



House of Representatives

File No. 749

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

(Reprint of File Nos. 477 and 711)

Substitute House Bill No. 5562
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedules "A" and "B"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 3, 2014

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD,
EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION AND CONCERNING DYSLEXIA AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2015, the
2 Department of Education shall add "SLD - Dyslexia" under "Specific
3 Learning Disabilities" in the "Primary Disability" section of the
4 individualized education program form used by planning and
5 placement teams for the provision of special education and related
6 services to children requiring special education and related services.

7 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 10-145a of the 2014 supplement to
8 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
9 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

10 (f) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation
11 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the
12 curriculum, instruction in literacy skills and processes that reflects

13 current research and best practices in the field of literacy training. Such
14 instruction shall (1) be incorporated into requirements of student major
15 and concentration, and (2) on and after July 1, 2015, include the
16 detection and recognition of, and evidence-based interventions for,
17 students with dyslexia.

18 Sec. 3. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of
19 section 10-76d of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
21 *passage*):

22 (D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a
23 child requiring special education and at each planning and placement
24 team meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of
25 education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or
26 surrogate parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated
27 minor or eighteen years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws
28 relating to special education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian,
29 surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted
30 by the State Board of Education relating to special education, including
31 the right of a parent, guardian or surrogate parent to withhold from
32 enrolling such child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions
33 of section 10-184, and (iii) any relevant information and resources
34 relating to individualized education programs created by the
35 Department of Education. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
36 pupil does not attend a planning and placement team meeting, the
37 responsible local or regional board of education shall mail such
38 information to such person.

39 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
40 Office of Early Childhood. The office shall be under the direction of the
41 Commissioner of Early Childhood, whose appointment shall be made
42 by the Governor. Such appointment shall be in accordance with the
43 provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, of the general statutes, as
44 amended by this act. The commissioner shall be responsible for
45 implementing the policies and directives of the office. The

46 commissioner shall have the authority to designate any employee as
47 his or her agent to exercise all or part of the authority, powers and
48 duties of the commissioner in his or her absence. Said office shall be
49 within the Department of Education for administrative purposes.

50 (b) The office shall be responsible for:

51 (1) The delivery of services to young children and their families to
52 ensure optimal health, safety and learning for each young child;

53 (2) Developing and implementing the early childhood information
54 system, in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of this act;

55 (3) Developing and reporting on the early childhood accountability
56 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of this act;

57 (4) Implementing a communications strategy for outreach to
58 families, service providers and policymakers;

59 (5) Not later than September 1, 2014, beginning a state-wide
60 longitudinal evaluation of the school readiness program examining the
61 educational progress of children from prekindergarten programs to
62 grade four, inclusive;

63 (6) Developing, coordinating and supporting public and private
64 partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives;

65 (7) Developing and implementing a state-wide developmentally
66 appropriate kindergarten assessment tool that measures a child's level
67 of preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not be used as a
68 measurement tool for program accountability;

69 (8) Creating a unified set of reporting requirements for the purpose
70 of collecting the data elements necessary to perform quality
71 assessments and longitudinal analysis;

72 (9) Comparing and analyzing data collected pursuant to reporting
73 requirements created under subdivision (8) of this subsection with the

74 data collected in the state-wide public school information system,
75 pursuant to section 10-10a, as amended by this act, of the general
76 statutes, for population-level analysis of children and families;

77 (10) Continually monitoring and evaluating all early care and
78 education and child development programs and services, focusing on
79 program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental and
80 educational needs of all children, while retaining distinct separation
81 between quality improvement services and child day care licensing
82 services;

83 (11) Coordinating home visitation services across programs for
84 young children;

85 (12) Providing information and technical assistance to persons
86 seeking early care and education and child development programs and
87 services;

88 (13) Assisting state agencies and municipalities in obtaining
89 available federal funding for early care and education and child
90 development programs and services;

91 (14) Providing technical assistance to providers of early care and
92 education programs and services to obtain licensing and improve
93 program quality;

94 (15) Establishing a quality rating and improvement system
95 developed by the office that covers home-based, center-based and
96 school-based early child care and learning;

97 (16) Maintaining an accreditation facilitation initiative to assist early
98 childhood care and education program and service providers in
99 achieving national standards and program improvement;

100 (17) Consulting with the Early Childhood Cabinet, established
101 pursuant to section 10-16z of the general statutes, as amended by this
102 act, and the Head Start advisory committee, established pursuant to
103 section 10-16n of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

104 (18) Ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive state-wide system
105 of professional development for providers and staff of early care and
106 education and child development programs and services;

107 (19) Providing families with opportunities for choice in services
108 including quality child care and community-based family-centered
109 services;

110 (20) Integrating early childhood care and education and special
111 education services;

112 (21) Promoting universal access to early childhood care and
113 education;

114 (22) Ensuring nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation;

115 (23) Performing any other activities that will assist in the provision
116 of early care and education and child development programs and
117 services;

118 (24) Developing early learning and development standards to be
119 used by early care and education providers; and

120 (25) Developing and implementing a performance-based evaluation
121 system to evaluate licensed child day care centers, in accordance with
122 the provisions of section 17b-749f of the general statutes, as amended
123 by this act.

124 (c) The Office of Early Childhood may enter into memoranda of
125 agreement with and accept donations from nonprofit and
126 philanthropic organizations to accomplish the purposes of this section.

127 (d) The Office of Early Childhood shall constitute a successor
128 department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e
129 and 4-39 of the general statutes, to (1) the Department of Education
130 with respect to sections 8-210, 10-16n, 10-16p to 10-16s, inclusive, 10-
131 16u, 10-16w, 10-16aa, 17b-749a, 17b-749c and 17b-749g to 17b-749i,
132 inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (2) the

133 Department of Social Services (A) with respect to sections 17b-12, 17b-
134 705a, 17b-730, 17b-733 to 17b-736, inclusive, 17b-738, 17b-739, 17b-749,
135 17b-749d to 17b-749f, inclusive, 17b-749j, 17b-749k, 17b-750 to 17b-
136 751a, inclusive, 17b-751d and 17b-751e of the general statutes, as
137 amended by this act, and (B) for the purpose of administering the child
138 care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and
139 Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and (3) the Department of
140 Public Health (A) with respect to sections 10a-194c, 12-634, 17a-28, 17a-
141 101 and 19a-80f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (B) for
142 the purpose of regulating child day care services pursuant to sections
143 19a-77, 19a-79, 19a-80, 19a-82 and 19a-84 to 19a-87e, inclusive, of the
144 general statutes, as amended by this act, (C) for the purpose of the
145 conduct of regulation of youth camps, pursuant to sections 19a-420 to
146 19a-434, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and
147 (D) for the purpose of administering the Maternal, Infant, and Early
148 Childhood Home Visiting Program authorized under the Patient
149 Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, P.L. 111-148.

150 Sec. 5. Section 4-5 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes is
151 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
152 *passage*):

153 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
154 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
155 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner on Aging,
156 Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner,
157 Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer
158 Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic
159 and Community Development, State Board of Education,
160 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
161 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
162 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,
163 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Liquor Control
164 Commission, Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
165 Commissioner of Social Services, Commissioner of Developmental
166 Services, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of

167 Transportation, Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, Commissioner of
168 Housing, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, the Commissioner
169 of Early Childhood and the executive director of the Office of Military
170 Affairs. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means
171 the Commissioner of Education.

172 Sec. 6. Section 10-16bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
173 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

174 [(a) On and after July 1, 2013, there shall be a coordinated system of
175 early care and education and child development. The coordinated
176 system of early care and education and child development shall consist
177 of comprehensive and aligned policies, responsibilities, practices and
178 services for young children and their families, including prenatal care
179 and care for children from birth to eight years of age, inclusive, to
180 ensure optimal health, safety and learning for each child, and that are
181 in accordance with the plan developed by the planning director
182 pursuant to section 10-16cc.

