



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

**Raised Bill No. 424**

LCO No. 2054



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Preschool-aged child" means any child age three to five,  
4 inclusive; and

5 (2) "Eligible preschool program" means (A) a school readiness  
6 program, as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes, (B) a  
7 preschool program administered by a local or regional board of  
8 education, (C) a preschool program accredited by the National  
9 Association for the Education of Young Children, or (D) a school  
10 readiness program that is part of a Head Start program.

11 (b) The Department of Children and Families shall enroll in an  
12 eligible preschool program each preschool-aged child who is (1) placed  
13 in out-of-home care by the Commissioner of Children and Families

14 pursuant to an order of commitment under section 46b-129 of the  
15 general statutes, and (2) not enrolled in an eligible preschool program  
16 or kindergarten at the time of such placement, unless such enrollment  
17 is determined by the department to not be in the child's best interest.  
18 The department shall document such enrollment or the reasons why  
19 such enrollment was determined not to be in the child's best interest in  
20 the child's written plan for care, treatment and permanent placement,  
21 as described in section 17a-15 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide access to preschool for all children who are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families.

*[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.]*