood
1353 facilities. Such facilities may include, but are not limited to, child day
1354 care facilities, elderly centers, multipurpose human resource centers,
1355 emergency shelters for the homeless and shelters for victims of
1356 domestic violence. The financial assistance shall be in the form of state
1357 grants-in-aid equal to (1) all or any portion of the cost of such capital
1358 development project if the grantee is a qualified private nonprofit
1359 corporation or (2) up to two-thirds of the cost of such capital
1360 development project if the grantee is a municipality, as determined by
1361 the commissioner.

1362 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1363 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may enter
1364 into a contract with a municipality, a human resource development
1365 agency or a nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance in
1366 developing and operating child day care centers for children
1367 disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental
1368 conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for
1369 the operating costs of any such day care center unless it has been
1370 licensed by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section
1371 19a-80. Such financial assistance shall be available for a program of a
1372 municipality, of a human resource development agency or of a
1373 nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel, equipment,
1374 supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and remodeling
1375 of physical facilities of such day care centers. Such contract shall
1376 provide for state financial assistance, within available appropriations,
1377 in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the cost of such
1378 program as determined by the Commissioner of [Social Services] Early
1379 Education and Child Development, if not federally assisted, or (2)

1380 equal to one-half of the amount by which the net cost of such program
1381 as approved by the commissioner exceeds the federal grant-in-aid
1382 thereof. The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1383 Child Development may authorize child day care centers provided
1384 financial assistance pursuant to this subsection to apply a program
1385 surplus to the next program year. The commissioner shall consult with
1386 directors of child day care centers in establishing fees for the operation
1387 of such centers.

1388 (c) The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1389 Development, in consultation with representatives from child care
1390 centers, within available appropriations, shall develop guidelines for
1391 state-contracted child care center programs. The guidelines shall
1392 include standards for program quality and design and identify short
1393 and long-term outcomes for families participating in such programs.
1394 The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1395 Development, within available appropriations, shall provide a copy of
1396 such guidelines to each state-contracted child care center. Each state-
1397 contracted child care center shall use the guidelines to develop a
1398 program improvement plan for the next twelve-month period and
1399 shall submit the plan to the department. The plan shall include goals to
1400 be used for measuring such improvement. The department shall use
1401 the plan to monitor the progress of the center.

1402 (d) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the commissioner
1403 may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human resource
1404 development agency or a nonprofit corporation for state financial
1405 assistance for a project of renovation of any child day care facility
1406 receiving assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section, to make
1407 such facility accessible to the physically disabled, in the form of a state
1408 grant-in-aid equal to (1) the total net cost of the project as approved by
1409 the commissioner, or (2) the total amount by which the net cost of the
1410 project as approved by the commissioner exceeds the federal grant-in-
1411 aid thereof.

1412 (e) Any municipality, human resource development agency or

1413 nonprofit corporation which enters into a contract pursuant to this
1414 section for state financial assistance for a day care facility shall have
1415 sole responsibility for the development of the budget of the day care
1416 program, including, but not limited to, personnel costs, purchases of
1417 equipment, supplies, activities and program materials, within the
1418 resources provided by the state under said contract. Upon local
1419 determination of a change in the type of day care service required in
1420 the area, a municipality, human resource development agency or
1421 nonprofit corporation may, within the limits of its annual budget and
1422 subject to the provisions of this subsection and sections 19a-77 to 19a-
1423 80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, change its day care
1424 service. An application to change the type of child day care service
1425 provided shall be submitted to the Commissioner of [Social Services.
1426 Within] Early Education and Child Development. Not later than forty-
1427 five days of his receipt of the application, the commissioner shall
1428 advise the municipality, human resource development agency or
1429 nonprofit corporation of his approval, denial or approval with
1430 modifications of the application. If the commissioner fails to act on the
1431 application within forty-five days of its submittal, the application shall
1432 be deemed approved.

1433 (f) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1434 Development may in his discretion with the approval of the Secretary
1435 of the Office of Policy and Management authorize the expenditure of
1436 such funds for the purposes of this section as shall enable the
1437 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1438 Development to apply for, qualify for and provide the state's share of a
1439 federally assisted day care program.

1440 Sec. 26. Subsection (f) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is
1441 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1442 *1, 2014*):

1443 (f) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall, upon
1444 request, promptly provide copies of records, without the consent of a
1445 person, to (1) a law enforcement agency, (2) the Chief State's Attorney,

1446 or the Chief State's Attorney's designee, or a state's attorney for the
1447 judicial district in which the child resides or in which the alleged abuse
1448 or neglect occurred, or the state's attorney's designee, for purposes of
1449 investigating or prosecuting an allegation of child abuse or neglect, (3)
1450 the attorney appointed to represent a child in any court in litigation
1451 affecting the best interests of the child, (4) a guardian ad litem
1452 appointed to represent a child in any court in litigation affecting the
1453 best interests of the child, (5) the Department of [Public Health] Early
1454 Education and Child Development, in connection with: (A) Licensure
1455 of any person to care for children for the purposes of determining the
1456 suitability of such person for licensure, subject to the provisions of
1457 sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k, or (B) an investigation conducted
1458 pursuant to section 19a-80f, as amended by this act, (6) any state
1459 agency which licenses such person to educate or care for children
1460 pursuant to section 10-145b or 17a-101j, subject to the provisions of
1461 sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k concerning nondisclosure of findings
1462 of responsibility for abuse and neglect, (7) the Governor, when
1463 requested in writing, in the course of the Governor's official functions
1464 or the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, the
1465 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
1466 of matters relating to the judiciary and the select committee of the
1467 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
1468 when requested in the course of said committees' official functions in
1469 writing, and upon a majority vote of said committee, provided no
1470 names or other identifying information shall be disclosed unless it is
1471 essential to the legislative or gubernatorial purpose, (8) a local or
1472 regional board of education, provided the records are limited to
1473 educational records created or obtained by the state or Connecticut-
1474 Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section 17a-37, (9) a
1475 party in a custody proceeding under section 17a-112 or 46b-129, in the
1476 Superior Court where such records concern a child who is the subject
1477 of the proceeding or the parent of such child, (10) the Chief Child
1478 Protection Attorney, or his or her designee, for purposes of ensuring
1479 competent representation by the attorneys whom the Chief Child
1480 Protection Attorney contracts with to provide legal and guardian ad

