



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 1106

LCO No. 4047

04047_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT.**

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.

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, the Connecticut Child
16 Care Facilities Program, established pursuant to section 10a-194c of the

17 general statutes, as amended by this act, and other relevant early
18 childhood programs and services.

19 (c) The Department of Early Education and Child Development
20 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 of the general
21 statutes to carry out the provisions of sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this
22 act.

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

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

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

37 (g) The commissioner may perform any other acts that may be
38 necessary and appropriate to carry out the functions of the department
39 as set forth in sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act and chapters 8, 10,
40 10a, 12, 17a, 17b and 19a of the general statutes.

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

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Department of Early
46 Education and Child Development shall, within available

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

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

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

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

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

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

140 (c) The department, through the early education and child
141 development system, shall assist municipalities in establishing local
142 and regional birth-to-eight councils. Such birth-to-eight councils shall
143 (1) develop and coordinate a comprehensive plan for a birth-to-eight
144 system for their community, (2) utilize local, state and private
145 resources to implement the comprehensive plan, and (3) perform the
146 functions of school readiness councils, as described in section 10-16r of

147 the general statutes, as amended by this act, including, but not limited
148 to, (A) 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 program and service providers to participate
177 in any existing interagency agreement developed pursuant to this
178 section.

179 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) On or before February 1, 2015,
180 and annually thereafter, the Department of Early Education and Child
181 Development shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
182 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
183 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
184 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education, higher
185 education and employment advancement, human services and public
186 health on the progress made toward achieving the objectives of the
187 consolidated early education and child development system,
188 established pursuant to section 3 of this act, for children ages birth to
189 eight years, inclusive, and the implementation of interagency
190 agreements, as described in section 4 of this act, with particular
191 attention to child outcomes and a continuum of quality services.

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

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

212 executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and
213 Tourism, and the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs. As
214 used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means the
215 Commissioner of Education.

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

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

234 Sec. 8. Section 10-16o of the general statutes is repealed and the
235 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

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

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

243 schooling;

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

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

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

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

253 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

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

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

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

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

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

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

270 act, and 17b-749c, as amended by this act:

271 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
272 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
273 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, as amended
274 by this act, and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning
275 experience of not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred
276 eighty days for eligible children, except as provided in subsection (d)
277 of section 10-16q, as amended by this act;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

333 or more, in early childhood education or child development from an
334 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of
335 Higher Education or regionally accredited; (2) an associate's degree
336 with nine credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits
337 or more, in early childhood education or child development from such
338 an institution; (3) a four-year degree with nine credits or more, and on
339 and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood
340 education or child development from such an institution; or (4)
341 certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early
342 childhood education or special education, and on and after July 1,
343 2015, "staff qualifications" means there is in each classroom an
344 individual who has at least the following: (A) A bachelor's degree in
345 early childhood education or childhood development, or in a related
346 field approved by the Commissioner of [Education] Early Education
347 and Child Development from an institution of higher education
348 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or
349 regionally accredited; or (B) certification pursuant to section 10-145b
350 with an endorsement in early childhood education or special
351 education.

352 (c) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
353 Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
354 Services, shall establish a grant program to provide spaces in
355 accredited school readiness programs for eligible children who reside
356 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p or in former
357 priority school districts as provided in this subsection. Under the
358 program, the grant shall be provided, in accordance with this section,
359 to the town in which such priority school district or former priority
360 school district is located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year
361 period based on an applicant's designation as a priority school district
362 for the initial year of application, except that if a school district that
363 receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as
364 a priority school district at the end of such five-year period, such
365 former priority school district shall continue to be eligible to receive a
366 grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards shall be made

367 annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual
368 evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
369 superintendent of schools for such priority school district or former
370 priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant
371 funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to the
372 [Departments of Education and Social Services] Department of Early
373 Education and Child Development. The [departments] department
374 shall [jointly] review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
375 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
376 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
377 council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as amended by this act;
378 (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide for the
379 issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited school
380 readiness programs, provided, after the initial requests for proposals,
381 facilities that have been approved to operate a child care program
382 financed through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities
383 Authority and have received a commitment for debt service from the
384 Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
385 Development pursuant to section 17b-749i, as amended by this act, are
386 exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests for
387 proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
388 17b-749a, as amended by this act, in order to extend the hours and
389 days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide
390 child day care services for children attending such programs.

391 (d) (1) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
392 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
393 Development shall establish a competitive grant program to provide
394 spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible children
395 who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school or a former
396 priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, (B)
397 in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending
398 order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of
399 section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district
400 pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a town formerly a town

401 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in
402 said subdivision (2). A town in which a priority school is located, a
403 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
404 10-16r, as amended by this act, for a region in which such a school is
405 located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision
406 may apply for such a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred
407 seven thousand dollars per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be
408 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
409 as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph
410 (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards
411 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
412 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
413 and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional
414 school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection
415 (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the
416 Department of [Education] Early Education and Child Development.
417 In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall
418 give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness
419 councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant in
420 excess of one hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or
421 more priority schools in such district. A town or regional school
422 readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use
423 the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of
424 accredited school readiness programs.

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

432 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
433 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town

434 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
435 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
436 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
437 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
438 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
439 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
440 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
441 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
442 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following
443 the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
444 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
445 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
446 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
447 this subsection.

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

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

467 the available appropriation, such number of requested additional slots
468 shall be reduced, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, to
469 stay within the available appropriation.

470 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
471 this section are not expended, the Commissioner of [Education] Early
472 Education and Child Development may deposit such unexpended
473 funds in the account established under section 10-16aa and use such
474 unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of said section
475 10-16aa.

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

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

499 amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination,
500 program evaluation and administration.

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

509 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
510 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
511 16u, as amended by this act, shall be used to supplant federal, state or
512 local funding received by such town for early childhood education,
513 provided a town may use an amount determined in accordance with
514 this subsection for coordination, program evaluation and
515 administration. Such amount shall be at least twenty-five thousand
516 dollars but not more than seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be
517 determined by the Department of [Education, in consultation with the
518 Department of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
519 Development based on the school readiness grant award allocated to
520 the town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
521 16u, as amended by this act, and the number of operating sites for
522 coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount
523 shall be increased by an amount equal to local funding provided for
524 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and
525 administration, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Each town
526 that receives a grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-
527 16u, as amended by this act, shall designate a person to be responsible
528 for such coordination, program evaluation and administration and to
529 act as a liaison between the town and the [Departments of Education
530 and Social Services] Department of Early Education and Child
531 Development. Each school readiness program that receives funds

532 pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, shall
533 provide information to the department or the school readiness council,
534 as requested, that is necessary for purposes of any school readiness
535 program evaluation.

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

542 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
543 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
544 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
545 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who
546 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
547 readiness program located outside such region.

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

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

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

559 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
560 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
561 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate

562 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
563 children of working parents and parents in education or training
564 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
565 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
566 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
567 insurance company and information on whether the child is
568 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
569 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
570 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
571 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
572 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
573 training in such practices; (5) nutrition services; (6) referrals to family
574 literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide
575 for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
576 (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of children from
577 different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other
578 communities; (8) a plan of transition for participating children from the
579 school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer
580 of records from the program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan
581 for professional development for staff, including, but not limited to,
582 training (A) in preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to
583 assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for
584 families participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d, as
585 amended by this act; and (11) an annual evaluation of the effectiveness
586 of the program. On and after July 1, 2000, school readiness programs
587 shall use the assessment measures developed pursuant to section 10-
588 16s, as amended by this act, in conducting their annual evaluations.