183 (b) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
184 development shall (1) create a unified set of reporting requirements for
185 the programs described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section
186 10-16cc, for the purpose of collecting the data elements necessary to
187 perform quality assessments and longitudinal analysis; (2) compare
188 and analyze the data collected pursuant to reporting requirements
189 created under subdivision (1) of this subsection with the data collected
190 in the state-wide public school information system, pursuant to section
191 10-10a, for population-level analysis of children and families; (3)
192 develop and update appropriate early learning standards and
193 assessment tools for children from birth to five years of age, inclusive,
194 that are age and developmentally appropriate and that are aligned
195 with existing learning standards as of July 1, 2013, and assessment
196 tools for students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive; (4)
197 continually monitor and evaluate all early childhood education and
198 child care programs and services, focusing on program outcomes in
199 satisfying the health, safety, developmental and educational needs of

200 all children; (5) develop indicators that assess strategies designed to
201 strengthen the family through parental involvement in a child's
202 development and education, including children with special needs; (6)
203 increase the availability of early childhood education and child care
204 programs and services and encourage the providers of such programs
205 and services to work together to create multiple options that allow
206 families to participate in programs that serve the particular needs of
207 each family; (7) provide information and technical assistance to
208 persons seeking early childhood education and child care programs
209 and services; (8) assist state agencies and municipalities in obtaining
210 available federal funding for early childhood education and child care
211 programs and services; (9) provide technical assistance and
212 consultation to licensed providers of early childhood education and
213 child care programs and services and assist any potential provider of
214 such programs and services in obtaining the necessary licensure and
215 certification; (10) incorporate the quality rating and improvement
216 system developed by the Department of Education that covers home-
217 based, center-based and school-based early child care and learning;
218 (11) maintain a system of accreditation facilitation to assist early
219 childhood education and child care programs and services in
220 achieving national standards and program improvement; (12) create
221 partnerships between state agencies and philanthropic organizations
222 to assist in the implementation of the coordinated system of early care
223 and education and child development; (13) align the system's policy
224 and program goals with those of the Early Childhood Education
225 Cabinet, pursuant to section 10-16z, and the Head Start advisory
226 committee, pursuant to section 10-16n; (14) ensure a coordinated and
227 comprehensive state-wide system of professional development for
228 providers of early childhood education and child care programs and
229 services; (15) develop family-centered services that assist families in
230 their communities; (16) provide families with opportunities for choice
231 in services including quality child care; (17) integrate early childhood
232 education and special education services; (18) emphasize targeted
233 research-based interventions; (19) organize services into a coherent
234 system; (20) coordinate a comprehensive and accessible delivery

235 system for early childhood education and child care services; (21) focus
236 on performance measures to ensure that services are accountable,
237 effective and accessible to the consumer; (22) promote universal access
238 to early childhood care and education; (23) ensure nonduplication of
239 monitoring and evaluation; (24) encourage, promote and coordinate
240 funding for the establishment and administration of local and regional
241 early childhood councils that implement local and regional birth-to-
242 eight systems; and (25) perform any other activities that will assist in
243 the provision of early childhood education and child care programs
244 and services.]

245 [(c) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
246 development] The Office of Early Childhood shall collaborate with
247 local and regional early childhood councils [to implement the
248 coordinated system of] in the implementation of early care and
249 education and child development programs at the local level. Such
250 early childhood councils shall: (1) Develop and implement a
251 comprehensive plan for an early childhood system for the community
252 served by such early childhood council, (2) develop policy and
253 program planning, (3) encourage community participation by
254 emphasizing substantial parental involvement, (4) collect, analyze and
255 evaluate data with a focus on program and service outcomes, (5)
256 allocate resources, and (6) perform any other functions that will assist
257 in the provision of early childhood programs and services. Such early
258 childhood councils may enter into memoranda of agreement with the
259 local or regional school readiness council, described in section 10-16r,
260 of the town or region served by such early childhood council to
261 perform the duties and functions of a school readiness council, in
262 accordance with the provisions of [said] section 10-16r, as amended by
263 this act, or if no such local or regional school readiness council exists
264 for the town or region of such early childhood council, perform the
265 duties and functions of a school readiness council, in accordance with
266 the provisions of section 10-16r, as amended by this act.

267 [(d) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
268 development may enter into memoranda of agreement with and accept

269 donations from nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to
270 accomplish the purposes of this section.]

271 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Early
272 Childhood shall develop and implement an early childhood
273 information system. Such early childhood information system shall
274 facilitate and encourage the sharing of data between and among early
275 childhood service providers by tracking (1) the health, safety and
276 school readiness of all young children receiving early care and
277 education services from (A) any local or regional board of education,
278 (B) school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p of the
279 general statutes, as amended by this act, or (C) any program receiving
280 public funding, in a manner similar to the system described in section
281 10-10a, as amended by this act, of the general statutes, (2) the
282 characteristics of the existing and potential workforce serving such
283 children, (3) the characteristics of such programs serving such children,
284 and (4) data collected, if any, from the preschool experience survey,
285 described in section 86 of this act.

286 (b) Any local or regional board of education, school readiness
287 program, or any child day care center as described in subdivision (1) of
288 subsection (a) of section 19a-77, as amended by this act, of the general
289 statutes and licensed by the Department of Public Health or the Office
290 of Early Childhood, shall ensure that all children and all staff in a
291 school under the jurisdiction of such board, program or center are
292 entered into the early childhood information system.

293 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than December 31,
294 2015, the Office of Early Childhood shall develop, in consultation with
295 the Early Childhood Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z, as
296 amended by this act, of the general statutes, an early childhood
297 accountability plan. Such plan shall (1) identify and define appropriate
298 population indicators and program and system performance measures
299 of the health, safety and readiness of children to enter kindergarten,
300 and early school success of children, and shall identify any new or
301 improved data required for such purposes; and (2) include aggregate

302 information on the characteristics of children and programs tracked by
303 the early childhood information system, developed pursuant to section
304 7 of this act, including, but not limited to, family income, whether the
305 families of such children receive assistance through temporary
306 assistance for needy families, pursuant to section 17b-112 of the
307 general statutes, or a similar program, and the communities in which
308 such children reside using a performance measurement accountability
309 framework.

310 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the office
311 shall develop report cards containing the indicators and performance
312 measures identified in the early childhood accountability plan.

313 (c) Not later than January 15, 2016, the Office of Early Childhood
314 shall (1) submit the early childhood accountability plan, and (2)
315 annually report on the results of such plan and report cards to the joint
316 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
317 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with
318 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

319 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Office of Early Childhood shall
320 develop, in consultation with the Department of Education, a plan for
321 (1) changing the date that a child must reach five years of age to be
322 eligible to enroll in kindergarten under section 10-15c of the general
323 statutes from January first of any school year to October first of any
324 school year, and (2) the creation of spaces in school readiness
325 programs and public and private prekindergarten programs for those
326 children who reach five years of age after October first of any school
327 year and are not eligible to enroll in kindergarten for such school year.
328 Not later than June 30, 2015, the office shall submit such plan to the
329 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
330 of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
331 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

332 Sec. 10. Section 10-14n of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
333 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

334 *from passage*):

335 (a) As used in this section, "mastery examination" means an
336 examination or examinations, approved by the State Board of
337 Education, that measure essential and grade-appropriate skills in
338 reading, writing, mathematics or science.

339 (b) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2013, and each school
340 year thereafter, each student enrolled in grades three to eight,
341 inclusive, and grade ten or eleven in any public school shall, annually,
342 in March or April, take a mastery examination in reading, writing and
343 mathematics.

344 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2013, and each school
345 year thereafter, each student enrolled in grade five, eight, ten or eleven
346 in any public school shall, annually, in March or April, take a state-
347 wide mastery examination in science.

348 (c) Mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
349 shall be provided by and administered under the supervision of the
350 State Board of Education.

351 (d) The scores on each component of the mastery examination for
352 each tenth or eleventh grade student may be included on the
353 permanent record and transcript of each such student who takes such
354 examination. For each tenth or eleventh grade student who meets or
355 exceeds the state-wide mastery goal level on any component of the
356 mastery examination, a certification of having met or exceeded such
357 goal level shall be made on the permanent record and the transcript of
358 each such student and such student shall be issued a certificate of
359 mastery for such component. Each tenth or eleventh grade student
360 who fails to meet the mastery goal level on each component of said
361 mastery examination may annually take or retake each such
362 component at its regular administration until such student scores at or
363 above each such state-wide mastery goal level or such student
364 graduates or reaches age twenty-one.

365 (e) No public school may require achievement of a satisfactory score
366 on a mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of
367 such examination as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

368 [(f) Not later than April 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Education
369 shall develop and implement a state-wide developmentally
370 appropriate kindergarten assessment tool that measures a child's level
371 of preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not be used as a
372 measurement tool for program accountability pursuant to section 10-
373 16s.]