1481 litem services to the subjects of such records and to ensure accurate
1482 payments for services rendered by such contract attorneys, (11) the
1483 Department of Motor Vehicles, for purposes of checking the state's
1484 child abuse and neglect registry pursuant to subsection (e) of section
1485 14-44, and (12) a judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties
1486 in a family violence proceeding when such records concern family
1487 violence with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding
1488 or the parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding. A
1489 disclosure under this section shall be made of any part of a record,
1490 whether or not created by the department, provided no confidential
1491 record of the Superior Court shall be disclosed other than the petition
1492 and any affidavits filed therewith in the superior court for juvenile
1493 matters, except upon an order of a judge of the Superior Court for
1494 good cause shown. The commissioner shall also disclose the name of
1495 any individual who cooperates with an investigation of a report of
1496 child abuse or neglect to such law enforcement agency or state's
1497 attorney for purposes of investigating or prosecuting an allegation of
1498 child abuse or neglect. The commissioner or the commissioner's
1499 designee shall, upon request, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-
1500 101g and 17a-101k, promptly provide copies of records, without the
1501 consent of the person, to [(A)] the Department of [Public Health for]
1502 Early Education and Child Development for (A) the purpose of
1503 determining the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility
1504 licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, 19a-82 to 19a-87,
1505 inclusive, and 19a-87b, and (B) [the Department of Social Services for]
1506 determining the suitability of a person for any payment from the
1507 department for providing child care.

1508 Sec. 27. Section 12-634 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1509 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1510 The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit against
1511 any tax due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or
1512 212 in an amount not to exceed sixty per cent of the total cash amount
1513 invested during the taxable year by the business firm in programs
1514 operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant to

1515 section 12-632 for planning, site preparation, construction, renovation
1516 or acquisition of facilities for purposes of establishing a child day care
1517 facility to be used primarily by the children of such business firm's
1518 employees and equipment installed for such facility, including kitchen
1519 appliances, to the extent that such equipment or appliances are
1520 necessary in the use of such facility for purposes of child day care,
1521 provided: (1) Such facility is operated under the authority of a license
1522 issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education and
1523 Child Development in accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-87,
1524 inclusive, (2) such facility is operated without profit by such business
1525 firm related to any charges imposed for the use of such facility for
1526 purposes of child day care, and (3) the amount of tax credit allowed
1527 any business firm under the provisions of this section for any income
1528 year may not exceed fifty thousand dollars. If two or more business
1529 firms share in the cost of establishing such a facility for the children of
1530 their employees, each such taxpayer shall be allowed such credit in
1531 relation to the respective share, paid or incurred by such taxpayer, of
1532 the total expenditures for the facility in such income year. The
1533 commissioner shall not grant a credit pursuant to this section to any
1534 taxpayer claiming a credit for the same year pursuant to section 12-
1535 217x.

1536 Sec. 28. Section 17b-749i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1537 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1538 Within appropriations available to the State Treasurer for child care
1539 facilities, not already allocated toward debt service for specific child
1540 care facilities, the Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education
1541 and Child Development may, upon submission of a request by a
1542 facility operating a child care program that is financed with tax-exempt
1543 or taxable bonds issued through the Connecticut Health and
1544 Educational Facilities Authority, allow actual debt service, comprised
1545 of principal, interest and premium, if any, on the loan or loans, a debt
1546 service reserve fund and a reasonable repair and replacement reserve
1547 to be paid, provided such debt service terms and amounts are
1548 determined by the commissioner, at the time the loan is entered into,

1549 to be reasonable in relation to the useful life and base value of the
1550 property.

1551 Sec. 29. Section 17b-749j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1552 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1553 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1554 Development shall establish health and safety standards, within
1555 available appropriations, for the child care subsidy program. The
1556 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
1557 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A
1558 requirement for the provider or relative to apply for reimbursement
1559 from the Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1560 Development; (2) a requirement for the provider or relative to provide
1561 reasonable confirmation of physical premises safety pursuant to 45
1562 CFR Part 98.41; and (3) minimum health and safety training
1563 appropriate to the provider setting and the prevention and control of
1564 infectious diseases, including immunization. The commissioner shall,
1565 within available appropriations, distribute information on the
1566 availability of health and safety training and assistance.

1567 Sec. 30. Section 17b-749k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1568 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1569 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1570 Child Development shall, within available appropriations, require any
1571 person, other than a relative, providing child care services to a child in
1572 the child's home who receives a child care subsidy from the
1573 Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1574 Development to submit to state and national criminal history records
1575 checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this
1576 subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The
1577 commissioner shall also request a check of the state child abuse
1578 registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k.

1579 (b) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1580 Child Development shall have the discretion to refuse payments for

1581 child care under any financial assistance program administered by him
1582 if the person providing such child care has been convicted in this state
1583 or any other state of a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving
1584 the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against
1585 another person, of cruelty to persons under section 53-20, injury or risk
1586 of injury to or impairing morals of children under section 53-21,
1587 abandonment of children under the age of six years under section 53-
1588 23 or any felony where the victim of the felony is a child under
1589 eighteen years of age, or of a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-
1590 70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or has a criminal record or
1591 was the subject of a substantiated report of child abuse in this state or
1592 any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes renders the
1593 person unsuitable to provide child care.