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

594 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year

595 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of [Education] Early
596 Education and Child Development school readiness program offered
597 by a school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand three
598 hundred forty-six dollars.

599 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-
600 16p, as amended by this act, the Department of [Education] Early
601 Education and Child Development shall not provide funding to any
602 school readiness provider that (A) on or before January 1, 2004, first
603 entered into a contract with a town to provide school readiness
604 services pursuant to this section and is not accredited on January 1,
605 2007, or (B) after January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a
606 town to provide school readiness services pursuant to this section and
607 does not become accredited by the date three years after the date on
608 which the provider first entered into such a contract, except that the
609 Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
610 may grant an extension of time for a school readiness program to
611 become accredited or reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such
612 extension, the Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
613 Development conducts an on-site assessment of any such program and
614 maintains a report of such assessment completed in a uniform manner,
615 as prescribed by the commissioner, that includes a list of conditions
616 such program must fulfill to become accredited or reaccredited, (ii) the
617 program is licensed by the Department of Public Health if required to
618 be licensed by chapter 368a, (iii) the program has a corrective action
619 plan that shall be prescribed by and monitored by the Commissioner
620 of [Education] Early Education and Child Development, and (iv) the
621 program meets such other conditions as may be prescribed by the
622 commissioner. During the period of such extension, such program
623 shall be eligible for funding pursuant to said section 10-16p, as
624 amended by this act.

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

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

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

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

647 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
648 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u, as amended
649 by this act, shall convene a local school readiness council or shall
650 establish a regional school readiness council pursuant to subsection (c)
651 of this section. Any other town may convene such a council. The chief
652 elected official of the town or, in the case of a regional school district,
653 the chief elected officials of the towns in the school district and the
654 superintendent of schools for the school district shall jointly appoint
655 and convene such council. Each school readiness council shall be
656 composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or the official's designee; (2)
657 the superintendent of schools, or a management level staff person as
658 the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4) representatives from
659 local programs such as Head Start, family resource centers, nonprofit

660 and for-profit child day care centers, group day care homes,
661 prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day care home
662 providers; (5) a representative from a health care provider in the
663 community; and (6) other representatives from the community who
664 provide services to children. The chief elected official shall designate
665 the chairperson of the school readiness council.

666 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
667 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
668 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
669 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
670 act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this act,
671 and 17b-749c, as amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among
672 providers of school readiness programs; (3) assist in the identification
673 of (A) the need for school readiness programs and the number of
674 children not being served by such a program, and (B) for priority
675 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, the number of children not
676 being served by such a program and the estimated operating cost of
677 providing universal school readiness to eligible children in such
678 districts who are not being served; (4) submit biannual reports to the
679 Department of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
680 on the number and location of school readiness spaces, estimates of
681 future needs, and the factors identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of
682 this subsection; (5) cooperate with the department in any program
683 evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures developed
684 pursuant to section 10-16s, as amended by this act, for purposes of
685 evaluating the effectiveness of school readiness programs; (6) identify
686 existing and prospective resources and services available to children
687 and families; (7) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to
688 children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before
689 and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
690 programs; (8) exchange information with other councils, the
691 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
692 families; (9) make recommendations to school officials concerning
693 transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and (10)

694 encourage public participation.

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

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

705 [(a)] The [Commissioners of Education and Social Services]
706 Commissioner of Early Education and Child Development shall
707 develop [an agreement] a plan to define the duties and responsibilities
708 of [their departments] the department concerning school readiness
709 programs. The commissioners shall consult with other affected state
710 agencies. The agreement shall include, but not be limited to, a
711 multiyear interagency agreement to establish and implement an
712 integrated school readiness plan. [Functions to be described and
713 responsibilities to be undertaken by the two departments shall be
714 delineated in the agreement.] On or before January 1, 2010, and
715 annually thereafter, the [Commissioners of Education and Social
716 Services] Commissioner of Early Education and Child Development
717 shall submit such agreement, in accordance with the provisions of
718 section 11-4a, to the Early Childhood Education Cabinet, established
719 pursuant to section 10-16z, as amended by this act, and to the joint
720 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
721 matters relating to education and human services.

722 [(b) On or before January 1, 2008, the commissioners shall adopt
723 assessment measures of school readiness programs for use by such
724 programs in conducting their annual evaluations pursuant to section
725 10-16q. The commissioners may adopt the assessment measures used

726 for Head Start programs.]

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

729 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2002] 2012, and each fiscal year
730 thereafter, the Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
731 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
732 Development shall provide grants, within available appropriations, to
733 eligible school readiness program providers pursuant to subsection (b)
734 of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, to provide spaces in
735 accredited school readiness programs for eligible children who reside
736 in transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c, except for
737 transitional school districts eligible for grants pursuant to subsection
738 (c) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act. Under the program, the
739 grant shall be provided to the town in which such transitional school
740 district is located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period
741 based on a school district's designation as a transitional school district
742 in the initial year of application, except that grants pursuant to this
743 section shall not be provided for transitional school districts eligible for
744 grants pursuant to subsection (c) of said section 10-16p, as amended by
745 this act. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
746 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
747 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
748 transitional school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of
749 grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to
750 the [Departments of Education and Social Services] Department of
751 Early Education and Child Development. The departments shall jointly
752 review such plans and shall each approve the portion of such plan
753 within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall meet the
754 requirements specified in subsection (c) of said section 10-16p, as
755 amended by this act.

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

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

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

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

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

790 1, 2014):

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

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

804 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services, in consultation with the
805 Commissioner of Education,] Early Education and Child Development
806 shall develop and implement a performance-based evaluation system
807 to evaluate licensed child day care centers, within available
808 appropriations. Such a performance-based evaluation system shall be
809 similar to the Head Start Performance Standards in 45 CFR 1304.

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

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

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

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

844 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
845 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may
846 guarantee the repayment of loans, including, but not limited to,
847 principal and interest, to a lending institution that has provided
848 funding for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or
849 improvement of child care and child development facilities. The total
850 aggregate of any loan guarantee under this section shall be not less
851 than twenty per cent and shall not exceed fifty per cent of the principal
852 amount of the obligation, as determined by approved underwriting
853 standards approved by the commissioner, and upon such terms and

854 conditions as the commissioner may prescribe. The term of any loan
855 guarantee shall be determined by the useful life of the improvement
856 but in no event shall exceed thirty years. The commissioner shall
857 arrange by contract with each lending institution or the borrower to
858 safeguard the interests of the program in the event of a default by the
859 borrower, including, at the discretion of the commissioner, provision
860 for notice to the program of default by the borrower, for foreclosure or
861 other realization upon any security for the loan, for the time and
862 conditions for payment to the lending institution by the program of the
863 amount of any loss to the lending institution guaranteed by the
864 program and for the disposition of the proceeds realized from any
865 security for the loan guaranteed. When it appears desirable for a
866 temporary period upon default or threatened default by the borrower,
867 the commissioner may authorize payments of installments of principal
868 or interest, or both, from the program to the lending institution, and of
869 taxes and insurance, which payments shall be repaid under such
870 conditions as the program may prescribe and the program may also
871 agree to revise terms of financing when such appears pertinent. Upon
872 request of the lending institution, the commissioner may at any time,
873 under such equitable terms and conditions as it may prescribe, consent
874 to the release of the borrower from his liability under the loan or
875 consent to the release of parts of any secured property from the lien of
876 the lending institution.