374 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 10-266p of the 2014 supplement to
375 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
376 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

377 (a) The State Board of Education shall administer a priority school
378 district grant program to assist certain school districts to improve
379 student achievement and enhance educational opportunities. The
380 grant program shall include the priority school district portions of the
381 grant programs established pursuant to sections [10-16p,] 10-265f, 10-
382 265m and 10-266t. The grant program and its component parts shall be
383 for school districts in (1) the eight towns in the state with the largest
384 population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, (2)
385 towns which rank for the first fiscal year of each biennium from one to
386 eleven when all towns are ranked in descending order from one to one
387 hundred sixty-nine based on the number of children under the
388 temporary family assistance program, as defined in subdivision (17) of
389 section 10-262f, plus the mastery count of the town, as defined in
390 subdivision (13) of section 10-262f, and (3) towns which rank for the
391 first fiscal year of each biennium one to eleven when all towns are
392 ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based
393 on the ratio of the number of children under the temporary family
394 assistance program as so defined to the resident students of such town,
395 as defined in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, plus the grant mastery
396 percentage of the town, as defined in subdivision (12) of section 10-
397 262f. The State Board of Education shall utilize the categorical grant

398 program established under this section and sections 10-266q and 10-
399 266r and other educational resources of the state to work cooperatively
400 with such school districts during any school year to improve their
401 educational programs or [to provide early childhood education or]
402 early reading intervention programs. The component parts of the grant
403 shall be allocated according to the provisions of sections [10-16p,] 10-
404 265f, 10-265m and 10-266t. Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of
405 section 10-276a, the State Board of Education shall allocate one million
406 dollars to each of the eight towns described in subdivision (1) of this
407 subsection and five hundred thousand dollars to each of the towns
408 described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, except the
409 towns described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not receive
410 any additional allocation if they are also described in subdivision (2) or
411 (3) of this subsection.

412 Sec. 12. Section 10-16n of the general statutes is repealed and the
413 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

414 (a) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
415 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Childhood shall establish a
416 competitive grant program to assist nonprofit agencies and local and
417 regional boards of education, which are federal Head Start grantees, in
418 (1) establishing extended-day and full-day, year-round, Head Start
419 programs or expanding existing Head Start programs to extended-day
420 or full-day, year-round programs, (2) enhancing program quality, and
421 (3) increasing the number of children served. The commissioner, after
422 consultation with the committee established pursuant to subsection (c)
423 of this section, shall establish criteria for the grants, provided at least
424 twenty-five per cent of the funding for such grants shall be for the
425 purpose of enhancing program quality. Nonprofit agencies or boards
426 of education seeking grants pursuant to this section shall make
427 application to the [Commissioner of Education] commissioner on such
428 forms and at such times as the commissioner shall prescribe. All grants
429 pursuant to this section shall be funded within the limits of available
430 appropriations or otherwise from federal funds and private donations.
431 All full-day, year-round Head Start programs funded pursuant to this

432 section shall be in compliance with federal Head Start performance
433 standards.

434 (b) The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood shall
435 annually allocate to each town in which the number of children under
436 the [aid to dependent children] temporary family assistance program,
437 as defined in subdivision [(14)] (17) of section 10-262f, equals or
438 exceeds nine hundred children, determined for the fiscal year ending
439 June 30, 1996, an amount equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars
440 plus eight and one-half dollars for each child under the [aid to
441 dependent children] temporary family assistance program, provided
442 such amount may be reduced proportionately so that the total amount
443 awarded pursuant to this subsection does not exceed two million
444 seven hundred thousand dollars. The [department] office shall award
445 grants to the local and regional boards of education for such towns and
446 nonprofit agencies located in such towns which meet the criteria
447 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to maintain the
448 programs established or expanded with funds provided pursuant to
449 this subsection in the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, and June 30,
450 1997. Any funds remaining in the allocation to such a town after grants
451 are so awarded shall be used to increase allocations to other such
452 towns. Any funds remaining after grants are so awarded to boards of
453 education and nonprofit agencies in all such towns shall be available to
454 local and regional boards of education and nonprofit agencies in other
455 towns in the state for grants for such purposes.

456 (c) There is established a committee to advise the [Commissioner of
457 Education] commissioner concerning the coordination, priorities for
458 allocation and distribution, and utilization of funds for Head Start and
459 concerning the competitive grant program established under this
460 section, and to evaluate programs funded pursuant to this section. The
461 committee shall consist of the following members: (1) One member
462 designated by the [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner; (2)
463 six members who are directors of Head Start programs, two from
464 community action agency program sites or school readiness liaisons,
465 one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the

466 Senate and one by the speaker of the House of Representatives, two
467 from public school program sites, one of whom shall be appointed by
468 the majority leader of the Senate and one by the majority leader of the
469 House of Representatives, and two from other nonprofit agency
470 program sites, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader
471 of the Senate and one by the minority leader of the House of
472 Representatives; (3) one member designated by the Commission on
473 Children; (4) one member designated by the Early Childhood
474 [Education] Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z, as
475 amended by this act; (5) two members designated by the Head Start
476 Association, one of whom shall be the parent of a present or former
477 Head Start student; (6) one member designated by the Connecticut
478 Association for Community Action who shall have expertise and
479 experience concerning Head Start; (7) one member designated by the
480 Region I Office of Head Start within the federal Administration of
481 Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human
482 Services; and (8) the director of the Head Start Collaboration Office.

483 (d) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may adopt
484 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for
485 purposes of this section.

486 Sec. 13. Section 10-16p of the 2014 supplement to the general
487 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
488 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

489 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16s, inclusive, 10-16u, as
490 amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this act, and 17b-749c,
491 as amended by this act:

492 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
493 (A) meets the standards set by the [department] Office of Early
494 Childhood pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the
495 requirements of section 10-16q, as amended by this act, and (B)
496 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
497 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible

498 children, except as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q, as
499 amended by this act;

500 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age
501 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
502 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
503 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

504 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
505 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
506 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
507 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
508 section 10-266p, as amended by this act, or in a former priority school
509 district receiving a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and,
510 on and after July 1, 2001, excluding such a school in a transitional
511 school district receiving a grant pursuant to section 10-16u, as
512 amended by this act;

513 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
514 pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended by this act, or in a former
515 priority school district in which forty per cent or more of the lunches
516 served are served to students who are eligible for free or reduced price
517 lunches;

518 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for
519 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review
520 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,
521 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the
522 commissioner, [in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
523 Services,] unless the context otherwise requires;

524 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in
525 subsection (d) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act;

526 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Education] Early
527 Childhood; [and]

528 [(8) "Department" means the Department of Education.]

529 (8) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood; and

530 (9) "Seeking accreditation" means a school readiness program
531 seeking accreditation by the National Association for the Education of
532 Young Children or a Head Start on-site program review instrument or
533 successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or attempting to
534 meet criteria as may be established by the commissioner.

535 (b) (1) The [Department of Education] office shall be the lead agency
536 for school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, as
537 amended by this act, school readiness program providers eligible for
538 funding from the [Department of Education] office shall include local
539 and regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,
540 family resource centers and providers of child day care centers, as
541 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, Head Start
542 programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet such
543 standards established by the [Commissioner of Education]
544 commissioner. The [department] office shall establish standards for
545 school readiness programs. The standards may include, but need not
546 be limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum
547 content, including preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent
548 involvement, staff qualifications and training, transition to school and
549 administration. The [department] office shall develop age-appropriate
550 developmental skills and goals for children attending such programs.
551 The commissioner, in consultation with the president of the Board of
552 Regents for Higher Education, the [Commissioner of] Commissioners
553 of Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall
554 develop a professional development program for the staff of school
555 readiness programs.

556 (2) For purposes of this section:

557 (A) Prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications" means there is in each
558 classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood
559 development associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by

560 an organization approved by the [Commissioner of Education]
561 commissioner and twelve credits or more in early childhood education
562 or child development, as determined by the commissioner or the
563 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after
564 consultation with the [Commissioners of Education and Social
565 Services] commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I)
566 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or [State
567 Board of Education] Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally
568 accredited; (ii) an associate's degree with twelve credits or more in
569 early childhood education or child development, as determined by the
570 commissioner or the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
571 Education, after consultation with the [Commissioners of Education
572 and Social Services] commissioner, from such an institution; (iii) a
573 four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood
574 education or child development, as determined by the commissioner
575 or the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after
576 consultation with the [Commissioners of Education and Social
577 Services] commissioner, from such an institution; or (iv) certification
578 pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood
579 education or special education;

580 (B) From July 1, 2015, [to] until June 30, 2020, "staff qualifications"
581 means that for each early childhood education program accepting state
582 funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
583 program's child day care program or school readiness program, (i) at
584 least fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility
585 for a classroom of children hold (I) certification pursuant to section 10-
586 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early
587 childhood special education, or (II) a bachelor's degree with a
588 concentration in early childhood education, including, but not limited
589 to, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child study, child
590 development or human growth and development, from an institution
591 of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
592 Education or Office of Higher Education, and regionally accredited,
593 provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of

594 Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and
595 the [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood, and (ii) such
596 remaining individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom
597 of children hold an associate degree with a concentration in early
598 childhood education, including, but not limited to, an associate's
599 degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or
600 human growth and development, from an institution of higher
601 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
602 or Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited, provided
603 such associate degree program is approved by the Board of Regents for
604 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and the
605 [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood; and

606 (C) On and after July 1, 2020, "staff qualifications" means that for
607 each early childhood education program accepting state funds for
608 infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
609 child day care program or school readiness program, one hundred per
610 cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a
611 classroom of children hold (i) certification pursuant to section 10-145b
612 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood
613 special education, or (ii) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in
614 early childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's
615 degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or
616 human growth and development, from an institution of higher
617 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
618 or [State Board of Education] the Office of Higher Education, and (II)
619 regionally accredited, provided such bachelor's degree program is
620 approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office
621 of Higher Education and the [Department of Education] Office of Early
622 Childhood.