1594 Sec. 31. Section 10-16n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1595 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1596 (a) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
1597 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
1598 Development shall establish a competitive grant program to assist
1599 nonprofit agencies and local and regional boards of education, which
1600 are federal Head Start grantees, in (1) establishing extended-day and
1601 full-day, year-round, Head Start programs or expanding existing Head
1602 Start programs to extended-day or full-day, year-round programs, (2)
1603 enhancing program quality and (3) increasing the number of children
1604 served. The commissioner, after consultation with the committee
1605 established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall establish
1606 criteria for the grants, provided at least twenty-five per cent of the
1607 funding for such grants shall be for the purpose of enhancing program
1608 quality. Nonprofit agencies or boards of education seeking grants
1609 pursuant to this section shall make application to the Commissioner of
1610 Education on such forms and at such times as the commissioner shall
1611 prescribe. All grants pursuant to this section shall be funded within the
1612 limits of available appropriations or otherwise from federal funds and
1613 private donations. All full-day, year-round Head Start programs
1614 funded pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with federal

1615 Head Start performance standards.

1616 (b) The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
1617 Development shall annually allocate to each town in which the
1618 number of children under the aid to dependent children program, as
1619 defined in subdivision (14) of section 10-262f, equals or exceeds nine
1620 hundred children, determined for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996,
1621 an amount equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars plus eight and
1622 one-half dollars for each child under the aid to dependent children
1623 program, provided such amount may be reduced proportionately so
1624 that the total amount awarded pursuant to this subsection does not
1625 exceed two million seven hundred thousand dollars. The department
1626 shall award grants to the local and regional boards of education for
1627 such towns and nonprofit agencies located in such towns which meet
1628 the criteria established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to
1629 maintain the programs established or expanded with funds provided
1630 pursuant to this subsection in the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, and
1631 June 30, 1997. Any funds remaining in the allocation to such a town
1632 after grants are so awarded shall be used to increase allocations to
1633 other such towns. Any funds remaining after grants are so awarded to
1634 boards of education and nonprofit agencies in all such towns shall be
1635 available to local and regional boards of education and nonprofit
1636 agencies in other towns in the state for grants for such purposes.

1637 (c) There is established a committee to advise the Commissioner of
1638 [Education] Early Education and Child Development concerning the
1639 coordination, priorities for allocation and distribution, and utilization
1640 of funds for Head Start and concerning the competitive grant program
1641 established under this section, and to evaluate programs funded
1642 pursuant to this section. The committee shall consist of twelve
1643 members as follows: One member designated by the Commissioner of
1644 Social Services; six members who are directors of Head Start programs,
1645 two from community action agency program sites or school readiness
1646 coordinators, one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro
1647 tempore of the Senate and one by the speaker of the House of
1648 Representatives, two from school program sites, one of whom shall be

1649 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate and one by the majority
1650 leader of the House of Representatives, and two from other nonprofit
1651 agency program sites, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
1652 leader of the Senate and one by the minority leader of the House of
1653 Representatives; one member designated by the Commission on
1654 Children; one member designated by the Early Childhood Education
1655 Council; one member designated by the Head Start Directors
1656 Association who shall be the parent of a present or former Head Start
1657 student; one member designated by the Connecticut Association for
1658 Community Action who shall have expertise and experience
1659 concerning Head Start; and one member designated by the Office of
1660 Human Development Services, Office of Community Programs,
1661 Region 1 of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

1662 (d) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
1663 Development may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1664 provisions of chapter 54, for purposes of this section.

1665 Sec. 32. Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the
1666 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1667 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The
1668 cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of [Education] Early
1669 Education and Child Development, or the commissioner's designee, (2)
1670 one representative from the Department of [Education] Early
1671 Education and Child Development who is responsible for programs
1672 required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20
1673 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time, appointed by the
1674 Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
1675 Development, (3) the Commissioner of Education, or the
1676 commissioner's designee, (4) the Commissioner of Social Services, or
1677 the commissioner's designee, [(4)] (5) a representative from an
1678 institution of higher education in this state appointed by the
1679 Commissioner of Higher Education, [(5)] (6) the Commissioner of
1680 Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, [(6)] (7) the
1681 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's

1682 designee, [(7)] (8) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
1683 Services, or the commissioner's designee, [(8)] (9) the executive director
1684 of the Commission on Children, or the executive director's designee,
1685 [(9)] (10) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start State
1686 Collaboration Office, [(10)] (11) a representative from a Head Start
1687 program appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1688 Representatives, [(11)] (12) a representative of a local provider of early
1689 childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
1690 [(12)] (13) two appointed by the speaker of the House of
1691 Representatives, one of whom is a member of the House of
1692 Representatives and one of whom is a parent who has a child
1693 attending a school in a priority school district, [(13)] (14) two
1694 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is
1695 a member of the Senate and one of whom is a representative of a
1696 public elementary school with a prekindergarten program, [(14)] (15) a
1697 representative of the business or philanthropic community in this state
1698 appointed by the Governor, and [(15)] (16) the Secretary of the Office
1699 of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. The
1700 chairperson of the council shall be appointed from among its members
1701 by the Governor.

1702 (b) Within available appropriations and such private funding as
1703 may be available, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall (1)
1704 [coordinate among state agencies, as well as public and private
1705 partnerships, the development of services that enhance the health,
1706 safety and learning of children from birth to nine years of age,
1707 inclusive] advise the Department of Early Education and Child
1708 Development on matters relating to early childhood education, (2) not
1709 later than December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, develop an
1710 annual plan of action that assigns the appropriate state agency to
1711 complete the tasks specified in the federal Head Start Act of 2007, P.L.
1712 110-134, as amended from time to time, and (3) not later than March 1,
1713 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an annual state-wide strategic
1714 report, pursuant to said federal Head Start Act, in accordance with the
1715 provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the progress such agencies have
1716 made toward the completion of such tasks outlined under said federal

1717 Head Start Act and this subsection to the Governor and the joint
1718 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1719 matters relating to education and human services.

1720 (c) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall be within the
1721 Department of [Education for administrative purposes only] Early
1722 Education and Child Development.

1723 Sec. 33. Section 17a-248 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1724 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1725 As used in this section and sections 17a-248b to 17a-248g, inclusive,
1726 38a-490a and 38a-516a, unless the context otherwise requires:

1727 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Developmental
1728 Services] Early Education and Child Development.

1729 (2) "Council" means the State Interagency Birth-to-Three
1730 Coordinating Council established pursuant to section 17a-248b.

1731 (3) "Early intervention services" means early intervention services,
1732 as defined in 34 CFR Part 303.12, as from time to time amended.

1733 (4) "Eligible children" means children from birth to thirty-six months
1734 of age, who are not eligible for special education and related services
1735 pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, and who need early
1736 intervention services because such children are:

1737 (A) Experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured by
1738 standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including
1739 informed clinical opinion, in one or more of the following areas: (i)
1740 Cognitive development; (ii) physical development, including vision or
1741 hearing; (iii) communication development; (iv) social or emotional
1742 development; or (v) adaptive skills; or

1743 (B) Diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has a
1744 high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

1745 (5) "Evaluation" means a multidisciplinary professional, objective

1746 assessment conducted by appropriately qualified personnel in order to
1747 determine a child's eligibility for early intervention services.

