



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 4572

SB0042404572SD0

Offered by:

SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.
SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.
SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.
SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.
SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 424

File No. 391

Cal. No. 254

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

4 (1) "Preschool-aged child" means any child age three to five,
5 inclusive, who is placed in out-of-home care by the Commissioner of
6 Children and Families pursuant to an order of commitment under
7 section 46b-129 of the general statutes and who is not enrolled in a
8 preschool program or kindergarten at the time of such placement; and

9 (2) "Eligible preschool program" means (A) a school readiness
10 program, as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes, (B) a

11 preschool program offered by a local or regional board of education or
12 regional educational service center, (C) a preschool program accredited
13 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, (D) a
14 Head Start program, or (E) any preschool program that the
15 commissioner deems suitable to meet the needs of the child.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Children
17 and Families, in consultation with the Office of Early Childhood, shall
18 (1) adopt policies and procedures that maximize the enrollment of
19 eligible preschool-aged children in eligible preschool programs, and
20 (2) submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing
21 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
22 relating to children, human services, education and appropriations, in
23 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

24 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2015, the
25 Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the
26 Office of Early Childhood, shall submit a report, in accordance with
27 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
28 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
29 matters relating to children, human services, education and
30 appropriations concerning (1) the number of eligible preschool-aged
31 children, as defined in section 1 of this act, who are enrolled in an
32 eligible preschool program, as defined in section 1 of this act, at the
33 time that such children are placed in out-of-home care by the
34 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to an order of
35 commitment under section 46b-129 of the general statutes, (2) the
36 number of eligible preschool-aged children who are not enrolled in an
37 eligible preschool program at the time of such placement, (3) the
38 number of children age birth to three, inclusive, who are placed in out-
39 of-home care by the Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant
40 to an order of commitment under section 46b-129 of the general
41 statutes, (4) the number of eligible preschool-aged children who
42 require special education and related services and the number and
43 percentage of such children who enrolled in a preschool program, (5)

44 an analysis of the availability of spaces in eligible preschool programs
45 in relation to the geographic placement of eligible preschool-aged
46 children described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, (6) an analysis
47 of the availability of spaces in eligible preschool programs in relation
48 to the nature of such eligible preschool program and the cost of such
49 eligible preschool program to the Department of Children and
50 Families, (7) an analysis of eligible preschool programs and
51 transportation options that will minimize costs to the department,
52 including eligible preschool programs that provide transportation or
53 whose geographic proximity to a child's placement is such that the
54 provision of transportation by a foster parent or caregiver is
55 considered within the reasonable expectations of the duties of such
56 foster parent or caregiver, and (8) a plan to provide priority access to
57 eligible preschool-aged children described in subdivision (2) of this
58 subsection at state and federally-funded preschool programs."

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>from passage</i>	New section