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

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

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

894 (a) The Department of [Education, in conjunction with the
895 Department of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
896 Development shall coordinate a family resource center program to
897 provide comprehensive child care services, remedial educational and
898 literacy services, families-in-training programs and supportive services
899 to parents who are recipients of temporary family assistance and other
900 parents in need of such services. The family resource centers shall be
901 located in or associated with public schools, and any family resource
902 center established on or after July 1, 2000, shall be located in a public
903 elementary school unless the Commissioner of [Education] Early
904 Education and Child Development waives such requirement. The
905 commissioner shall determine the manner in which the grant
906 recipients of such program, such as municipalities, boards of education
907 and child care providers shall be selected. The family resource center
908 shall provide: (1) Quality full-day child care and school readiness
909 programs for children age three and older who are not enrolled in
910 school and child care for children enrolled in school up to the age of
911 twelve for before and after regular school hours and on a full-day basis
912 during school holidays and school vacation, in compliance with all
913 state statutes and regulations governing child day care and, in the case
914 of the school readiness programs, in compliance with the standards set
915 for such programs pursuant to section 10-16p, as amended by this act;
916 (2) support services to parents of newborn infants to ascertain their
917 needs and provide them with referrals to other services and
918 organizations and, if necessary, education in parenting skills; (3)
919 support and educational services to parents whose children are
920 participants of the child care services of the program and who are

921 interested in obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent. Parents
922 and their preschool age children may attend classes in parenting and
923 child learning skills together so as to promote the mutual pursuit of
924 education and enhance parent-child interaction; (4) training, technical
925 assistance and other support by the staff of the center to family day
926 care providers in the community and serve as an information and
927 referral system for other child care needs in the community or
928 coordinate with such systems as may already exist in the community;
929 (5) a families-in-training program to provide, within available
930 appropriations, community support services to expectant parents and
931 parents of children under the age of three. Such services shall include,
932 but not be limited to, providing information and advice to parents on
933 their children's language, cognitive, social and motor development,
934 visiting a participant's home on a regular basis, organizing group
935 meetings at the center for neighborhood parents of young children and
936 providing a reference center for parents who need special assistance or
937 services. The program shall provide for the recruitment of parents to
938 participate in such program; and (6) a sliding scale of payment [, as
939 developed in consultation with the Department of Social Services,] for
940 child care services at the center. The center shall also provide a teen
941 pregnancy prevention program for adolescents emphasizing
942 responsible decision-making and communication skills.

943 (b) The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
944 Development, in consultation with representatives from family
945 resource centers, within available appropriations, shall develop
946 guidelines for family resource center programs. The guidelines shall
947 include standards for program quality and design and identify short
948 and long-term outcomes for families participating in such programs.
949 The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
950 Development, within available appropriations, shall provide a copy of
951 such guidelines to each family resource center. Each family resource
952 center shall use the guidelines to develop a program improvement
953 plan for the next twelve-month period and shall submit the plan to the
954 department. The plan shall include goals to be used for measuring

955 such improvement. The department shall use the plan to monitor the
956 progress of the center. Family resource centers in existence on July 1,
957 1997, shall be given a preference for grants for school readiness
958 awarded by the Department of [Education or the Department of Social
959 Services] Early Education and Child Development and for financing
960 pursuant to sections 10a-194c, as amended by this act, 17b-749g, as
961 amended by this act, and 17b-749h, as amended by this act.

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

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

973 (e) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
974 Development may accept and receive on behalf of the department or
975 any family resource center, subject to section 4b-22, any bequest,
976 devise or grant made to the department or any family resource center
977 for the purpose of establishing a new family resource center or
978 expanding an existing center, and may hold and use such property for
979 the purpose specified in such bequest, devise or gift.

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

982 The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
983 Development shall be the lead agency for child day care services in
984 Connecticut. The department shall: (1) Identify, annually, existing
985 child day care services and maintain an inventory of all available

986 services; (2) provide technical assistance to corporations and private
987 agencies in the development and expansion of child day care services
988 for families at all income levels, including families of their employees
989 and clients; (3) study and identify funding sources available for child
990 day care including federal funds and tax benefits; (4) study the cost
991 and availability of liability insurance for child day care providers; (5)
992 provide, in conjunction with the [Departments] Department of
993 [Education and] Higher Education, ongoing training for child day care
994 providers including preparing videotaped workshops and distributing
995 them to cable stations for broadcast on public access stations, and seek
996 private donations to fund such training; (6) encourage child day care
997 services to obtain accreditation; (7) develop a range of financing
998 options for child care services, including the use of a tax-exempt bond
999 program, a loan guarantee program and establishing a direct revolving
1000 loan program; (8) promote the colocation of child day care and school
1001 readiness programs pursuant to section 4b-31; (9) establish a
1002 performance-based evaluation system; (10) develop for
1003 recommendation to the Governor and the General Assembly measures
1004 to provide incentives for the private sector to develop and support
1005 expanded child day care services; (11) provide, within available funds
1006 and in conjunction with the temporary family assistance program as
1007 defined in section 17b-680, child day care to public assistance
1008 recipients; (12) develop and implement, with the assistance of the
1009 Child Day Care Council and the Departments of [Public Health, Social
1010 Services, Education,] Higher Education, Children and Families,
1011 Economic and Community Development and Consumer Protection, a
1012 state-wide coordinated child day care and early childhood education
1013 training system (A) for child day care centers, group day care homes
1014 and family day care homes that provide child day care services, and
1015 (B) that makes available to such providers and their staff, within
1016 available appropriations, scholarship assistance, career counseling and
1017 training, advancement in career ladders, as defined in section 4-124bb,
1018 through seamless articulation of levels of training, program
1019 accreditation support and other initiatives recommended by the

1020 [Departments] Department of [Social Services, Education and] Higher
1021 Education; (13) plan and implement a unit cost reimbursement system
1022 for state-funded child day care services such that, on and after January
1023 1, 2008, any increase in reimbursement shall be based on a requirement
1024 that such centers meet the staff qualifications, as defined in subsection
1025 (b) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act; (14) develop, within
1026 available funds, initiatives to increase compensation paid to child day
1027 care providers for educational opportunities, including, but not limited
1028 to, (A) incentives for educational advancement paid to persons
1029 employed by child day care centers receiving state or federal funds,
1030 and (B) support for the establishment and implementation by the
1031 Labor Commissioner of apprenticeship programs for child day care
1032 workers pursuant to sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, which
1033 programs shall be jointly administered by labor and management
1034 trustees; (15) evaluate the effectiveness of any initiatives developed
1035 pursuant to subdivision (14) of this section in improving staff retention
1036 rates and the quality of education and care provided to children; and
1037 (16) report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the
1038 status of child day care in Connecticut. Such report shall include (A) an
1039 itemization of the allocation of state and federal funds for child care
1040 programs; (B) the number of children served under each program so
1041 funded; (C) the number and type of such programs, providers and
1042 support personnel; (D) state activities to encourage partnership
1043 between the public and private sectors; (E) average payments issued
1044 by the state for both part-time and full-time child care; (F) range of
1045 family income and percentages served within each range by such
1046 programs; and (G) age range of children served.

1047 Sec. 20. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1048 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1049 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1050 Child Development shall establish and operate a child care subsidy
1051 program to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child
1052 care services for families with a parent or caretaker who is working,

1053 attending high school or who receives cash assistance under the
1054 temporary family assistance program from the Department of [Social
1055 Services] Early Education and Child Development and is participating
1056 in an approved education, training, or other job preparation activity.
1057 Services available under the child care program shall include the
1058 provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen
1059 or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The
1060 department shall open and maintain enrollment for the child care
1061 subsidy program and shall administer such program within the
1062 existing budgetary resources available. The department shall issue a
1063 notice on the department's Internet web site and shall provide written
1064 notice to recipients of program benefits and to service providers any
1065 time the department closes the program to new applications, changes
1066 eligibility requirements or changes program benefits, provided the
1067 department shall not be required to issue such notice when the
1068 department expands program eligibility. Any change in the
1069 department's acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements
1070 or program benefits for which the department is required to give
1071 notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty
1072 days after the department issues such notice.

1073 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
1074 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
1075 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
1076 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
1077 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
1078 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
1079 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
1080 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
1081 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
1082 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
1083 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
1084 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
1085 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
1086 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational

1087 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

1088 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
1089 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
1090 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
1091 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
1092 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
1093 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
1094 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
1095 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
1096 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
1097 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
1098 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
1099 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
1100 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
1101 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
1102 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
1103 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
1104 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
1105 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
1106 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
1107 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
1108 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
1109 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers
1110 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which
1111 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding
1112 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative
1113 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate
1114 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover
1115 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment
1116 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy
1117 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
1118 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
1119 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
1120 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with

1121 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
1122 issued annually by the Department of [Social Services] Early Education
1123 and Child Development to the Governor and the General Assembly in
1124 accordance with subdivision (10) of section 17b-733, as amended by
1125 this act. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income,
1126 age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

1127 (d) Not later than January 1, 2011, an applicant determined to be
1128 eligible for program benefits shall remain eligible for such benefits for
1129 a period of not less than eight months from the date that such
1130 applicant is determined to be eligible, provided the commissioner has
1131 not determined, during such eight-month period, that the applicant's
1132 circumstances have changed so as to render the applicant ineligible for
1133 program benefits. The commissioner shall not make an eligibility
1134 determination for a recipient of program benefits more than one time
1135 per eight-month period, except as provided in subsection (e) of this
1136 section.

1137 (e) Not later than October 15, 2011, the commissioner shall submit a
1138 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
1139 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1140 matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets
1141 of state agencies concerning eligibility redeterminations made on an
1142 eight-month basis. Such report shall include an analysis of
1143 overpayments of program benefits made by the department and
1144 administrative costs incurred by the department as a result of
1145 eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and
1146 after October 15, 2011, the commissioner may make eligibility
1147 redeterminations on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the
1148 department's overpayments of program benefits have increased in
1149 comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and December
1150 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
1151 redetermination period.

1152 (f) A provider under the child care subsidy program that qualifies

1153 for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child care
1154 services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for such
1155 services until informed by the Department of [Social Services] Early
1156 Education and Child Development of the recipient's ineligibility.

1157 (g) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
1158 from licensing shall provide the Department of [Social Services] Early
1159 Education and Child Development with the following information in
1160 order to maintain eligibility for reimbursement: (1) The name, address,
1161 appropriate identification, Social Security number and telephone
1162 number of the provider and all adults who work for or reside at the
1163 location where care is provided; (2) the name and address of the child's
1164 doctor, primary care provider and health insurance company; (3)
1165 whether the child is immunized and has had health screens pursuant
1166 to the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment
1167 Services Program under 42 USC 1396d; and (4) the number of children
1168 cared for by the provider.

1169 (h) On or after January 1, 1998, the commissioner shall adopt
1170 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1171 implement the provisions of this section.

1172 (i) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing committees
1173 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1174 human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a
1175 copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
1176 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
1177 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
1178 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
1179 the Administration for Children and Families.

1180 Sec. 21. Section 17b-749d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1182 Each licensed child day care provider receiving funding directly
1183 from the Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child

1184 Development shall adopt a sliding fee scale based on family income.
1185 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1186 Development shall develop a minimum sliding fee scale which may be
1187 adjusted upward by each such licensed day care program. All income
1188 derived from such fees shall be used to support the child day care
1189 program.

1190 Sec. 22. Section 19a-80f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1191 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1192 (a) As used in this section, "facility" means a child day care center, a
1193 group day care home and a family day care home, as defined in section
1194 19a-77, and a youth camp, as defined in section 19a-420.

1195 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1196 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
1197 designee, shall provide to the Department of [Public Health] Early
1198 Education and Child Development all records concerning reports and
1199 investigations of suspected child abuse or neglect, including records of
1200 any administrative hearing held pursuant to section 17a-101k: (1)
1201 Occurring at any facility, and (2) by any staff member or licensee of
1202 any facility and by any household member of any family day care
1203 home, as defined in section 19a-77, irrespective of where the abuse or
1204 neglect occurred.

1205 (c) The Department of Children and Families and the Department of
1206 [Public Health] Early Education and Child Development shall jointly
1207 investigate reports of abuse or neglect occurring at any facility. All
1208 information, records and reports concerning such investigation shall
1209 be shared between agencies as part of the investigative process.

1210 (d) The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education and Child
1211 Development shall compile a listing of allegations of violations that
1212 have been substantiated by the Department of [Public Health] Early
1213 Education and Child Development concerning a facility during the
1214 prior three-year period. The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early

1215 Education and Child Development shall disclose information
1216 contained in the listing to any person who requests it, provided the
1217 information does not identify children or family members of those
1218 children.

1219 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
1220 Commissioner of Children and Families has made a finding
1221 substantiating abuse or neglect: (1) That occurred at a facility, or (2) by
1222 any staff member or licensee of any facility, or by any household
1223 member of any family day care home and such finding is included on
1224 the state child abuse or neglect registry, maintained by the Department
1225 of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101k, such finding
1226 may be included in the listing compiled by the Department of [Public
1227 Health] Early Education and Child Development pursuant to
1228 subsection (d) of this section and may be disclosed to the public by the
1229 Department of [Public Health] Early Education and Child
1230 Development.

1231 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
1232 Commissioner of Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-101j,
1233 has notified the Department of [Public Health] Early Education and
1234 Child Development of suspected child abuse or neglect at a facility and
1235 if such child abuse or neglect resulted in or involves (1) the death of a
1236 child; (2) the risk of serious physical injury or emotional harm of a
1237 child; (3) the serious physical harm of a child; (4) the arrest of a person
1238 due to abuse or neglect of a child; (5) a petition filed by the
1239 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-112 or
1240 46b-129; or (6) sexual abuse of a child, the Commissioner of [Public
1241 Health] Early Education and Child Development may include a
1242 finding of child abuse or neglect in the listing under subsection (d) of
1243 this section and may disclose such finding to the public. If the
1244 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
1245 designee, notifies the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education
1246 and Child Development that such child abuse or neglect was not
1247 substantiated after investigation or reversed after appeal, the

1248 Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education and Child
1249 Development shall immediately remove such information from the
1250 listing and shall not further disclose any such information to the
1251 public.

1252 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, all
1253 records provided by the Commissioner of Children and Families, or
1254 the commissioner's designee, to the Department of [Public Health]
1255 Early Education and Child Development regarding child abuse or
1256 neglect occurring at any facility, may be utilized in an administrative
1257 proceeding or court proceeding relative to facility licensing. In any
1258 such proceeding, such records shall be confidential, except as provided
1259 by the provisions of section 4-177c, and such records shall not be
1260 subject to disclosure pursuant to section 1-210.

1261 Sec. 23. Section 17b-749e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1262 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1263 The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1264 Development shall establish and fund five regional accreditation
1265 projects, within available appropriations. The department shall select
1266 qualified applicants for each region through a request for proposal
1267 process. The department shall give priority to child day care facilities
1268 where at least twenty per cent of the children live with families
1269 earning less than seventy-five per cent of the state median income
1270 level.

1271 Sec. 24. Section 17b-749h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1272 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

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

1279 collateral relating to direct loans. Any balance remaining in the
1280 program at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the
1281 program for the next succeeding fiscal year. The program shall be used
1282 to make loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, to make loan
1283 guarantees and to pay reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in
1284 administering loans and loan guarantees under this section. The
1285 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1286 Development may enter into a contract with a quasi-public agency,
1287 banking institution or nonprofit corporation to provide for the
1288 administration of the loan program, provided no loan or loan
1289 guarantee shall be made from the fund without the authorization of
1290 the commissioner as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

1291 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1292 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may enter
1293 into a contract to provide financial assistance in the form of interest-
1294 free loans, deferred loans or guaranteed loans to child care providers
1295 or to nonprofit developers of a child care facility operating under a
1296 legally enforceable agreement with a child care provider, for costs or
1297 expenses incurred and directly connected with the expansion,
1298 improvement or development of child care facilities. Such costs and
1299 expenses may include: (1) Advances of loan proceeds for direct loans;
1300 (2) expenses incurred in project planning and design, including
1301 architectural expenses; (3) legal and financial expenses; (4) expenses
1302 incurred in obtaining required permits and approvals; (5) options to
1303 purchase land; (6) expenses incurred in obtaining required insurance;
1304 (7) expenses incurred in meeting state and local child care standards;
1305 (8) minor renovations and upgrading child care facilities to meet such
1306 standards and loans for the purpose of obtaining licensure under
1307 section 19a-77; (9) purchase and installation of equipment, machinery
1308 and furniture, including equipment needed to accommodate children
1309 with special needs; and (10) other preliminary expenses authorized by
1310 the commissioner. Loan proceeds shall not be used for the refinancing
1311 of existing loans, working capital, supplies or inventory.

1312 (c) The amount of a direct loan under this section may be up to
1313 eighty per cent of the total amount of investment but shall not exceed
1314 twenty-five thousand dollars for such facility as determined by the
1315 commissioner except that if an applicant for a loan under this section
1316 has an existing loan that is guaranteed by the child care facilities loan
1317 guarantee program, established under section 17b-749g, as amended
1318 by this act, the direct loan provided under this section shall not exceed
1319 twenty per cent of the investment. The amount of any guarantee and a
1320 direct loan under this section shall not exceed eighty per cent.

1321 (d) Each provider applying for a loan under this section shall submit
1322 an application, on a form provided by the commissioner that shall
1323 include, but is not limited to, the following information: (1) A detailed
1324 description of the proposed or existing child care facility; (2) an
1325 itemization of known and estimated costs; (3) the total amount of
1326 investment required to expand or develop the child care facility; (4) the
1327 funds available to the applicant without financial assistance from the
1328 department; (5) the amount of financial assistance sought from the
1329 department; (6) information relating to the financial status of the
1330 applicant, including, if available, a current balance sheet, a profit and
1331 loss statement and credit references; and (7) evidence that the loan
1332 applicant shall, as of the loan closing, own, have an option to purchase
1333 or have a lease for the term of the loan. Security for the loan may
1334 include an assignment of the lease or other subordination of any
1335 mortgage and the borrower shall be in default if the loan is not used
1336 for the intended purpose.

1337 (e) Payments of principal and interest on such loans shall be paid to
1338 the State Treasurer for deposit in the child care facilities direct
1339 revolving loan program established in subsection (a) of this section.

1340 (f) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1341 Development may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to
1342 carry out the provisions of this section. Such regulations may clarify
1343 loan procedures, repayment terms, security requirements, default and

1344 remedy provisions, and such other terms and conditions as said
1345 commissioner shall deem appropriate.

1346 Sec. 25. Section 8-210 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1348 (a) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1349 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may enter
1350 into a contract with a municipality or a qualified private, nonprofit
1351 corporation for state financial assistance for the planning, construction,
1352 renovation, site preparation and purchase of improved or unimproved
1353 property as part of a capital development project for neighborhood
1354 facilities. Such facilities may include, but are not limited to, child day
1355 care facilities, elderly centers, multipurpose human resource centers,
1356 emergency shelters for the homeless and shelters for victims of
1357 domestic violence. The financial assistance shall be in the form of state
1358 grants-in-aid equal to (1) all or any portion of the cost of such capital
1359 development project if the grantee is a qualified private nonprofit
1360 corporation or (2) up to two-thirds of the cost of such capital
1361 development project if the grantee is a municipality, as determined by
1362 the commissioner.

1363 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1364 [Social Services] Early Education and Child Development, may enter
1365 into a contract with a municipality, a human resource development
1366 agency or a nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance in
1367 developing and operating child day care centers for children
1368 disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental
1369 conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for
1370 the operating costs of any such day care center unless it has been
1371 licensed by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section
1372 19a-80. Such financial assistance shall be available for a program of a
1373 municipality, of a human resource development agency or of a
1374 nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel, equipment,
1375 supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and remodeling

1376 of physical facilities of such day care centers. Such contract shall
1377 provide for state financial assistance, within available appropriations,
1378 in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the cost of such
1379 program as determined by the Commissioner of [Social Services] Early
1380 Education and Child Development, if not federally assisted, or (2)
1381 equal to one-half of the amount by which the net cost of such program
1382 as approved by the commissioner exceeds the federal grant-in-aid
1383 thereof. The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1384 Child Development may authorize child day care centers provided
1385 financial assistance pursuant to this subsection to apply a program
1386 surplus to the next program year. The commissioner shall consult with
1387 directors of child day care centers in establishing fees for the operation
1388 of such centers.

1389 (c) The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1390 Development, in consultation with representatives from child care
1391 centers, within available appropriations, shall develop guidelines for
1392 state-contracted child care center programs. The guidelines shall
1393 include standards for program quality and design and identify short
1394 and long-term outcomes for families participating in such programs.
1395 The Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1396 Development, within available appropriations, shall provide a copy of
1397 such guidelines to each state-contracted child care center. Each state-
1398 contracted child care center shall use the guidelines to develop a
1399 program improvement plan for the next twelve-month period and
1400 shall submit the plan to the department. The plan shall include goals to
1401 be used for measuring such improvement. The department shall use
1402 the plan to monitor the progress of the center.

1403 (d) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the commissioner
1404 may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human resource
1405 development agency or a nonprofit corporation for state financial
1406 assistance for a project of renovation of any child day care facility
1407 receiving assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section, to make
1408 such facility accessible to the physically disabled, in the form of a state

1409 grant-in-aid equal to (1) the total net cost of the project as approved by
1410 the commissioner or (2) the total amount by which the net cost of the
1411 project as approved by the commissioner exceeds the federal grant-in-
1412 aid thereof.

1413 (e) Any municipality, human resource development agency or
1414 nonprofit corporation which enters into a contract pursuant to this
1415 section for state financial assistance for a day care facility shall have
1416 sole responsibility for the development of the budget of the day care
1417 program, including, but not limited to, personnel costs, purchases of
1418 equipment, supplies, activities and program materials, within the
1419 resources provided by the state under said contract. Upon local
1420 determination of a change in the type of day care service required in
1421 the area, a municipality, human resource development agency or
1422 nonprofit corporation may, within the limits of its annual budget and
1423 subject to the provisions of this subsection and sections 19a-77 to 19a-
1424 80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, change its day care
1425 service. An application to change the type of child day care service
1426 provided shall be submitted to the Commissioner of [Social Services.
1427 Within] Early Education and Child Development. Not later than forty-
1428 five days of his receipt of the application, the commissioner shall
1429 advise the municipality, human resource development agency or
1430 nonprofit corporation of his approval, denial or approval with
1431 modifications of the application. If the commissioner fails to act on the
1432 application within forty-five days of its submittal, the application shall
1433 be deemed approved.