1748 (6) "Individualized family service plan" means a written plan for
1749 providing early intervention services to an eligible child and the child's
1750 family.

1751 (7) "Lead agency" means the Department of [Developmental
1752 Services] Early Education and Child Development, the public agency
1753 responsible for the administration of the birth-to-three system in
1754 collaboration with the participating agencies.

1755 (8) "Parent" means (A) a biological, adoptive or foster parent of a
1756 child; (B) a guardian, except for the Commissioner of Children and
1757 Families; (C) an individual acting in the place of a biological or
1758 adoptive parent, including, but not limited to, a grandparent,
1759 stepparent, or other relative with whom the child lives; (D) an
1760 individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or (E) an
1761 individual appointed to be a surrogate parent.

1762 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
1763 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
1764 and Families and Developmental Services, the Insurance Department,
1765 the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the Commission on
1766 the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Office of Protection and
1767 Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

1768 (10) "Qualified personnel" means persons who meet the standards
1769 specified in 34 CFR Part 303.12(e), as from time to time amended, and
1770 who are licensed physicians or psychologists or persons holding a
1771 state-approved or recognized license, certificate or registration in one
1772 or more of the following fields: (A) Special education, including
1773 teaching of the blind and the deaf; (B) speech and language pathology
1774 and audiology; (C) occupational therapy; (D) physical therapy; (E)
1775 social work; (F) nursing; (G) dietary or nutritional counseling; and (H)
1776 other fields designated by the commissioner that meet requirements
1777 that apply to the area in which the person is providing early

1778 intervention services, provided there is no conflict with existing
1779 professional licensing, certification and registration requirements.

1780 (11) "Service coordinator" means a person carrying out service
1781 coordination, as defined in 34 CFR Part 303.22, as from time to time
1782 amended.

1783 (12) "Primary care provider" means physicians and advanced
1784 practice registered nurses, licensed by the Department of Public
1785 Health, who are responsible for performing or directly supervising the
1786 primary care services for children enrolled in the birth-to-three
1787 program.

1788 Sec. 34. Subsection (g) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
1789 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1790 *1, 2014*):

1791 (g) For the purposes of issuance of certificates, permits and
1792 authorizations by the State Board of Education under the provisions of
1793 sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, teaching experience in approved
1794 nonpublic schools shall include teaching experience in birth-to-three
1795 programs approved by the Department of [Developmental Services]
1796 Early Education and Child Development.

1797 Sec. 35. Subsection (c) of section 17a-215c of the general statutes is
1798 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1799 *1, 2014*):

1800 (c) The Division of Autism Spectrum Services may, within available
1801 appropriations, research, design and implement the delivery of
1802 appropriate and necessary services and programs for all residents of
1803 the state with autism spectrum disorders. Such services and programs
1804 may include the creation of: (1) The Autism-Specific Early Intervention
1805 Program, (AEI), designed to deliver services to any child who becomes
1806 at risk or is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and who was
1807 previously placed in the "birth-to-three" program administered by the
1808 Department of [Developmental Services] Early Education and Child

1809 Development; (2) age three to twenty-one, inclusive, support services
1810 including educational, recreation, life and skill coaching, and
1811 vocational and transition services; and (3) over age twenty-one adult
1812 services, including those services as defined by the pilot autism
1813 spectrum disorder program established pursuant to section 17a-215b,
1814 as well as related services deemed necessary by the Commissioner of
1815 Developmental Services.

1816 Sec. 36. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) A family child care
1817 provider shall be a state employee, as defined in subsection (b) of
1818 section 5-270 of the general statutes, only for the purposes of collective
1819 bargaining pursuant to chapter 68 of the general statutes and not for
1820 any other purpose. The provisions of chapter 68 of the general statutes
1821 shall apply to family child care providers except as provided in this
1822 section. A family child care provider shall not be eligible for benefits
1823 available to a state employee.

1824 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall have the authority
1825 and obligation to bargain and enter into agreements with an
1826 organization representing family child care providers that has been
1827 designated by the State Board of Labor Relations, pursuant to section
1828 5-275 of the general statutes, as the exclusive bargaining agent of such
1829 providers to establish the terms and conditions of participation of
1830 family child care providers in the child care subsidy program
1831 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as
1832 amended by this act, including, but not limited to, state reimbursement
1833 rates, benefits, payment procedures, contract grievance arbitration, and
1834 training, professional development and other requirements and
1835 opportunities appropriate for such family child care providers. For
1836 purposes of section 5-278 of the general statutes, the Department of
1837 Social Services shall be considered an executive branch employer and
1838 the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee,
1839 shall be considered the employer's chief executive officer.

1840 (c) Any collective bargaining agreement reached between the
1841 commissioner and the bargaining agent of the family child care

1842 providers and any arbitrator's award that is issued concerning the
1843 department and the bargaining agent of the family child care providers
1844 shall be binding on the parties, except no provision of any such
1845 agreement or award that requires additional state funding shall
1846 become final until the General Assembly approves the appropriation
1847 of such funds. The department and the bargaining agent of the family
1848 child care providers may participate in the elective binding arbitration
1849 procedures as provided in section 5-276a of the general statutes. The
1850 factors to be considered by the arbitrator in arriving at a decision on
1851 the issues submitted by the council and the bargaining agent shall
1852 include: (1) The state's ability to fund the child care subsidy program
1853 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as
1854 amended by this act; (2) the nature of the child care subsidy program
1855 at issue; and (3) the needs and welfare of children and families
1856 receiving such services, including recruitment, retention and quality
1857 needs with respect to family child care providers.

1858 (d) Family child care providers shall not be considered employees of
1859 the department or the state for any purpose except for the purpose of
1860 collective bargaining, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 68 of the
1861 general statutes.

1862 (e) Consistent with the provisions of section 5-279 of the general
1863 statutes, no provision of this section shall grant family child care
1864 providers a right to strike and such strikes are prohibited.

1865 (f) The only bargaining unit appropriate for the purpose of
1866 collective bargaining between the department and a representative of
1867 family child care providers, as provided in this section, shall be a state-
1868 wide unit of family child care providers who provide child care
1869 services under the child care subsidy program established pursuant to
1870 section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in a
1871 family day care home, as described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a)
1872 of section 19a-77 of the general statutes, or a home described in
1873 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 19a-77 of the general
1874 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	4-5
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	4-38c
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16o
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16p
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16q
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16r
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16s
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16u
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749a
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749c(a)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749f
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749g
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-4o
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-733
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749d
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-80f
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749e
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749h
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	8-210
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17a-28(f)
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	12-634
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749i
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749j
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749k
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16n
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16z
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17a-248
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-145d(g)
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17a-215c(c)
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Clarified language in section 3(b)(5) and replaced "personal care attendants" with "family child care providers" in section 36(e) for consistency within the section.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill transfers upwards of \$251 million and corresponding positions from various state agencies into the new Department of Early Education and Child Development (DEECD). Additionally, the bill requires DEECD to perform a number of existing and new duties that will result in a fiscal impact to the state and municipalities. These provisions are effective in FY 15. A section by section breakdown of the bill appears below.

Section 1 of the bill establishes DEECD. The bill transfers into the new agency programs related to early childhood, which are currently located within the State Department of Education (SDE), the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and the Department of Public Health (DPH). The tables on the following page identify: (1) the state agency where the program is currently located, (2) the name of the program, (3) any positions associated with the program, and (4) the funding associated with the program (although the transfer would not be effective until FY 15, the Governor's recommended FY 12 and FY 13 budget is provided for illustrative purposes in the following tables). Where positions are not provided, it is assumed that staff associated with administering these programs would also be transferred.

SDE Programs	Positions	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Family Resource Centers	.5	49,000	49,000

Early Childhood	2	199,200	199,200
Data Collection & Assessment	1.5	138,000	138,000
Managers	.5	64,000	64,000
Sub-Total SDE Programs	4.5	450,200	450,200

SDE Grants	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Family Resource Centers	6,041,488	6,041,488
School Readiness (Priority School District)	69,813,190	69,813,190
School Readiness (Competitive)	5,007,354	5,007,354
Head Start Link	2,090,000	2,090,000
Head Start Services	2,748,150	2,748,150
Head Start Enhancement	1,773,000	1,773,000
Community Plan for Early Childhood	427,500	427,500
Improving Early Literacy	150,000	150,000
Sub-total SDE Grants	88,050,682	88,050,682
SDE Total	88,500,882	88,500,882

DSS Programs	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Child Care Services - TANF/CCDBG	97,598,443	104,304,819
Child Day Care	16,379,895	16,379,895
Child Care Quality Enhancements (School Readiness)	4,496,365	4,496,365
DSS Total	118,474,703	125,181,079

DDS Programs	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Early Intervention	36,288,242	36,288,242
DDS Total	36,288,242	36,288,242

The DDS Early Connections program which is the state operated direct service provider of birth to three services remains in DDS under the bill. The state receives approximately \$4.1 million in federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C funding for birth to three. The Early Connections program is supported by \$1.3 million in federal IDEA Part C funding and the balance of the \$2.8 million would be in DEECD.

The birth to three program currently generates \$19 million per year

in federal Medicaid revenue which is deposited as General Fund revenue. It is unclear how the provisions of the bill would impact this state revenue.

DPH Programs	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Genetic Diseases Program	828,744	828,744
Children with Special Health Care Needs	667,604	667,604
School Based Health Centers	2,095,851	2,095,851
Healthy Start (state)	100,000	100,000
Immunizations	4,280,285	4,280,285
Healthy Choices for Women and Children	89,983	89,983
DPH Total	7,972,574	7,972,574

The DPH tables above do not include services by the agency's Public Health Laboratory, Drinking Water, Child Day Care, Youth Camp, Food Protection, School Assessment, Child Sexual Assault Prevention and other programs provided, or funded by the agency that are not tracked by age of beneficiary, or a reliable proxy. It is unknown to what extent those services contribute to the health and well-being of children birth to eight years, but it is assumed that there are significant additional dollars across DPH that could be associated directly or indirectly to early childhood.

Section 1 also establishes a commissioner position for the agency. It is anticipated that the annual salary for the new commissioner would be \$180,000 plus fringe benefits¹.

Section 2 specifies a number of duties that the new agency must be responsible for. Currently, a number of these duties are being carried out within state agencies and would not require additional resources. However, some of these duties are not being performed by existing

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated non-pension fringe benefit cost associated with personnel changes is 23.76% of payroll in FY 12 and FY 13. In addition, there could be an impact to potential liability for the applicable state pension funds.

state agencies, and would therefore require additional resources. Additional duties that DEECD would be responsible for, which would result in an additional cost, include: (1) quality assessment and longitudinal data analysis, (2) Pre-K-2 assessment tools, quality rating and improvement system, and (3) development and administration of comprehensive early childhood councils. The cost of these additional duties is unknown, as these functions are not currently being completed at this time, and there is no department established to assume the responsibility of these proposals. However, based on similar duties and proposals within SDE, it is anticipated that the cost to establish these additional duties will be greater than \$2.0 million.²

Section 3 requires DEECD to establish an early education and child development system to improve child health, safety and learning. The cost of this system is unknown at this time, as this system currently does not exist, and there is no department established to assume the responsibility of the system. However, based on similar data systems established within SDE, it is anticipated that the cost would be greater than \$1.0 million.

Section 3 also states that by using the early education and child development system, DEECD must help municipalities establish local and regional early childhood councils. This requirement would not result in an additional cost to the state, but could result in an additional cost of up to \$50,000 for various local and regional school districts to comply with the data collection, analysis and evaluation component.

Section 4 gives DEECD the authority to enter into agreements with other state agencies. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

Section 5 requires DEECD to report to five General Assembly committees, by February 1, 2015. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

² For FY 08 and FY 09, SDE was appropriated \$1 million per year, to develop and maintain a quality rating system. However, the funds were never utilized for this purpose.

Sections 6-35 make various conforming, procedural, and technical changes that establish DEECD. The fiscal impact of these sections is a transfer of programs, dollars, and positions for a number of existing state agencies into DEECD. The tables above reflect the transfer.