623 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
624 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
625 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
626 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed [as a teacher] by an early
627 childhood education program that accepts state funds for infant,

628 toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's child day
629 care program or school readiness program [and meets the staff
630 qualifications required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of
631 this subsection] shall be considered to meet the staff qualifications
632 required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this
633 subsection. No such early childhood education program shall
634 terminate any such individual from employment for purposes of
635 meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph
636 (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection. [Any such individual
637 who terminates his or her employment with such early childhood
638 education program and accepts a teacher position at another early
639 childhood education program accepting state funds for spaces
640 associated with such program's child day care program or school
641 readiness program shall submit documentation of such individual's
642 progress toward meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth
643 in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection in a
644 manner determined by the Department of Education.]

645 (4) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
646 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
647 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
648 other than those bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs [(A)
649 and] (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, may submit
650 documentation concerning such degree for review and assessment by
651 the [Department of Education] office as to whether such degree has a
652 sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy
653 the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs [(A) and] (B) and (C).

654 (c) The [Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
655 Commissioner of Social Services,] commissioner shall establish a grant
656 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
657 eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
658 section 10-266p, as amended by this act, or in former priority school
659 districts as provided in this subsection. Under the program, the grant
660 shall be provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which
661 such priority school district or former priority school district is located.

662 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an
663 applicant's designation as a priority school district for the initial year
664 of application, except that if a school district that receives a grant
665 pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school
666 district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school
667 district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this
668 subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
669 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
670 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
671 priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a
672 plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local
673 request for proposal process to the [Departments of Education and
674 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and
675 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for
676 funding] commissioner. The commissioner shall review and approve
677 such plans. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the
678 local or regional school readiness council established pursuant to
679 section 10-16r, as amended by this act; (2) be based on a needs and
680 resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for
681 proposals for providers of accredited school readiness programs,
682 provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have
683 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the
684 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have
685 received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social
686 Services, pursuant to section 17b-749i, as amended by this act, on or
687 before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the office, are
688 exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests for
689 proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
690 17b-749a, as amended by this act, in order to extend the hours and
691 days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide
692 child day care services for children attending such programs.

693 (d) (1) The [Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
694 Commissioner of Social Services,] commissioner shall establish a
695 competitive grant program to provide spaces in accredited school

696 readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking
697 accreditation for eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a
698 priority school or a former priority school, [as provided for in
699 subdivision (2) of this subsection,] (B) in a town ranked one to fifty
700 when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
701 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school
702 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, as
703 amended by this act, [or] (C) in a town formerly a town described in
704 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2)
705 of this subsection, or (D) in a town designated as an alliance district, as
706 defined in section 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school
707 district pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended by this act. A town in
708 which a priority school is located, a regional school readiness council,
709 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such
710 a school is located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
711 subdivision may apply for such a grant in an amount not [to exceed]
712 less than one hundred seven thousand dollars per priority school or
713 town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an
714 applicant's designation as having a priority school or being a town
715 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of
716 application. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
717 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
718 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the
719 school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a
720 plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure
721 of such grant funds to the [Department of Education] commissioner. In
722 awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall
723 give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness
724 councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant [in
725 excess of one hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or
726 more priority schools in such district] to such town or regional school
727 readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible
728 children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A)
729 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness
730 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation. A town

731 or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this
732 subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children
733 from providers of accredited school readiness programs or school
734 readiness programs seeking accreditation.

735 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
736 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town
737 received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is
738 no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a
739 phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
740 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
741 this subsection.

742 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
743 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
744 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
745 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
746 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
747 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
748 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
749 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
750 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
751 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
752 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year
753 following the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
754 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
755 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
756 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
757 this subsection.

758 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
759 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph
760 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June
761 30, 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if
762 the town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
763 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

764 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
765 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
766 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
767 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
768 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
769 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of subsection (b)
770 of section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except that such per child
771 cost shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round, and (B)
772 multiplying the number of additional or decreased slots the districts
773 have requested for the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid by
774 the per child cost pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of subsection (b) of
775 section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except such per child cost shall
776 be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If said sum exceeds
777 the available appropriation, such number of requested additional slots
778 shall be reduced, as determined by the [Commissioner of Education]
779 commissioner, to stay within the available appropriation.

780 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
781 this section are not expended, the [Commissioner of Education]
782 commissioner may deposit such unexpended funds in the account
783 established under section 10-16aa, as amended by this act, and use
784 such unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of section
785 10-16aa, as amended by this act.

786 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2012] 2015, and each fiscal
787 year thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c)
788 of this section are not expended, an amount up to five hundred
789 thousand dollars of such unexpended funds may be available for the
790 provision of professional development for early childhood care and
791 education program providers, [offered by a professional development
792 and program improvement system within the Connecticut State
793 University System] and staff employed in such programs, provided
794 such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool
795 slots. Such unexpended funds may be available for use in accordance
796 with the provisions of this subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year.
797 The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may use such

798 unexpended funds on and after [July 1, 2012, in consultation with the
799 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education] July 1, 2015, to
800 support early childhood education programs accepting state funds in
801 satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B)
802 and (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The
803 [Department of Education] commissioner shall use any such funds to
804 provide assistance to individual staff members, giving priority to those
805 staff members (i) attending an institution of higher education [(i)]
806 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or [State
807 Board of Education] the Office of Higher Education, and approved by
808 the Office of Early Childhood, and [(ii)] regionally accredited, at a
809 maximum of five thousand dollars per staff member per year for the
810 cost of higher education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not
811 later than December 31, [2013] 2015, an associate's degree, as such
812 degrees are described in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), [at an in-state
813 public institution of higher education or a Connecticut-based for-profit
814 or nonprofit institution of higher education] or (ii) receiving noncredit
815 competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of
816 one thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff
817 members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships
818 and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members'
819 financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such
820 unexpended funds in a manner determined by the [Department of
821 Education] commissioner. The [Commissioner of Education]
822 commissioner shall determine [, in consultation with the president of
823 the Board of Regents for Higher Education,] how such unexpended
824 funds shall be distributed.

825 (C) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
826 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
827 deposited pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or used
828 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the [Commissioner
829 of Education] commissioner may use such unexpended funds to
830 support local school readiness programs. The commissioner may use
831 such funds for purposes including, but not limited to, (i) assisting local

832 school readiness programs in meeting and maintaining accreditation
833 requirements, (ii) providing training in implementing the preschool
834 assessment and curriculum frameworks, including training to enhance
835 literacy teaching skills, (iii) developing a state-wide preschool
836 curriculum, (iv) developing student assessments for students in grades
837 kindergarten to two, inclusive, (v) developing and implementing best
838 practices for parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten student
839 learning, (vi) developing and implementing strategies for children to
840 transition from preschool to kindergarten, (vii) providing for
841 professional development, including assisting in career ladder
842 advancement, for school readiness staff, [and] (viii) providing
843 supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for grants
844 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (ix) developing a plan to
845 provide spaces in an accredited school readiness program or a school
846 readiness program seeking accreditation to all eligible children who
847 reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A) to (D),
848 inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as
849 amended by this act.

850 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal
851 years ending June 30, [2008] 2015, to June 30, [2013] 2016, inclusive, the
852 [Department of Education] office may retain up to one hundred
853 ninety-eight thousand two hundred dollars of the amount
854 appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination, program
855 evaluation and administration.

856 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
857 this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, shall not
858 discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion
859 or disability. For purposes of this section, a nonsectarian program
860 means any public or private school readiness program that is not
861 violative of the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the State of
862 Connecticut or the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the
863 United States of America.

864 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by

865 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
866 16u, as amended by this act, shall be used to supplant federal, state or
867 local funding received by such town for early childhood education,
868 provided a town may use an amount determined in accordance with
869 this subsection for coordination, program evaluation and
870 administration. Such amount shall be at least twenty-five thousand
871 dollars but not more than seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be
872 determined by the [Department of Education, in consultation with the
873 Department of Social Services,] commissioner based on the school
874 readiness grant award allocated to the town pursuant to subsection (c)
875 or (d) of this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, and the
876 number of operating sites for coordination, program evaluation and
877 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
878 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
879 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed twenty-five
880 thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to
881 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u, as amended by
882 this act, shall designate a person to be responsible for such
883 coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a
884 liaison between the town and the [Departments of Education and
885 Social Services] commissioner. Each school readiness program that
886 receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, as amended
887 by this act, shall provide information to the [department]
888 commissioner or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
889 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

890 (h) [For the first three years a town receives grants] Any town
891 receiving a grant pursuant to this section [,] may use such [grants may
892 be used] grant, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a
893 facility or staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be
894 adjusted based on the number of days of operation of a school
895 readiness program if a shorter term of operation is approved by the
896 commissioner.

897 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
898 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness

899 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
900 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who
901 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
902 readiness program located outside such region.

903 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
904 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for
905 purposes of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the
906 determination of average daily membership pursuant to subdivision
907 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-261.

908 (k) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
909 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
910 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
911 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

912 Sec. 14. Section 10-16q of the general statutes is repealed and the
913 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

914 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
915 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
916 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
917 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
918 children of working parents and parents in education or training
919 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
920 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
921 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
922 insurance company and information on whether the child is
923 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
924 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
925 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
926 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
927 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
928 training in such practices; (5) nutrition services; (6) referrals to family
929 literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide
930 for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;

931 (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of children from
932 different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other
933 communities; (8) a plan of transition for participating children from the
934 school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer
935 of records from the program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan
936 for professional development for staff, including, but not limited to,
937 training (A) in preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to
938 assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for
939 families participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d, as
940 amended by this act; and (11) an annual evaluation of the effectiveness
941 of the program. [On and after July 1, 2000, school readiness programs
942 shall use the assessment measures developed pursuant to section 10-
943 16s in conducting their annual evaluations.]

944 [(b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of
945 the Department of Education school readiness component of the
946 program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
947 thousand six hundred fifty dollars.]

948 [(2)] (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2009] 2015, and each
949 fiscal year thereafter, the per child cost of the [Department of
950 Education] Office of Early Childhood school readiness program
951 offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand
952 [three] six hundred [forty-six] seventy dollars.

953 [(3)] (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section
954 10-16p, as amended by this act, the [Department of Education] office
955 shall not provide funding to any school readiness provider that (A) for
956 the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year
957 thereafter, is a local or regional board of education that does not collect
958 preschool experience data using the preschool experience survey,
959 described in section 86 of this act, and make such data available for
960 inclusion in the public school information system, pursuant to section
961 10-10a, as amended by this act, (B) on or before January 1, 2004, first
962 entered into a contract with a town to provide school readiness
963 services pursuant to this section and is not accredited on January 1,

964 2007, or [(B)] (C) after January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with
965 a town to provide school readiness services pursuant to this section
966 and does not become accredited by the date three years after the date
967 on which the provider first entered into such a contract, except that the
968 [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may grant an extension of
969 time for a school readiness program to become accredited or
970 reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such extension, the [Department of
971 Education] office conducts an on-site assessment of any such program
972 and maintains a report of such assessment completed in a uniform
973 manner, as prescribed by the commissioner, that includes a list of
974 conditions such program must fulfill to become accredited or
975 reaccredited, (ii) on or before June 30, 2014, the program is licensed by
976 the Department of Public Health if required to be licensed by chapter
977 368a, and on and after July 1, 2014, the program is licensed by the
978 office if required to be licensed by chapter 368a, (iii) the program has a
979 corrective action plan that shall be prescribed by and monitored by the
980 [Commissioner of Education] office, and (iv) the program meets such
981 other conditions as may be prescribed by the commissioner. During
982 the period of such extension, such program shall be eligible for
983 funding pursuant to [said] section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

984 [(4)] (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care
985 services and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject
986 to such per child cost limitation.

987 (c) A local or regional board of education may implement a sliding
988 fee scale for the cost of services provided to children enrolled in a
989 school readiness program.

990 (d) A town or school readiness council may file a waiver application
991 to the [Department of Education] office on forms provided by the
992 [department] office for the purpose of seeking approval of a school
993 readiness schedule that varies from the minimum hours and number
994 of days provided for in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-
995 16p, as amended by this act, or from the definition of a year-round
996 program pursuant to subdivision [(7) of said] (6) of subsection (a) of

997 section 10-16p, as amended by this act. The [Department of Education]
998 office may [, in consultation with the Department of Social Services,]
999 approve any such waiver if the [departments find] office finds that the
1000 proposed schedule meets the purposes set forth in the provisions of
1001 section 10-16o concerning the development of school readiness
1002 programs and maximizes available dollars to serve more children or
1003 address community needs.

1004 Sec. 15. Section 10-16r of the general statutes is repealed and the
1005 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1006 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
1007 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u, as amended
1008 by this act, shall convene a local school readiness council or shall
1009 establish a regional school readiness council pursuant to subsection (c)
1010 of this section. Any other town may convene such a council. The chief
1011 elected official of the town or, in the case of a regional school district,
1012 the chief elected officials of the towns in the school district and the
1013 superintendent of schools for the school district shall jointly appoint
1014 and convene such council. Each school readiness council shall be
1015 composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or the official's designee; (2)
1016 the superintendent of schools, or a management level staff person as
1017 the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4) representatives from
1018 local programs such as Head Start, family resource centers, nonprofit
1019 and for-profit child day care centers, group day care homes,
1020 prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day care home
1021 providers; (5) a representative from a health care provider in the
1022 community; and (6) other representatives from the community who
1023 provide services to children. The chief elected official shall designate
1024 the chairperson of the school readiness council.

1025 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
1026 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
1027 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
1028 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
1029 act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this act,

1030 and 17b-749c, as amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among
1031 providers of school readiness programs; [(3) assist in the identification
1032 of (A) the need for school readiness programs and the number of
1033 children not being served by such a program, and (B) for priority
1034 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, the number of children not
1035 being served by such a program and the estimated operating cost of
1036 providing universal school readiness to eligible children in such
1037 districts who are not being served; (4)] (3) submit biennial reports to
1038 the Department of Education on the number and location of school
1039 readiness spaces and estimates of [future needs; (5) submit biennial
1040 reports on factors identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
1041 subsection; (6)] the number of children not being served by school
1042 readiness programs and the estimated cost of providing spaces to all
1043 eligible children, as described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of
1044 subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this
1045 act, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness
1046 program seeking accreditation; (4) cooperate with the department in
1047 any program evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures
1048 developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of evaluating the
1049 effectiveness of school readiness programs; [(7)] (5) identify existing
1050 and prospective resources and services available to children and
1051 families; [(8)] (6) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services
1052 to children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B)
1053 before and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
1054 programs; [(9)] (7) exchange information with other councils, the
1055 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
1056 families; [(10)] (8) make recommendations to school officials
1057 concerning transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten;
1058 and [(11)] (9) encourage public participation.

1059 (c) Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate
1060 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood
1061 education in a region may establish a regional school readiness
1062 council. If a priority school is located in at least one of such school
1063 districts, the regional school readiness council may apply for a grant

1064 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act.
1065 The regional school readiness council may perform the duties outlined
1066 in subdivisions (2) to [(10)] (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this
1067 section.

1068 Sec. 16. Section 10-16u of the general statutes is repealed and the
1069 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1070 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2002] 2015, and each fiscal year
1071 thereafter, the Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
1072 Commissioner of Social Services,] Early Childhood shall provide
1073 grants, within available appropriations, to eligible school readiness
1074 program providers pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-16p, as
1075 amended by this act, to provide spaces in accredited school readiness
1076 programs for eligible children who reside in transitional school
1077 districts pursuant to section 10-263c, except for transitional school
1078 districts eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16p,
1079 as amended by this act. Under the program, the grant shall be
1080 provided to the town in which such transitional school district is
1081 located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on
1082 a school district's designation as a transitional school district in the
1083 initial year of application, except that grants pursuant to this section
1084 shall not be provided for transitional school districts eligible for grants
1085 pursuant to subsection (c) of [said] section 10-16p, as amended by this
1086 act. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available
1087 funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official
1088 of such town and the superintendent of schools for such transitional
1089 school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds
1090 and responses to the local request for proposal process to the
1091 [Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments shall
1092 jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of such
1093 plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall] commissioner.
1094 The commissioner shall review and approve such plans, provided such
1095 plans meet the requirements specified in subsection (c) of [said] section
1096 10-16p, as amended by this act.

1097 Sec. 17. Section 10-16w of the general statutes is repealed and the
1098 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1099 [Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Education]
1100 The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall provide, within available
1101 appropriations, technical assistance and training to [school readiness
1102 programs] early childhood providers to assist in the [application of
1103 preschool curriculum guidelines adopted by the State Board of
1104 Education] implementation of the early learning and development
1105 standards developed by the Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to
1106 section 4 of this act.

1107 Sec. 18. Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the
1108 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1109 (a) There is established the Early Childhood [Education] Cabinet.
1110 The cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood,
1111 or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or
1112 the commissioner's designee, [(2) one representative from the
1113 Department of Education who is responsible for programs required
1114 under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et
1115 seq., as amended from time to time, appointed by the Commissioner of
1116 Education,] (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
1117 commissioner's designee, (4) [a representative from an institution of
1118 higher education in this state appointed by] the president of the Board
1119 of Regents for Higher Education, or the president's designee, (5) the
1120 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the
1121 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's
1122 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
1123 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission
1124 on Children, or the executive director's designee, (9) the project
1125 director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a
1126 parent or guardian of a child who attends or attended a school
1127 readiness program appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1128 Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early
1129 childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,

1130 (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family Resource Center
1131 Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House of
1132 Representatives, (13) a representative of a state funded child care
1133 center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two
1134 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of
1135 whom is a member of [the House of Representatives] a board of
1136 education for a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in
1137 section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who has a child
1138 attending a school in [a priority school district] an educational reform
1139 district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the
1140 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is [a member of the
1141 Senate] a representative of an association of early education and child
1142 care providers and one of whom is a representative of a public
1143 elementary school with a prekindergarten program, (16) [two] four
1144 appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the
1145 Connecticut Head Start Association, [and] one of whom is a
1146 representative of the business [or philanthropic] community in this
1147 state, one of whom is a representative of the philanthropic community
1148 in this state and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
1149 State Employees Association, and (17) the Secretary of the Office of
1150 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. [The chairperson
1151 of the council shall be appointed from among its members by the
1152 Governor.]

1153 (b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall serve as a
1154 cochairperson of the cabinet. The other cochairperson of the cabinet
1155 shall be appointed from among its members by the Governor. The
1156 cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Members shall not be
1157 compensated for their services. Any member who fails to attend three
1158 consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all
1159 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have
1160 resigned from the cabinet.

1161 [(b)] (c) Within available [appropriations and such private funding
1162 as may be available] resources, the Early Childhood [Education]
1163 Cabinet shall (1) [coordinate among state agencies, as well as public

1164 and private partnerships, the development of services that enhance the
1165 health, safety and learning of children from birth to nine years of age,
1166 inclusive] advise the Office of Early Childhood, established pursuant
1167 to section 4 of this act, (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and
1168 annually thereafter, develop an annual plan of action that assigns the
1169 appropriate state agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal
1170 Head Start Act of 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time,
1171 and (3) not later than March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an
1172 annual state-wide strategic report, pursuant to said federal Head Start
1173 Act, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the
1174 progress such agencies have made toward the completion of such tasks
1175 outlined under said federal Head Start Act and this subsection to the
1176 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
1177 having cognizance of matters relating to education and human
1178 services.

1179 [(c)] (d) The Early Childhood [Education] Cabinet shall be within
1180 the [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood for
1181 administrative purposes only.

1182 Sec. 19. Section 10-16aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
1183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1184 There is established an account to be known as the competitive
1185 district grant account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account
1186 within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
1187 required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account
1188 shall be expended by the Commissioner of [Education] Early
1189 Childhood for the purposes of providing grants to competitive school
1190 districts to make slots available in [preschool] school readiness
1191 programs. For purposes of this section, "competitive school district"
1192 means a school district described in [subdivision (1) of] subsection (d)
1193 of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, that has more than nine
1194 thousand students enrolled in schools in the district.

1195 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Office of Early Childhood

1196 is designated as the state agency for the administration of the child
1197 care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and
1198 Development Block Grant Act of 1990.

1199 Sec. 21. Section 17b-2 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
1200 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1201 *1, 2014*):

1202 The Department of Social Services is designated as the state agency
1203 for the administration of (1) [the child care development block grant
1204 pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990;
1205 (2)] the Connecticut energy assistance program pursuant to the Low
1206 Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; [(3)] (2) the state plan for
1207 vocational rehabilitation services for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1208 1994; [(4)] (3) the refugee assistance program pursuant to the Refugee
1209 Act of 1980; [(5)] (4) the legalization impact assistance grant program
1210 pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; [(6)] (5)
1211 the temporary assistance for needy families program pursuant to the
1212 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
1213 1996; [(7)] (6) the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social
1214 Security Act; [(8)] (7) the supplemental nutrition assistance program
1215 pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; [(9)] (8) the state
1216 supplement to the Supplemental Security Income Program pursuant to
1217 the Social Security Act; [(10)] (9) the state child support enforcement
1218 plan pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act; and [(11)] (10)
1219 the state social services plan for the implementation of the social
1220 services block grants and community services block grants pursuant to
1221 the Social Security Act.

1222 Sec. 22. Subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of section 17b-705a of the
1223 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1224 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1225 (c) On or after July 1, [2012] 2014, and monthly thereafter, the
1226 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall compile a list
1227 of the names of family child care providers who have participated in

1228 the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section 17b-
1229 749, as amended by this act, within the previous six calendar months.
1230 Such list shall be considered a public record, as defined in section 1-
1231 200.

1232 (d) For purposes of sections 4-65a and 5-270 and subsection (a) of
1233 section 5-278, the [Department of Social Services] Office of Early
1234 Childhood shall be considered an executive branch employer and an
1235 organization representing family child care providers that has been
1236 designated by the State Board of Labor Relations, pursuant to section
1237 5-275 or subsection (g) of this section, as the exclusive bargaining agent
1238 of such providers, shall have the right to bargain [with the state]
1239 concerning the terms and conditions of participation of family child
1240 care providers in the program covered by this section, including, but
1241 not limited to, (1) state reimbursement rates, (2) benefits, (3) payment
1242 procedures, (4) contract grievance arbitration, and (5) training,
1243 professional development and other requirements and opportunities
1244 appropriate for family child care providers.

1245 (e) (1) If the organization representing family child care providers
1246 and the [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood do
1247 not reach an agreement not later than one hundred fifty days after
1248 negotiations have begun, the parties shall jointly select an arbitrator.
1249 The arbitrator selected shall have experience as an impartial arbitrator
1250 of labor-management disputes, and shall not be an individual
1251 employed as an advocate or consultant for labor or management in
1252 labor-management disputes. If the parties fail to agree on an arbitrator
1253 not later than one hundred sixty days after negotiations have begun,
1254 the selection of the arbitrator shall be made using the procedures
1255 under the voluntary labor arbitration rules of the American Arbitration
1256 Association.

1257 (2) Each party shall submit to the arbitrator, and to each other, a
1258 proposal setting forth such party's position on how each of the
1259 unresolved issues shall be resolved.

1260 (3) The arbitrator shall convene a hearing to allow the parties to
1261 provide evidence and argument to the arbitrator. The parties shall
1262 have the right to submit written briefs to the arbitrator. The arbitration
1263 record shall be officially closed at the close of the hearing, or the
1264 arbitrator's receipt of briefs, whichever is later.

1265 (4) The arbitrator's authority is limited to selecting the complete
1266 proposal of one party or the other on any unresolved issue. The
1267 arbitrator shall issue an award not later than forty-five days after the
1268 close of the record.

1269 (5) The factors to be considered by the arbitrator in arriving at a
1270 decision are: (A) The nature and needs of the family child care
1271 program and the needs and welfare of parents and children served by
1272 that program, including interests in better recruitment, retention and
1273 quality with respect to the covered family child care provider; (B) the
1274 history of negotiations between the parties including those leading to
1275 the instant proceeding; (C) the existing conditions of employment of
1276 similar groups of workers; (D) changes in the cost of living; and (E) the
1277 interests and welfare of the covered family child care providers.

