



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 7915

SB0110307915SD0

Offered by:

SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.
SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.
REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.

REP. COOK, 65th Dist.
REP. LYDDY, 106th Dist.
REP. SANCHEZ, 25th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1103

File No. 840

Cal. No. 293

"AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION."

1 In line 24, after "(12)" insert "a representative of the Connecticut
2 Family Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of
3 the House of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state funded
4 child care center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14)"

5 In line 27, bracket "(13)" and after the closing bracket insert "(15)"

6 In line 30, bracket "(14)" and after the closing bracket insert "(16)"

7 In line 34, bracket "(15)" and after the closing bracket insert "(17)"

8 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
9 internal references accordingly:

10 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) On and after July 1, 2013,
11 there shall be a coordinated system of early care and education and

12 child development. The coordinated system of early care and
13 education and child development shall consist of comprehensive and
14 aligned policies, responsibilities, practices and services for young
15 children and their families, including prenatal care and care for
16 children from birth to eight years of age, inclusive, to ensure optimal
17 health, safety and learning for each child, and that are in accordance
18 with the plan developed by the planning director pursuant to section
19 502 of this act.

20 (b) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
21 development shall (1) create a unified set of reporting requirements for
22 the programs described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section
23 502 of this act, for the purpose of collecting the data elements
24 necessary to perform quality assessments and longitudinal analysis; (2)
25 compare and analyze the data collected pursuant to reporting
26 requirements created under subdivision (1) of this subsection with the
27 data collected in the state-wide public school information system,
28 pursuant to section 10-10a of the general statutes, for population-level
29 analysis of children and families; (3) develop and update appropriate
30 early learning standards and assessment tools for children from birth
31 to five years of age, inclusive, that are age and developmentally
32 appropriate and that are aligned with existing learning standards as of
33 July 1, 2013, and assessment tools for students in grades kindergarten
34 to twelve, inclusive; (4) continually monitor and evaluate all early
35 childhood education and child care programs and services, focusing
36 on program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental
37 and educational needs of all children; (5) develop indicators that assess
38 strategies designed to strengthen the family through parental
39 involvement in a child's development and education, including
40 children with special needs; (6) increase the availability of early
41 childhood education and child care programs and services and
42 encourage the providers of such programs and services to work
43 together to create multiple options that allow families to participate in
44 programs that serve the particular needs of each family; (7) provide
45 information and technical assistance to persons seeking early

46 childhood education and child care programs and services; (8) assist
47 state agencies and municipalities in obtaining available federal
48 funding for early childhood education and child care programs and
49 services; (9) provide technical assistance and consultation to licensed
50 providers of early childhood education and child care programs and
51 services and assist any potential provider of such programs and
52 services in obtaining the necessary licensure and certification; (10)
53 create, implement and maintain a quality rating and improvement
54 system that covers home-based, center-based and school-based early
55 child care and learning; (11) maintain a system of accreditation
56 facilitation to assist early childhood education and child care programs
57 and services in achieving national standards and program
58 improvement; (12) create partnerships between state agencies and
59 philanthropic organizations to assist in the implementation of the
60 coordinated system of early care and education and child
61 development; (13) align the system's policy and program goals with
62 those of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet, pursuant to section
63 10-16z of the general statutes, and the Head Start advisory committee,
64 pursuant to section 10-16n of the general statutes; (14) ensure a
65 coordinated and comprehensive state-wide system of professional
66 development for providers of early childhood education and child care
67 programs and services; (15) develop family-centered services that
68 assist families in their communities; (16) provide families with
69 opportunities for choice in services including quality child care; (17)
70 integrate early childhood education and special education services;
71 (18) emphasize targeted research-based interventions; (19) organize
72 services into a coherent system; (20) coordinate a comprehensive and
73 accessible delivery system for early childhood education and child care
74 services; (21) focus on performance measures to ensure that services
75 are accountable, effective and accessible to the consumer; (22) promote
76 universal access to early childhood care and education; (23) ensure
77 nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation; (24) encourage, promote
78 and coordinate funding for the establishment and administration of
79 local and regional early childhood councils that implement local and
80 regional birth-to-eight systems; and (25) perform any other activities

81 that will assist in the provision of early childhood education and child
82 care programs and services.

83 (c) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
84 development shall collaborate with local and regional early childhood
85 councils to implement the coordinated system of early care and
86 education and child development at the local level. Such early
87 childhood councils shall: (1) Develop and implement a comprehensive
88 plan for an early childhood system for the community served by such
89 early childhood council, (2) develop policy and program planning, (3)
90 encourage community participation by emphasizing substantial
91 parental involvement, (4) collect, analyze and evaluate data with a
92 focus on program and service outcomes, (5) allocate resources, and (6)
93 perform any other functions that will assist in the provision of early
94 childhood programs and services. Such early childhood councils may
95 enter into memoranda of agreement with the local or regional school
96 readiness council, described in section 10-16r of the general statutes, of
97 the town or region served by such early childhood council to perform
98 the duties and functions of a school readiness council, in accordance
99 with the provisions of said section 10-16r, or if no such local or
100 regional school readiness council exists for the town or region of such
101 early childhood council, perform the duties and functions of a school
102 readiness council, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16r
103 of the general statutes.

104 (d) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
105 development may enter into memoranda of agreement with and accept
106 donations from nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to
107 accomplish the purposes of this section.