1434 (f) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1435 Development may in his discretion with the approval of the Secretary
1436 of the Office of Policy and Management authorize the expenditure of
1437 such funds for the purposes of this section as shall enable the
1438 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1439 Development to apply for, qualify for and provide the state's share of a
1440 federally assisted day care program.

1441 Sec. 26. Subsection (f) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is
1442 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1443 *1, 2014*):

1444 (f) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall, upon
1445 request, promptly provide copies of records, without the consent of a
1446 person, to (1) a law enforcement agency, (2) the Chief State's Attorney,
1447 or the Chief State's Attorney's designee, or a state's attorney for the
1448 judicial district in which the child resides or in which the alleged abuse
1449 or neglect occurred, or the state's attorney's designee, for purposes of
1450 investigating or prosecuting an allegation of child abuse or neglect, (3)
1451 the attorney appointed to represent a child in any court in litigation
1452 affecting the best interests of the child, (4) a guardian ad litem
1453 appointed to represent a child in any court in litigation affecting the
1454 best interests of the child, (5) the Department of [Public Health] Early
1455 Education and Child Development, in connection with: (A) Licensure
1456 of any person to care for children for the purposes of determining the
1457 suitability of such person for licensure, subject to the provisions of
1458 sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k, or (B) an investigation conducted
1459 pursuant to section 19a-80f, as amended by this act, (6) any state
1460 agency which licenses such person to educate or care for children
1461 pursuant to section 10-145b or 17a-101j, subject to the provisions of
1462 sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k concerning nondisclosure of findings
1463 of responsibility for abuse and neglect, (7) the Governor, when
1464 requested in writing, in the course of the Governor's official functions
1465 or the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, the
1466 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
1467 of matters relating to the judiciary and the select committee of the
1468 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
1469 when requested in the course of said committees' official functions in
1470 writing, and upon a majority vote of said committee, provided no
1471 names or other identifying information shall be disclosed unless it is
1472 essential to the legislative or gubernatorial purpose, (8) a local or
1473 regional board of education, provided the records are limited to
1474 educational records created or obtained by the state or Connecticut-

1475 Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section 17a-37, (9) a
1476 party in a custody proceeding under section 17a-112 or 46b-129, in the
1477 Superior Court where such records concern a child who is the subject
1478 of the proceeding or the parent of such child, (10) the Chief Child
1479 Protection Attorney, or his or her designee, for purposes of ensuring
1480 competent representation by the attorneys whom the Chief Child
1481 Protection Attorney contracts with to provide legal and guardian ad
1482 litem services to the subjects of such records and to ensure accurate
1483 payments for services rendered by such contract attorneys, (11) the
1484 Department of Motor Vehicles, for purposes of checking the state's
1485 child abuse and neglect registry pursuant to subsection (e) of section
1486 14-44, and (12) a judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties
1487 in a family violence proceeding when such records concern family
1488 violence with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding
1489 or the parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding. A
1490 disclosure under this section shall be made of any part of a record,
1491 whether or not created by the department, provided no confidential
1492 record of the Superior Court shall be disclosed other than the petition
1493 and any affidavits filed therewith in the superior court for juvenile
1494 matters, except upon an order of a judge of the Superior Court for
1495 good cause shown. The commissioner shall also disclose the name of
1496 any individual who cooperates with an investigation of a report of
1497 child abuse or neglect to such law enforcement agency or state's
1498 attorney for purposes of investigating or prosecuting an allegation of
1499 child abuse or neglect. The commissioner or the commissioner's
1500 designee shall, upon request, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-
1501 101g and 17a-101k, promptly provide copies of records, without the
1502 consent of the person, to [(A)] the Department of [Public Health] Early
1503 Education and Child Development for (A) the purpose of determining
1504 the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed
1505 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive,
1506 and 19a-87b, and (B) [the Department of Social Services for]
1507 determining the suitability of a person for any payment from the
1508 department for providing child care.

1509 Sec. 27. Section 12-634 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1510 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1511 The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit against
1512 any tax due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or
1513 212 in an amount not to exceed sixty per cent of the total cash amount
1514 invested during the taxable year by the business firm in programs
1515 operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant to
1516 section 12-632 for planning, site preparation, construction, renovation
1517 or acquisition of facilities for purposes of establishing a child day care
1518 facility to be used primarily by the children of such business firm's
1519 employees and equipment installed for such facility, including kitchen
1520 appliances, to the extent that such equipment or appliances are
1521 necessary in the use of such facility for purposes of child day care,
1522 provided: (1) Such facility is operated under the authority of a license
1523 issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Education and
1524 Child Development in accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-87,
1525 inclusive, (2) such facility is operated without profit by such business
1526 firm related to any charges imposed for the use of such facility for
1527 purposes of child day care, and (3) the amount of tax credit allowed
1528 any business firm under the provisions of this section for any income
1529 year may not exceed fifty thousand dollars. If two or more business
1530 firms share in the cost of establishing such a facility for the children of
1531 their employees, each such taxpayer shall be allowed such credit in
1532 relation to the respective share, paid or incurred by such taxpayer, of
1533 the total expenditures for the facility in such income year. The
1534 commissioner shall not grant a credit pursuant to this section to any
1535 taxpayer claiming a credit for the same year pursuant to section 12-
1536 217x.

1537 Sec. 28. Section 17b-749i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1538 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1539 Within appropriations available to the State Treasurer for child care
1540 facilities, not already allocated toward debt service for specific child

1541 care facilities, the Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education
1542 and Child Development may, upon submission of a request by a
1543 facility operating a child care program that is financed with tax-exempt
1544 or taxable bonds issued through the Connecticut Health and
1545 Educational Facilities Authority, allow actual debt service, comprised
1546 of principal, interest and premium, if any, on the loan or loans, a debt
1547 service reserve fund and a reasonable repair and replacement reserve
1548 to be paid, provided such debt service terms and amounts are
1549 determined by the commissioner, at the time the loan is entered into,
1550 to be reasonable in relation to the useful life and base value of the
1551 property.

1552 Sec. 29. Section 17b-749j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1553 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1554 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1555 Development shall establish health and safety standards, within
1556 available appropriations, for the child care subsidy program. The
1557 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
1558 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A
1559 requirement for the provider or relative to apply for reimbursement
1560 from the Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1561 Development; (2) a requirement for the provider or relative to provide
1562 reasonable confirmation of physical premises safety pursuant to 45
1563 CFR Part 98.41; and (3) minimum health and safety training
1564 appropriate to the provider setting and the prevention and control of
1565 infectious diseases, including immunization. The commissioner shall,
1566 within available appropriations, distribute information on the
1567 availability of health and safety training and assistance.

1568 Sec. 30. Section 17b-749k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1569 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1570 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1571 Child Development shall, within available appropriations, require any
1572 person, other than a relative, providing child care services to a child in

1573 the child's home who receives a child care subsidy from the
1574 Department of [Social Services] Early Education and Child
1575 Development to submit to state and national criminal history records
1576 checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this
1577 subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The
1578 commissioner shall also request a check of the state child abuse
1579 registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k.

1580 (b) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Education and
1581 Child Development shall have the discretion to refuse payments for
1582 child care under any financial assistance program administered by him
1583 if the person providing such child care has been convicted in this state
1584 or any other state of a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving
1585 the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against
1586 another person, of cruelty to persons under section 53-20, injury or risk
1587 of injury to or impairing morals of children under section 53-21,
1588 abandonment of children under the age of six years under section 53-
1589 23 or any felony where the victim of the felony is a child under
1590 eighteen years of age, or of a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-
1591 70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or has a criminal record or
1592 was the subject of a substantiated report of child abuse in this state or
1593 any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes renders the
1594 person unsuitable to provide child care.

1595 Sec. 31. Section 10-16n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1596 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1597 (a) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
1598 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Education and Child
1599 Development shall establish a competitive grant program to assist
1600 nonprofit agencies and local and regional boards of education, which
1601 are federal Head Start grantees, in (1) establishing extended-day and
1602 full-day, year-round, Head Start programs or expanding existing Head
1603 Start programs to extended-day or full-day, year-round programs, (2)
1604 enhancing program quality and (3) increasing the number of children

1605 served. The commissioner, after consultation with the committee
1606 established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall establish
1607 criteria for the grants, provided at least twenty-five per cent of the
1608 funding for such grants shall be for the purpose of enhancing program
1609 quality. Nonprofit agencies or boards of education seeking grants
1610 pursuant to this section shall make application to the Commissioner of
1611 Education on such forms and at such times as the commissioner shall
1612 prescribe. All grants pursuant to this section shall be funded within the
1613 limits of available appropriations or otherwise from federal funds and
1614 private donations. All full-day, year-round Head Start programs
1615 funded pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with federal
1616 Head Start performance standards.

1617 (b) The Department of [Education] Early Education and Child
1618 Development shall annually allocate to each town in which the
1619 number of children under the aid to dependent children program, as
1620 defined in subdivision (14) of section 10-262f, equals or exceeds nine
1621 hundred children, determined for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996,
1622 an amount equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars plus eight and
1623 one-half dollars for each child under the aid to dependent children
1624 program, provided such amount may be reduced proportionately so
1625 that the total amount awarded pursuant to this subsection does not
1626 exceed two million seven hundred thousand dollars. The department
1627 shall award grants to the local and regional boards of education for
1628 such towns and nonprofit agencies located in such towns which meet
1629 the criteria established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to
1630 maintain the programs established or expanded with funds provided
1631 pursuant to this subsection in the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, and
1632 June 30, 1997. Any funds remaining in the allocation to such a town
1633 after grants are so awarded shall be used to increase allocations to
1634 other such towns. Any funds remaining after grants are so awarded to
1635 boards of education and nonprofit agencies in all such towns shall be
1636 available to local and regional boards of education and nonprofit
1637 agencies in other towns in the state for grants for such purposes.

1638 (c) There is established a committee to advise the Commissioner of
1639 [Education] Early Education and Child Development concerning the
1640 coordination, priorities for allocation and distribution, and utilization
1641 of funds for Head Start and concerning the competitive grant program
1642 established under this section, and to evaluate programs funded
1643 pursuant to this section. The committee shall consist of twelve
1644 members as follows: One member designated by the Commissioner of
1645 Social Services; six members who are directors of Head Start programs,
1646 two from community action agency program sites or school readiness
1647 coordinators, one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro
1648 tempore of the Senate and one by the speaker of the House of
1649 Representatives, two from school program sites, one of whom shall be
1650 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate and one by the majority
1651 leader of the House of Representatives, and two from other nonprofit
1652 agency program sites, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
1653 leader of the Senate and one by the minority leader of the House of
1654 Representatives; one member designated by the Commission on
1655 Children; one member designated by the Early Childhood Education
1656 Council; one member designated by the Head Start Directors
1657 Association who shall be the parent of a present or former Head Start
1658 student; one member designated by the Connecticut Association for
1659 Community Action who shall have expertise and experience
1660 concerning Head Start; and one member designated by the Office of
1661 Human Development Services, Office of Community Programs,
1662 Region 1 of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

1663 (d) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
1664 Development may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1665 provisions of chapter 54, for purposes of this section.

1666 Sec. 32. Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the
1667 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1668 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The
1669 cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of [Education] Early

1670 Education and Child Development, or the commissioner's designee, (2)
1671 one representative from the Department of [Education] Early
1672 Education and Child Development who is responsible for programs
1673 required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20
1674 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time, appointed by the
1675 Commissioner of [Education] Early Education and Child
1676 Development, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
1677 commissioner's designee, (4) a representative from an institution of
1678 higher education in this state appointed by the Commissioner of
1679 Higher Education, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the
1680 commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental
1681 Services, or the commissioner's designee, (7) the Commissioner of
1682 Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee,
1683 (8) the executive director of the Commission on Children, or the
1684 executive director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut
1685 Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a representative from a
1686 Head Start program appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1687 Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early
1688 childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
1689 (12) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one
1690 of whom is a member of the House of Representatives and one of
1691 whom is a parent who has a child attending a school in a priority
1692 school district, (13) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
1693 Senate, one of whom is a member of the Senate and one of whom is a
1694 representative of a public elementary school with a prekindergarten
1695 program, (14) a representative of the business or philanthropic
1696 community in this state appointed by the Governor, and (15) the
1697 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
1698 designee. The chairperson of the council shall be appointed from
1699 among its members by the Governor.

1700 (b) Within available appropriations and such private funding as
1701 may be available, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall (1)
1702 coordinate among state agencies, as well as public and private
1703 partnerships, the development of services that enhance the health,

1704 safety and learning of children from birth to nine years of age,
1705 inclusive, (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter,
1706 develop an annual plan of action that assigns the appropriate state
1707 agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal Head Start Act of
1708 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time, and (3) not later than
1709 March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an annual state-wide
1710 strategic report, pursuant to said federal Head Start Act, in accordance
1711 with the provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the progress such
1712 agencies have made toward the completion of such tasks outlined
1713 under said federal Head Start Act and this subsection to the Governor
1714 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
1715 cognizance of matters relating to education and human services.

1716 (c) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall be within the
1717 Department of [Education] Early Education and Child Development
1718 for administrative purposes only.

1719 Sec. 33. Section 17a-248 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1720 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1721 As used in this section and sections 17a-248b to 17a-248g, inclusive,
1722 38a-490a and 38a-516a, unless the context otherwise requires:

1723 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Developmental
1724 Services] Early Education and Child Development.

1725 (2) "Council" means the State Interagency Birth-to-Three
1726 Coordinating Council established pursuant to section 17a-248b.

1727 (3) "Early intervention services" means early intervention services,
1728 as defined in 34 CFR Part 303.12, as from time to time amended.

1729 (4) "Eligible children" means children from birth to thirty-six months
1730 of age, who are not eligible for special education and related services
1731 pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, and who need early
1732 intervention services because such children are:

1733 (A) Experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured by
1734 standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including
1735 informed clinical opinion, in one or more of the following areas: (i)
1736 Cognitive development; (ii) physical development, including vision or
1737 hearing; (iii) communication development; (iv) social or emotional
1738 development; or (v) adaptive skills; or

1739 (B) Diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has a
1740 high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

1741 (5) "Evaluation" means a multidisciplinary professional, objective
1742 assessment conducted by appropriately qualified personnel in order to
1743 determine a child's eligibility for early intervention services.

1744 (6) "Individualized family service plan" means a written plan for
1745 providing early intervention services to an eligible child and the child's
1746 family.

1747 (7) "Lead agency" means the Department of [Developmental
1748 Services] Early Education and Child Development, the public agency
1749 responsible for the administration of the birth-to-three system in
1750 collaboration with the participating agencies.

1751 (8) "Parent" means (A) a biological, adoptive or foster parent of a
1752 child; (B) a guardian, except for the Commissioner of Children and
1753 Families; (C) an individual acting in the place of a biological or
1754 adoptive parent, including, but not limited to, a grandparent,
1755 stepparent, or other relative with whom the child lives; (D) an
1756 individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or (E) an
1757 individual appointed to be a surrogate parent.

1758 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
1759 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
1760 and Families and Developmental Services, the Insurance Department,
1761 the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the Commission on
1762 the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Office of Protection and

1763 Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

1764 (10) "Qualified personnel" means persons who meet the standards
1765 specified in 34 CFR Part 303.12(e), as from time to time amended, and
1766 who are licensed physicians or psychologists or persons holding a
1767 state-approved or recognized license, certificate or registration in one
1768 or more of the following fields: (A) Special education, including
1769 teaching of the blind and the deaf; (B) speech and language pathology
1770 and audiology; (C) occupational therapy; (D) physical therapy; (E)
1771 social work; (F) nursing; (G) dietary or nutritional counseling; and (H)
1772 other fields designated by the commissioner that meet requirements
1773 that apply to the area in which the person is providing early
1774 intervention services, provided there is no conflict with existing
1775 professional licensing, certification and registration requirements.

1776 (11) "Service coordinator" means a person carrying out service
1777 coordination, as defined in 34 CFR Part 303.22, as from time to time
1778 amended.

1779 (12) "Primary care provider" means physicians and advanced
1780 practice registered nurses, licensed by the Department of Public
1781 Health, who are responsible for performing or directly supervising the
1782 primary care services for children enrolled in the birth-to-three
1783 program.

1784 Sec. 34. Subsection (g) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
1785 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1786 *1, 2014*):

1787 (g) For the purposes of issuance of certificates, permits and
1788 authorizations by the State Board of Education under the provisions of
1789 sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, teaching experience in approved
1790 nonpublic schools shall include teaching experience in birth-to-three
1791 programs approved by the Department of [Developmental Services]
1792 Early Education and Child Development.

1793 Sec. 35. Subsection (c) of section 17a-215c of the general statutes is
1794 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1795 *1, 2014*):

1796 (c) The Division of Autism Spectrum Services may, within available
1797 appropriations, research, design and implement the delivery of
1798 appropriate and necessary services and programs for all residents of
1799 the state with autism spectrum disorders. Such services and programs
1800 may include the creation of: (1) The Autism-Specific Early Intervention
1801 Program, (AEI), designed to deliver services to any child who becomes
1802 at risk or is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and who was
1803 previously placed in the "birth-to-three" program administered by the
1804 Department of [Developmental Services] Early Education and Child
1805 Development; (2) age three to twenty-one, inclusive, support services
1806 including educational, recreation, life and skill coaching, and
1807 vocational and transition services; and (3) over age twenty-one adult
1808 services, including those services as defined by the pilot autism
1809 spectrum disorder program established pursuant to section 17a-215b,
1810 as well as related services deemed necessary by the Commissioner of
1811 Developmental Services.

1812 Sec. 36. Subsection (a) of section 10a-194c of the general statutes is
1813 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1814 *1, 2014*):

1815 (a) The [Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority]
1816 Department of Early Education and Child Development shall establish
1817 a program to finance low interest loans for child care and child
1818 development centers, family resource centers and Head Start programs
1819 that shall be known as the Connecticut Child Care Facilities Program.
1820 Loans shall be made for the purpose of new construction or renovation
1821 of existing centers or complying with federal, state and local child care
1822 requirements, including health and safety standards. For purposes of
1823 this section, "child development center" means a building used by a
1824 nonprofit school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p, as

1825 amended by this act, and "child care center" means a nonprofit facility
1826 that is licensed by the Department of Public Health as a child day care
1827 center or a group day care home, both as defined in section 19a-77.

1828 Sec. 37. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) A family child care
1829 provider shall be a state employee, as defined in subsection (b) of
1830 section 5-270 of the general statutes, only for the purposes of collective
1831 bargaining pursuant to sections 5-270 to 5-280, inclusive, of the general
1832 statutes and not for any other purpose. Sections 5-270 to 5-280,
1833 inclusive, of the general statutes shall apply to family child care
1834 providers except as provided in this section. A family child care
1835 provider shall not be eligible for benefits available to a state employee.

1836 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall have the authority
1837 and obligation to bargain and enter into agreements with an
1838 organization representing family child care providers that has been
1839 designated by the State Board of Labor Relations, pursuant to section
1840 5-275 of the general statutes, as the exclusive bargaining agent of such
1841 providers to establish the terms and conditions of participation of
1842 family child care providers in the child care subsidy program
1843 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as
1844 amended by this act, including, but not limited to, state reimbursement
1845 rates, benefits, payment procedures, contract grievance arbitration, and
1846 training, professional development and other requirements and
1847 opportunities appropriate for such family child care providers. For
1848 purposes of section 5-278 of the general statutes, the Department of
1849 Social Services shall be considered an executive branch employer and
1850 the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee,
1851 shall be considered the employer's chief executive officer.

1852 (c) Any collective bargaining agreement reached between the
1853 commissioner and the bargaining agent of the family child care
1854 providers and any arbitrator's award that is issued concerning the
1855 department and the bargaining agent of the family child care providers
1856 shall be binding on the parties, except no provision of any such

1857 agreement or award that requires additional state funding shall
1858 become final until the General Assembly approves the appropriation
1859 of such funds. The department and the bargaining agent of the family
1860 child care providers may participate in the elective binding arbitration
1861 procedures as provided in section 5-276a of the general statutes. The
1862 factors to be considered by the arbitrator in arriving at a decision on
1863 the issues submitted by the council and the bargaining agent shall
1864 include: (1) The state's ability to fund the child care subsidy program
1865 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as
1866 amended by this act; (2) the nature of the child care subsidy program
1867 at issue; and (3) the needs and welfare of children and families
1868 receiving such services, including recruitment, retention and quality
1869 needs with respect to family child care providers.

1870 (d) Family child care providers shall not be considered employees of
1871 the department or the state for any purpose except for the purpose of
1872 collective bargaining, pursuant to sections 5-270 to 5-280, inclusive, of
1873 the general statutes.

1874 (e) Consistent with the provisions of section 5-279 of the general
1875 statutes, no provision of this section shall grant personal care
1876 attendants a right to strike and such strikes are prohibited.

1877 (f) The only bargaining unit appropriate for the purpose of
1878 collective bargaining between the department and a representative of
1879 family child care providers, as provided in this section, shall be a state-
1880 wide unit of family child care providers who provide child care
1881 services under the child care subsidy program established pursuant to
1882 section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in a
1883 family day care home, as described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a)
1884 of section 19a-77 of the general statutes, or a home described in
1885 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 19a-77 of the general
1886 statutes.

1887 (g) Notwithstanding section 5-275 of the general statutes, the State
1888 Board of Labor Relations shall not require an organization interested in

1889 being designated as an exclusive bargaining representative of family
 1890 child care providers to (1) notify the State Board of Labor Relations
 1891 that more than ten per cent of family child care providers in a
 1892 bargaining unit desire to be exclusively represented for the purposes of
 1893 collective bargaining within the unit by the petitioning organization
 1894 and request the designation of such family child care providers
 1895 organization as their exclusive representative, or (2) establish that
 1896 more than ten per cent of family child care providers desire to be
 1897 exclusively represented by the organization before the State Board of
 1898 Labor Relations directs an election. All elections involving questions
 1899 concerning the representation of family child care providers shall be
 1900 conducted by mail ballot.

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>July 1, 2014</i>	10a-194c(a)
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To create the Department of Early Education and Child Development that will be responsible for all state early childhood education and child care programs and services, and to allow family child care providers to bargain collectively for the purposes of such providers' role in the state child care subsidy program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]