1278 (6) The costs of the arbitrator and any fees associated with the
1279 arbitration proceeding shall be shared equally by the parties.

1280 (7) Any agreement or award reached pursuant to this section shall
1281 be submitted to the General Assembly for approval by filing the
1282 agreement or award with the clerks of the House and Senate. No
1283 provision of any agreement or award resulting from the collective
1284 bargaining process which would require supercedence of any law or
1285 regulation shall take effect without affirmative legislative approval.

1286 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any
1287 provision in any agreement or award which would require an
1288 additional appropriation in order to maintain the levels of services
1289 provided by existing appropriations shall be presented to the General
1290 Assembly for approval in accordance with the budgetary process
1291 applicable to appropriations, including, but not limited to, affirmative

1292 legislative approval. Other provisions of the agreement or award shall
1293 be deemed approved unless affirmatively rejected by a majority of
1294 either house not later than thirty days after the filing with the clerk of
1295 that chamber, provided the thirty-day period shall not begin or expire
1296 unless the General Assembly is in regular session. Once approved by
1297 the General Assembly, any provision of an agreement or award need
1298 not be resubmitted by the parties to such agreement or award as part
1299 of a future agreement approval process unless changes in the language
1300 of such provision are negotiated by the parties.

1301 Sec. 23. Section 17b-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1302 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1303 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood may accept
1304 and receive, on behalf of the [Department of Social Services] Office of
1305 Early Childhood or on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, established
1306 pursuant to section 17b-751, as amended by this act, any bequest or gift
1307 of personal property for services for a person who is, or members of
1308 whose immediate family are, receiving assistance or services from the
1309 [Department of Social Services, or both,] office or for services for a
1310 former recipient of assistance from the Department of Social Services
1311 or a potential recipient of assistance from the [Department of Social
1312 Services] office or for programs or services described in section 17b-
1313 751, as amended by this act. Any federal funds generated by virtue of
1314 any such bequest or gift may be used for the extension of services to
1315 such person or family members.

1316 Sec. 24. Section 17b-730 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1317 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1318 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood is
1319 authorized to take advantage of any federal statutes and regulations
1320 relating to child day care and shall have the power to administer any
1321 federally-assisted child day care program in the event that [said] such
1322 federal statutes or regulations require that [said] such federally-
1323 assisted program be administered by a single state agency.

1324 (b) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood is
1325 authorized to take advantage of Title V of Public Law 88-452, entitled
1326 "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964", with respect to providing work
1327 training, aid and assistance to persons eligible for state-administered
1328 general assistance or public assistance, and to administer the same in
1329 such manner as is required for the receipt of federal funds therefor.

1330 Sec. 25. Section 17b-733 of the 2014 supplement to the general
1331 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1332 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1333 The [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood shall
1334 be the lead agency for child day care services in Connecticut. The
1335 [department] office shall: (1) Identify, annually, existing child day care
1336 services and maintain an inventory of all available services; (2) provide
1337 technical assistance to corporations and private agencies in the
1338 development and expansion of child day care services for families at
1339 all income levels, including families of their employees and clients; (3)
1340 study and identify funding sources available for child day care
1341 including federal funds and tax benefits; (4) study the cost and
1342 availability of liability insurance for child day care providers; (5)
1343 [provide, in conjunction with the Departments of Education and
1344 Higher Education, ongoing training for child day care providers
1345 including preparing videotaped workshops and distributing them to
1346 cable stations for broadcast on public access stations, and seek private
1347 donations to fund such training; (6)] encourage child day care services
1348 to obtain accreditation; [(7)] (6) develop a range of financing options
1349 for child care services, including the use of a tax-exempt bond
1350 program, a loan guarantee program and establishing a direct revolving
1351 loan program; [(8)] (7) promote the colocation of child day care and
1352 school readiness programs pursuant to section 4b-31; [(9)] (8) establish
1353 a performance-based evaluation system; [(10)] (9) develop for
1354 recommendation to the Governor and the General Assembly measures
1355 to provide incentives for the private sector to develop and support
1356 expanded child day care services; [(11)] (10) provide, within available
1357 funds and in conjunction with the temporary family assistance

1358 program, as defined in section 17b-680, and administered by the
1359 Department of Social Services, child day care to public assistance
1360 recipients; [(12)] (11) develop and implement, with the assistance of the
1361 [Departments of Public Health, Social Services, Education, Higher
1362 Education, Children and Families, Economic and Community
1363 Development and Consumer Protection, a state-wide coordinated
1364 child day care and early childhood education training system (A) for
1365 child day care centers, group day care homes and family day care
1366 homes that provide child day care services, and (B)] Early Childhood
1367 Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z, as amended by this
1368 act, a coordinated and comprehensive state-wide early childhood care
1369 and education system of professional development for providers and
1370 staff of early childhood care and education programs, including child
1371 day care centers, group day care homes and family day care homes
1372 that provide child day care services, that makes available to such
1373 providers and their staff, within available appropriations, scholarship
1374 assistance, career counseling and training [,] and advancement in
1375 career ladders, as defined in section 4-124bb; [, through seamless
1376 articulation of levels of training, program accreditation support and
1377 other initiatives recommended by the Departments of Social Services,
1378 Education and Higher Education; (13)] (12) plan and implement a unit
1379 cost reimbursement system for state-funded child day care services
1380 such that, on and after January 1, 2008, any increase in reimbursement
1381 shall be based on a requirement that such centers meet the staff
1382 qualifications, as defined in subsection (b) of section 10-16p, as
1383 amended by this act; [(14)] (13) develop, within available funds,
1384 initiatives to increase compensation paid to child day care providers
1385 for educational opportunities, including, but not limited to, (A)
1386 incentives for educational advancement paid to persons employed by
1387 child day care centers receiving state or federal funds, and (B) support
1388 for the establishment and implementation by the Labor Commissioner
1389 of apprenticeship programs for child day care workers pursuant to
1390 sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, which programs shall be jointly
1391 administered by labor and management trustees; [(15)] (14) evaluate
1392 the effectiveness of any initiatives developed pursuant to subdivision

1393 [(14)] (13) of this section in improving staff retention rates and the
1394 quality of education and care provided to children; and [(16)] (15)
1395 report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly, in
1396 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the status of child
1397 day care in Connecticut. Such report shall include (A) an itemization of
1398 the allocation of state and federal funds for child care programs; (B) the
1399 number of children served under each program so funded; (C) the
1400 number and type of such programs, providers and support personnel;
1401 (D) state activities to encourage partnership between the public and
1402 private sectors; (E) average payments issued by the state for both part-
1403 time and full-time child care; (F) range of family income and
1404 percentages served within each range by such programs; and (G) age
1405 range of children served.

1406 Sec. 26. Section 17b-734 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1407 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1408 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall
1409 establish and administer a program of grants to municipalities and
1410 state agencies for the purpose of planning, site preparation,
1411 construction, renovation or acquisition of facilities for use as child care
1412 facilities to be used primarily by the children of employees of such
1413 municipalities or state agencies and other potential participants. If
1414 openings occur for other potential participants in such a child care
1415 facility, priority for such openings shall be given to families at or below
1416 seventy-five per cent of the state's median income.

1417 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 17b-735 of the general statutes is
1418 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1419 *1, 2014*):

1420 (a) For the purposes described in section 17b-734, as amended by
1421 this act, and for the payment of any administrative expenses of the
1422 [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood related
1423 thereto the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to
1424 time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more

1425 series and principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate six million
1426 twenty-four thousand seven hundred ninety-eight dollars, provided
1427 one million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2000.

1428 Sec. 28. Section 17b-736 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1429 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1430 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall adopt
1431 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to carry out the purposes of
1432 sections 17b-734 and 17b-735, as amended by this act.

1433 Sec. 29. Section 17b-737 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1434 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1435 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Education shall establish a
1436 program, within available appropriations, to provide grants to
1437 municipalities, boards of education and child care providers to
1438 encourage the use of school facilities for the provision of child day care
1439 services before and after school. In order to qualify for a grant, a
1440 municipality, board of education or child care provider shall guarantee
1441 the availability of a school site which meets the standards set on or
1442 before June 30, 2014, by the Department of Public Health and on and
1443 after July 1, 2014, by the Office of Early Childhood in regulations
1444 adopted under sections 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-79, as
1445 amended by this act, 19a-80, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-
1446 87a, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall agree to provide
1447 liability insurance coverage for the program. Grant funds shall be used
1448 by the municipality, board of education or child care provider for the
1449 maintenance and utility costs directly attributable to the use of the
1450 school facility for the day care program, for related transportation costs
1451 and for the portion of the municipality, board of education or child
1452 care provider liability insurance cost and other operational costs
1453 directly attributable to the day care program. The municipality or
1454 board of education may contract with a child day care provider for the
1455 program. The Commissioner of [Social Services] Education may adopt
1456 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for

1457 purposes of this section. The commissioner may utilize available child
1458 care subsidies to implement the provisions of this section and
1459 encourage association and cooperation with the Head Start program
1460 established pursuant to section 10-16n, as amended by this act.