108 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) On or before July 15, 2011,
109 the Governor shall appoint, in consultation with the Early Childhood
110 Education Cabinet, established under section 10-16z of the general
111 statutes, a planning director for the planning and development of the
112 coordinated system of early care and education and child development
113 described in section 501 of this act, provided such appointment is

114 made within available appropriations or funded by donations from
115 private sources or federal funds to cover the costs of carrying out the
116 provisions of this section. The planning director shall be within the
117 Office of Policy and Management.

118 (b) (1) The planning director shall develop a plan for the
119 coordinated system of early care and education and child
120 development. Such plan shall consolidate existing early childhood
121 education and child care programs and services serving children from
122 birth to eight years of age, inclusive, into a coordinated system that
123 attempts to (A) reduce the academic achievement gap, (B) increase
124 participation in early childhood education programs, (C) increase
125 parent engagement, family literacy and parenting skills, (D) increase
126 oral language development, (E) increase social competence, (F)
127 decrease special education placements, and (G) support parents and
128 guardians of young children to find employment and to remain
129 employed and encourage such parents and guardians to attend work
130 training programs. Consolidation may include, but not be limited to,
131 school readiness programs, Head Start programs, the family resource
132 center program, established pursuant to section 10-4o of the general
133 statutes, child care facilities, licensing and services described in section
134 8-210 of the general statutes, the birth-to-three program, established
135 pursuant to section 17a-248 of the general statutes, professional
136 development activities relating to early childhood education and any
137 other relevant early childhood programs and services.

138 (2) In developing such plan, the planning director shall (A) consider
139 opportunities for consolidation between and within agencies to reduce
140 redundancy and to improve the focus on positive outcomes for
141 children and families; (B) seek areas of consolidation between and
142 within agencies; (C) provide for the creation of memoranda of
143 agreement between the coordinated system of early care and education
144 and child development and nonprofit and philanthropic organizations;
145 (D) identify opportunities to align services and meet the holistic needs
146 of children and families; (E) implement an accountability framework to
147 measure program and services outcomes; (F) identify common

148 requirements for funding from various sources and identify waiver
149 provisions related to such requirements that can be used to improve
150 service delivery in the state; (G) identify barriers under state or federal
151 law that inhibit effective consolidation of functions or utilization of
152 interagency agreements; (H) consult with qualified local and regional
153 planning groups; and (I) focus the memoranda of agreement to
154 relevant program areas, such as, maternal and child health, literacy,
155 family support, financial planning and early care and education.

156 (c) For purposes of the development of the plan for the coordinated
157 system of early care and education and child development, the
158 planning director may enter into memoranda of agreement with and
159 accept donations from nonprofit and philanthropic organizations.

160 (d) The Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health,
161 Children and Families, Developmental Services and Higher Education
162 shall assist the planning director in the planning and development of
163 the plan for the coordinated system of early care and education and
164 child development.

165 (e) (1) On and after October 1, 2011, until July 1, 2013, the planning
166 director shall report quarterly to the Early Childhood Education
167 Cabinet. Such report may include, but not be limited to, (A)
168 recommendations regarding the consolidation of agencies to improve
169 coordination within the coordinated system of early care and
170 education and child development, (B) suggestions regarding how
171 federal, state and local resources can be combined to maximize
172 efficiencies in the system and outcomes for children and families, (C)
173 suggestions to improve the manner in which state and local early
174 childhood education initiatives are coordinated so as to provide
175 holistic, affordable, high quality early education for young children,
176 (D) recommendations for improvements to the coordinated system of
177 early care and education and child development, and (E) assurances
178 that the provisions of section 8-210 of the general statutes are being
179 preserved in the planning and development of the coordinated system
180 of early care and education and child development.

181 (2) On and after January 1, 2012, until July 1, 2013, the planning
182 director shall semiannually report to the joint standing committees of
183 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
184 appropriations, human services and education, in accordance with the
185 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report may
186 include, but not be limited to, (A) recommendations regarding the
187 consolidation of agencies to improve coordination within the
188 coordinated system of early care and education and child
189 development, (B) suggestions regarding how federal, state and local
190 resources can be combined to maximize efficiencies in the system and
191 outcomes for children and families, (C) suggestions to improve the
192 manner in which state and local early childhood education initiatives
193 are coordinated so as to provide holistic, high quality early education
194 for young children, (D) recommendations for improvements to the
195 coordinated system of early care and education and child
196 development, and (E) assurances that the provisions of section 8-210 of
197 the general statutes are being preserved in the planning and
198 development of the coordinated system of early care and education
199 and child development.

200 (3) On or before January 30, 2013, the planning director shall report
201 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
202 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, human services and
203 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
204 general statutes. Such report shall include recommendations as to
205 which department shall be the lead agency and where the staff of the
206 coordinated system of early care and education and child development
207 will be located.

208 Sec. 503. (*Effective July 1, 2011*) For purposes of the planning and
209 development of the coordinated system of early care and education
210 and child development, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet,
211 pursuant to section 10-16z of the general statutes, the director of the
212 Connecticut Head Start Collaboration Office and the Head Start
213 advisory committee, pursuant to section 10-16n of the general statutes,
214 and the Accreditation Facilitation Project of Connecticut Charts-A-

215 Course shall be based in the Department of Education, and may work
216 with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations."