



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 164**

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5446

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2014*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OR ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749 of the 2014 supplement  
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in  
3 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

4 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program  
5 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and  
6 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of  
7 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in  
8 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,  
9 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued  
10 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child  
11 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,  
12 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department  
13 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income

14 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working  
15 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety  
16 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a  
17 reimbursement system for child care services which account for  
18 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the  
19 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and  
20 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by  
21 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen  
22 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care  
23 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)  
24 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended  
25 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers  
26 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which  
27 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding  
28 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative  
29 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate  
30 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover  
31 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment  
32 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy  
33 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other  
34 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy  
35 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in  
36 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with  
37 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be  
38 issued annually by the Department of Social Services to the Governor  
39 and the General Assembly in accordance with subdivision (10) of  
40 section 17b-733. [Such action will] Information provided by the  
41 Department of Social Services shall include, but not be limited to,  
42 family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such  
43 waiting list. The commissioner shall not award a child care subsidy  
44 pursuant to this section to any person who has received a child care  
45 subsidy from the Department of Children and Families for the same  
46 child during the same time period for which a child care subsidy is  
47 sought pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	17b-749(c)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(c), "to the Governor" was deleted from new language concerning a Department of Social Services report for accuracy and consistency with other provisions of the section.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	61,200- 367,200	61,200- 367,200

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill could result in a savings of between \$61,200 and \$367,200 associated with clarifying that the Department of Social Services (DSS) shall not provide child care subsidy payments for children already covered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The frequency and amount of duplicate payments is not currently known. Based on the annual number of DCF foster or adoptive families applying for Care4Kids (408), the average weekly subsidy (\$75), and the period of time in which applications are typically processed, savings could range from \$61,200 (2 week processing time) to \$367,200 (12 weeks processing time).

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5446*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OR ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner from awarding a child care subsidy under the Care 4 Kids program to anyone who already received such a subsidy from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the same child during the same time period for which he or she is seeking a Care 4 Kids subsidy.

By law, DSS, within available appropriations, offers child care subsidies through the Care 4 Kids program to working families with incomes under 50% of the state median income (SMI) and certain other qualified recipients. Currently, a family of three with income under \$43,333 per year can qualify. Once eligible, family income can rise to 75% of SMI, which for a family of three would be \$64,999 annually. Different eligibility rules apply for DCF adoptive parents and temporary family assistance recipients.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)