



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	July 1, 2014	New section

ED *Joint Favorable*

HS *Joint Favorable*