Section 36 makes family child care providers state employees for the purposes of collectively bargaining, and gives the DSS Commissioner the authority to bargain and enter into agreements with an organization representing such providers. To the extent that a collective bargaining agreement is reached and is approved by the legislature, the state could realize a cost or savings³. Child care providers are not eligible for benefits available to a state employee.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact stated above would continue into the future subject to the rate of inflation.

³ The agreement only requires legislative approval if it requires additional state funding, and is therefore not binding until the General Assembly approves the appropriation of such funds.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1106*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a new Department of Early Education and Child Development (DEECD) that, by July 1, 2014, becomes the designated agency to administer and operate school readiness, Head Start, child care, Birth to Three, and other early childhood programs that are currently the responsibility of the departments of Education (SDE), Social Services (DSS), Developmental Services (DDS), Public Health (DPH), and other agencies.

DEECD must, in consultation with SDE, DSS, DPH, DDS, and the departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Higher Education (DHE), coordinate early childhood education and child care programs and services, including the following services: (1) home visitation; (2) nutrition and food; (3) early screening and intervention; (4) family support; (5) literacy and engagement; (6) early language development; and (7) any other services necessary to promote the health and well-being of the mother, father, and child age birth to eight years.

The bill requires the new department to (1) establish an early education and childhood development system to improve child health, safety, and learning and (2) consolidate existing early childhood education and child care programs and services serving children ages birth to eight.

A DEECD commissioner, who must be named by the governor, heads the department and has the powers and duties of department

heads as provided in law. Under the bill, the commissioner may employ necessary staff, within available appropriations, who will be in the classified state service. The commissioner may also perform other acts necessary and appropriate to carry out the department's functions as stated in the bill and in relevant statutes.

The bill authorizes DEECD to enter into agreements with other state agencies for the purpose of coordinating early childhood education and child care programs and services. It also requires the new department to report to the General Assembly, by February 1, 2015, on the progress it has made toward (1) achieving the objectives the bill sets for the early childhood education and child development system and (2) the interagency agreements.

Current law permits the DSS commissioner to award grants to towns or nonprofit corporations to construct neighborhood facilities, including child day care centers, elderly centers, emergency homeless shelters, and other facilities. The bill transfers this authority to the DEECD commissioner.

The bill makes numerous conforming and technical changes to the statutes regarding the following programs: (1) school readiness, (2) family resource centers, (3) Head Start, (4) Early Childhood Cabinet, (5) child care, (6) tax credits for child care facilities, and (7) Birth-to-Three.

Under a tax statute, the bill refers to the new agency as the entity authorized to issue day care facility licenses, but it does not change the existing licensing law to give the new agency this authority (see COMMENT).

The bill does not require any action to take place before July 1, 2014, when the new agency is established. It is unclear how the numerous agencies will coordinate activities leading up to that point in a way that enables the new agency to carry out its many duties. Also some of the bill's deadlines require reports to be filed before the new agency exists (see sections on school readiness grants and child care program

evaluations and longitudinal study).

The bill establishes collective bargaining rights for family child care providers, as defined in statute, and requires the DSS commissioner to bargain and enter into agreements with them. Under the bill, these providers are considered state employees for collective bargaining purposes only, subject to the state employee collective bargaining chapter and the bill's provisions. The bill requires the negotiations to address, at a minimum, the following issues: state reimbursement rates; benefits; payment procedures; contract grievance arbitration; and training, professional development, and other requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014, except the collective bargaining provision for family child care providers is effective October 1, 2011.

§ 1 — DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The bill establishes the DEECD, which by July 1, 2014, becomes the designated agency to administer and operate the following programs: (1) school readiness; (2) Head Start; (3) the family resource centers; (4) child care programs, facilities, and licensing, (5) Birth-to-Three; (6) professional development activities relating to early childhood education; and (7) other relevant early childhood programs and services. Under current law these programs are the responsibility of SDE, DSS, DDS, DPH, and other agencies.

Commissioner's Powers

The DEECD commissioner, who must be named by the governor, heads the department and has the powers and duties of department heads as provided in law. Under the bill, the commissioner may employ necessary staff, within available appropriations, who are in the classified state service. The commissioner may also perform other acts necessary and appropriate to carry out the functions of the department as stated in the bill and in relevant statutes.

The bill authorizes the commissioner to:

1. contract with any person or agency, public or private, to provide services necessary for the department to carry out its duties, subject to the statutory approval of the attorney general;
2. accept contributions, grants, gifts, donations, services, or other financial assistance from any governmental unit, any public agency, or the private sector; and
3. apply for, receive, and distribute any federal or private funds or contributions available for training and education of personnel.

The commissioner must submit to the governor and general assembly an annual report relating to the department's activities, recommendations, and accomplishments.

Regulations

DEECD must adopt regulations to carry out the bill's provisions regarding creation of the new department, DEECD's duties, the early education and child development system, and interagency agreements to coordinate programs and services.

§ 2 — DUTIES

DEECD must, in consultation with SDE, DSS, DPH, DCF, DDS, and DHE, coordinate early childhood education and child care programs and services, including the following services: (1) home visitation; (2) nutrition and food; (3) early screening and intervention; (4) family support; (5) literacy and engagement; (6) early language development; and (7) any other services necessary to promote the health and well-being of the mother, father, and child age birth to eight years.

The bill also specifies a number of the new department's other duties, including:

1. create a unified set of reporting requirements for (a) school readiness; (b) Head Start; (c) family resource centers; (d) child care programs, facilities, and licensing; (e) Birth to Three; (f) professional development activities relating to early childhood

- education; and (g) other relevant early childhood programs and services, in order to collect the data necessary for quality assessments and longitudinal analysis;
2. compare and analyze the data collected in (1) of this list with the data collected in the statewide public school information system for population-level analysis of children and families;
 3. develop and update appropriate early learning standards and assessment tools for children ages birth to five years that are age and developmentally appropriate and are aligned with existing learning standards as of July 1, 2014 and assessment tools for students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive;
 4. continually monitor and evaluate all early childhood education and child care programs and services, focusing on program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental, and educational needs of all children;
 5. develop indicators that assess strategies designed to strengthen the family through parental involvement in a child's development and education, including children with special needs;
 6. increase the availability of early childhood education and child care programs and services and encourage the providers to work together to create options that allow families to participate in programs that serve the needs of each family;
 7. provide information and technical assistance to people seeking programs and services;
 8. help state agencies and municipalities in obtaining available federal funding for early childhood education and child care programs and services;
 9. provide technical assistance and consultation to licensed providers of early childhood education and child care programs

- and services and assist any potential provider in obtaining licensure and certification;
10. create, implement, and maintain a quality rating and improvement system that covers home-based, center-based, and school-based early child care and learning;
 11. maintain an accreditation system to help early childhood education and child care programs and services achieve national standards and program improvement;
 12. help expand municipal and regional capacity to develop and implement the early education and child development system, as defined in the bill;
 13. create partnerships between state agencies and philanthropic organizations to help implement the early education and child development system;
 14. facilitate the establishment and maintenance of local and regional early childhood councils, and fund the development and administration of comprehensive early childhood councils, including creating incentives for regional and intermunicipal approaches;
 15. align the department's policy and goals with those of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet and the Head Start Advisory Committee; and
 16. ensure a coordinated and comprehensive statewide system of professional development for early childhood education and child care providers.

§ 3 — EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

The bill requires DEECD to establish an early education and child development system (the "system") to improve child health, safety and learning.

DEECD must consolidate existing early education and child care programs and services serving children age birth to eight, inclusive, into this coordinated system that attempts to:

1. increase oral language development;
2. reduce the academic achievement gap;
3. increase participation in school readiness programs;
4. decrease special education placements; and
5. increase parent engagement, family literacy, and parenting skills.

The system must:

1. develop family-centered services that assist families in their communities;
2. use asset-based and strength-based approaches;
3. give families service choices, including quality child care;
4. integrate early childhood education and special education services;
5. ensure that services and systems are culturally relevant to those families receiving services;
6. emphasize targeted, research-based interventions;
7. organize services into a coherent system;
8. establish a comprehensive and accessible delivery system for early childhood education and child care services;
9. focus on performance measures to ensure that services are accountable, effective, and accessible to the consumer;
10. pursue funding from private donors and organizations;

11. promote universal access to school readiness programs;
12. ensure nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation;
13. encourage and promote the establishment of local and regional early childhood councils, as described in the bill (see below), that implement local and regional birth-to-eight systems; and
14. any other activities that will assist in the provision of early childhood education and child care programs and services.

Early Childhood Councils

DEECD, through the system, must help municipalities establish local and regional early childhood councils. These councils must (1) develop and coordinate a comprehensive plan for an early childhood system for their community and (2) use local, state, and private resources to implement the comprehensive plan.

Under the bill, these early childhood councils can perform or supersede the functions of school readiness councils, as defined in statute, including, but not limited to:

1. policy and program planning;
2. systems development;
3. encouragement of community participation, emphasizing substantial parental involvement;
4. data collection, analysis, and evaluation with a focus on program and service outcomes; and
5. resource allocation.

For purposes of establishing and operating the system, DEECD can seek private and philanthropic organization funding and may enter into agreements with these organizations to assist in planning and implementing the system.

§ 4 — INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS

The bill allows DEECD to enter into agreements with other state agencies for the purpose of coordinating early childhood education and child care programs and services. The agreements may:

1. identify opportunities to align programs and services to meet the needs of children and families;
2. implement an accountability framework to measure program and services outcomes;
3. identify common requirements for funding from various sources and any waiver provisions related to such requirements that can be accommodated by the agreement;
4. identify barriers under state or federal law to the effective use of interagency agreements;
5. work with qualified local and regional planning groups to determine the most effective means of structuring agreement requirements; and
6. focus agreements on areas such as maternal and child health, literacy, family support, and early childhood education and child care.

In all contracts with early childhood education and child care providers, the department must require that providers participate in any existing interagency agreement developed under the bill.

§ 5 — REPORTING

The bill requires the new department to report to five General Assembly committees, by February 1, 2015, on the progress it has made toward (1) achieving the objectives the bill sets for the early childhood education and child development system for children ages birth to eight years, inclusive and (2) the interagency agreements, with attention to child outcomes and a continuum of quality services. The report must go to the Appropriations, Education, Higher Education

and Employment Advancement, Human Services, and Public Health committees.

§§ 6 & 7 — CREATING DEECD

These sections make conforming changes related to the creation of the new DEECD, including adding it to the list of existing agencies.

§§ 8-13 — SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

The bill requires DEECD, rather than SDE, to encourage the development of a network of school readiness programs according to state law and designates the new agency as the state's lead agency for school readiness. School readiness programs provide nonsectarian developmentally appropriate learning for children ages three and four (and five year olds who are not eligible to enroll in school or choose school readiness instead) for at least 450 hours over at least 180 days, with some exceptions. These programs must meet state standards.

The bill makes numerous conforming changes to transfer authority for administering the school readiness program from SDE to DEECD.

It removes the requirement that the lead agency for school readiness consult with the DSS commissioner regarding: (1) development of a continuing education training program for school readiness staff; (2) establishing grant programs to create spaces for school readiness in priority school districts, areas served by priority schools, and other specified areas; and (3) school readiness program accreditation standards.

Readiness Plan

Under current law SDE and DSS must jointly develop an agreement defining each agency's school readiness duties and responsibilities. Under the bill DEECD develops a school readiness plan and is not required to consult with SDE or DSS. It also eliminates a requirement that SDE and DSS adopt assessment measures that each school readiness program must use in its annual evaluation.

Readiness Grants

The bill requires DEECD to provide school readiness grants to eligible readiness program providers in transitional school districts beginning with FY 12 and each year thereafter. But this requirement is effective July 1, 2014, which is the beginning of FY 15.

Under current law, SDE and DSS review grant applications from transitional school districts and each agency approves the portion under its jurisdiction. The bill gives the review and approval authority solely to DEECD.

§ 18 — FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The bill places the family resource center program under DEECD. In current law SDE must carry out this program in conjunction with DSS. The program provides child care, remedial education and literary services, and other supportive services to low-income families through grants to municipalities, boards of educations, and child care providers. Under the bill, DEECD, instead of SDE, provides the resource center grants to these local entities.

§ 31 — HEAD START PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

The bill places the Head Start Program, including awarding Head Start grants, and the Head Start Advisory Committee under DEECD. Under current law, SDE, in consultation with DSS, established the grant program, and SDE awards the grants. The bill makes other conforming changes.

§ 32 — EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET

Under current law, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet is charged with coordinating among state agencies, and public and private partnerships, the services to enhance the health, safety, and learning of children from birth to age nine. The bill removes this duty from the cabinet, while keeping its other duties, including developing an annual state Head Start action plan and submitting an annual statewide Head Start report to the governor and the General Assembly.

The bill makes the following changes to the membership of the

cabinet it (1) adds the early childhood education and child development commissioner and (2) specifies those who were appointed by the education commissioner are instead appointed by the DEECD commissioner.

§§ 14-17, 19-21, 23, 24 & 28-30 — CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

The bill replaces DSS as the lead agency for child care services with DEECD. Under current law, DSS has the duty to provide training for child care providers in conjunction with DHE and SDE. The bill removes DSS and SDE from this process. Also, it removes DSS, SDE, and DPH from the list of agencies that assist the lead agency and the Child Care Coordinating Council with developing and implementing a statewide child care and early childhood education training system.

The bill contains numerous conforming changes related to child care including:

1. subsidies to parents for child care and grants to school readiness providers (§ 14);
2. supplemental enhancement grants for child care or school readiness providers (§ 15);
3. child care facilities loan guarantee program (§ 17);
4. day care sliding scale fees for parents (§ 21);
5. revolving loans to providers for expansion, improvement, or development of child care facilities (§ 24);
6. health and safety standards for subsidies (§ 29); and
7. criminal background checks for providers (§ 30).

The bill requires DEECD to report to the General Assembly, by January 1, 2012, on the implementation of a performance-based evaluation system and a longitudinal study of children in and after child care programs. But the effective date of this provision is July 1,

2014.

§§ 22 & 26 — REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

Under current law, DCF forwards complaints and reports of suspected child abuse or neglect at any child day care center, group day care home, family day care home, or youth camp to DPH, and the two agencies are authorized to conduct investigations into these complaints, make findings of abuse or neglect, and take related actions. The bill removes DPH and replaces it with DEECD.

Current law requires DCF to provide DPH with copies of records regarding alleged abuse or neglect in DPH-licensed child care facilities. The bill makes conforming changes removing DPH from this process and adding DEECD.

§ 25 — GRANTS FOR CHILD DAY CARE AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES

Current law authorizes the DSS commissioner to award grants to towns or qualified nonprofit corporations to plan and construct neighborhood facilities, including child day care centers, elderly centers, emergency homeless shelters, and other facilities. The bill gives this power to the DEECD commissioner. It makes conforming changes related to this grants program.

(The bill does not change an existing reference to DPH-licensed day care centers. Apparently this is an oversight, as the bill generally replaces DPH with DEECD in such instances.)

§ 27 — TAX CREDIT FOR CHILD DAY CARE FACILITY

The bill makes a conforming change, replacing DPH with DEECD, related to an existing tax credit program for state-licensed child care facilities.

§§ 33-35 — BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM AND COUNCIL

This bill makes DEECD, instead of DDS, the lead agency for the Birth-to-Three Program. The bill does not add DEECD to the list of participating agencies that are members of the Interagency Birth-to-

Three Coordinating Council, although the law requires the lead agency to establish and assist the council.

The bill makes other conforming and technical changes related to the Birth-to-Three Program.

§ 36 — COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The bill establishes collective bargaining rights for family child care providers and authorizes and requires the DSS commissioner to bargain and enter into agreements with them. Under the bill, the child care providers are considered state employees for collective bargaining purposes only, subject to the bill's provisions and the state employee collective bargaining law (see BACKGROUND). The bill specifies these providers are not eligible for state employee benefits.

It is unclear how the provisions related to collective bargaining will work considering the child care providers are not actual employees of the state. For example, the bill prohibits them from striking, but since many work for themselves and receive state subsidies and payments from their clients (for caring for their children) it is unclear what a strike prohibition means.

Scope of Required Negotiations

The DSS commissioner must negotiate with an organization representing the providers, as selected under state employee collective bargaining provisions, to establish terms and conditions for the providers to participate in the state's child care subsidy program for low-income families. The terms and conditions include, but are not limited to: (1) state reimbursement rates, (2) benefits; (3) payment procedures; (4) contract grievance arbitration; and (5) training; professional development, and other requirements.

Binding Agreements and Awards; Strikes Prohibited

The bill provides that a contract or an arbitrator's award is binding, except that if either requires additional state funding it does not become final until the legislature approves the necessary

appropriation. It provides that DSS is considered an Executive Branch employer for purposes of collective bargaining.

The bill prohibits family child care providers from striking, consistent with state employee collective bargaining.

Permitted Bargaining Unit

The bill specifies that the bargaining unit must be a statewide unit of family child care providers who participate in the child care subsidy program for low-income families in a family day care home that is: (1) under the statutory definition of “family day care home” or (2) an informal arrangement among neighbors and relatives in their own homes (i.e., the “kith and kin” program).

Elective Binding Arbitration

DSS and the provider bargaining agent can choose elective binding arbitration under the bill, and must follow procedures in state employee collective bargaining for elective arbitration. The bill requires the arbitrator to consider following factors when deciding a case:

1. the state’s ability to fund the child care subsidy program,
2. the nature of the child care subsidy program at issue; and
3. the needs and welfare of children and families receiving such services, including recruitment, retention, and quality needs with respect to family child care providers.

BACKGROUND

State Employee Collective Bargaining law

CGS Chapter 68 establishes the provisions for (1) selecting a exclusive bargaining agent for collective bargaining, (2) holding an election to form a union, (3) mandatory negotiations, (4) mandatory binding arbitration when a negotiation impasse is declared, and (5) other steps and mechanisms related to bargaining and arbitration.

Related Bill

sHB 6486 (File 359) gives personal health care attendants (PCAs) who work in state-funded programs the right to collectively bargain with the state for wages, benefits, and other terms or conditions of employment. Under the bill, PCAs are state employees for collective bargaining purposes only.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 11 (03/23/2011)