1461 Sec. 30. Section 17b-738 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1462 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1463 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall
1464 establish and administer a program of loans to business firms, as
1465 defined in subsection (a) of section 12-631, for the purpose of planning,
1466 site preparation, construction, renovation or acquisition of facilities,
1467 within the state, for use as licensed child day care centers, family day
1468 care homes or group day care homes to be used primarily by the
1469 children of employees of such corporations and children of employees
1470 of the municipalities in which such facilities are located. Such loans
1471 shall be made in accordance with the terms and conditions as provided
1472 in regulations adopted by the [Commissioner of Social Services]
1473 commissioner, in accordance with chapter 54, shall be made for a
1474 period not to exceed five years and shall bear interest at a rate to be
1475 determined in accordance with subsection (t) of section 3-20.

1476 Sec. 31. Section 17b-739 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1477 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1478 Whenever the state (1) constructs, acquires or receives as a gift any
1479 office building which accommodates three hundred or more state
1480 employees, or (2) alters, repairs or makes additions to an existing state
1481 building which accommodates three hundred or more employees and
1482 such alterations, repairs or additions affect at least twenty-five per cent
1483 of the square footage of such building, the Department of
1484 Administrative Services shall notify the [Department of Social
1485 Services] Office of Early Childhood. The [Department of Social
1486 Services] office, with the assistance of the Department of
1487 Administrative Services, shall determine the need for child care
1488 services for the employees in such building and other potential

1489 participants. If a demonstrated need for child care exists for thirty or
1490 more children of such employees and other potential participants and
1491 such care is unavailable, the Department of Administrative Services
1492 shall set aside adequate space for child care facilities in such building.
1493 If openings occur for other potential participants in such a child care
1494 facility, priority for such openings shall be given to families at or below
1495 seventy-five per cent of the state's median income. Such facilities shall
1496 meet all state licensure requirements. The provisions of this section
1497 shall not apply to correctional institutions.

1498 Sec. 32. Section 17b-749 of the 2014 supplement to the general
1499 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1500 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1501 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall
1502 establish and operate a child care subsidy program to increase the
1503 availability, affordability and quality of child care services for families
1504 with a parent or caretaker who is working, attending high school or
1505 who receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance
1506 program from the Department of Social Services and is participating in
1507 an approved education, training, or other job preparation activity.
1508 Services available under the child care program shall include the
1509 provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen
1510 or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The
1511 [department] Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain
1512 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
1513 such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The
1514 [department] office shall issue a notice on the [department's] office's
1515 Internet web site and shall provide written notice to recipients of
1516 program benefits and to service providers any time the [department]
1517 office closes the program to new applications, changes eligibility
1518 requirements, changes program benefits or makes any other change to
1519 the program's status or terms, provided the [department] office shall
1520 not be required to issue such notice when the [department] office
1521 expands program eligibility. Any change in the [department's] office's
1522 acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements, program

1523 benefits or any other change to the program's status or terms for which
1524 the [department] office is required to give notice pursuant to this
1525 subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the
1526 [department] office issues such notice.

1527 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
1528 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
1529 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
1530 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
1531 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
1532 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
1533 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
1534 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
1535 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
1536 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
1537 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
1538 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
1539 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
1540 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
1541 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

1542 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
1543 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards
1544 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility
1545 system with preference given to serving recipients of temporary family
1546 assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities
1547 under the [department's] Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"
1548 program, working families whose temporary family assistance was
1549 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application
1550 for the child care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working
1551 families, adoptive families of children who were adopted from the
1552 Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of
1553 income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
1554 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
1555 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
1556 reimbursement system for child care services which account for

1557 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
1558 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
1559 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
1560 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
1561 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
1562 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
1563 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
1564 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers
1565 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which
1566 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding
1567 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative
1568 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate
1569 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover
1570 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment
1571 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy
1572 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
1573 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
1574 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
1575 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
1576 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
1577 issued annually by the [Department of Social Services] office to the
1578 Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with [subdivision
1579 (10) of] section 17b-733, as amended by this act. Such action will
1580 include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of
1581 state and length of time on such waiting list.

1582 (d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2011, an applicant determined to be
1583 eligible for program benefits shall remain eligible for such benefits for
1584 a period of not less than eight months from the date that such
1585 applicant is determined to be eligible, provided the [commissioner]
1586 Commissioner of Social Services has not determined, during such
1587 eight-month period, that the applicant's circumstances have changed
1588 so as to render the applicant ineligible for program benefits. The
1589 [commissioner] Commissioner of Social Services shall not make an
1590 eligibility determination for a recipient of program benefits more than

1591 one time per eight-month period, except as provided in subsection (f)
1592 of this section.

1593 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Early Childhood
1594 shall succeed the Commissioner of Social Services for the purpose of
1595 making the eligibility determinations pursuant to subdivision (1) of
1596 this subsection.

1597 (e) Within available appropriations, a recipient of program benefits
1598 who takes unpaid leave from such recipient's employment due to the
1599 birth or impending birth of a child shall be granted not more than six
1600 weeks of payment eligibility during the leave if: (1) The recipient
1601 intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave; (2) the
1602 recipient verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a slot
1603 in a school-based program or licensed child care setting; and (3) the
1604 child receiving child care services under the program continues to
1605 attend the program during the recipient's leave.

1606 (f) (1) Not later than October 15, 2011, the [commissioner]
1607 Commissioner of Social Services shall submit a report, in accordance
1608 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
1609 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
1610 services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
1611 concerning eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis.
1612 Such report shall include an analysis of overpayments of program
1613 benefits made by the [department] Department of Social Services and
1614 administrative costs incurred by the department as a result of
1615 eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and
1616 after October 15, 2011, and until June 30, 2014, the [commissioner]
1617 Commissioner of Social Services may make eligibility redeterminations
1618 on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the department's
1619 overpayments of program benefits have increased in comparison with
1620 the period between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010, as a result
1621 of having an eight-month eligibility redetermination period.

1622 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the

1623 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall submit a report, in accordance
1624 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
1625 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
1626 services and appropriations concerning eligibility redeterminations
1627 made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall include an analysis of
1628 overpayments of program benefits made by the office and
1629 administrative costs incurred by the office as a result of eligibility
1630 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and after July 1,
1631 2014, the commissioner may make eligibility redeterminations on a six-
1632 month basis if the office's overpayments of program benefits have
1633 increased in comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and
1634 December 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
1635 redetermination period.

1636 (g) A provider under the child care subsidy program that qualifies
1637 for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child care
1638 services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for such
1639 services until informed by the [Department of Social Services] office of
1640 the recipient's ineligibility.

1641 (h) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
1642 from licensing shall provide the [Department of Social Services] office
1643 with the following information in order to maintain eligibility for
1644 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
1645 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
1646 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
1647 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
1648 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
1649 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
1650 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
1651 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

1652 (i) On or after [January 1, 1998] July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall
1653 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1654 implement the provisions of this section.

1655 (j) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing committees
1656 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1657 human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a
1658 copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
1659 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
1660 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
1661 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
1662 the Administration for Children and Families.

1663 Sec. 33. Section 17b-749a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1664 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1665 (a) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood shall
1666 establish, within available appropriations, a program to (1) purchase
1667 directly or provide subsidies to parents to purchase child day care
1668 services provided by any elementary or secondary school, nursery
1669 school, preschool, day care center, group day care home, family day
1670 care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or
1671 regional board of education, provided, if the commissioner purchases
1672 such services directly, he or she shall give preference to purchasing
1673 from providers of full-day and year-round programs; and (2) award
1674 grants to providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section
1675 10-16p, as amended by this act, to increase the hours of operation of
1676 their programs in order to provide child care for children attending
1677 such programs. The commissioner, for purposes of subdivision (1) of
1678 this subsection, may model the program on the program established
1679 pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this act.

1680 (b) No funds received by a provider pursuant to this section shall be
1681 used to supplant federal funding received for early childhood
1682 education on behalf of children in an early childhood education
1683 program.

1684 (c) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner shall: (1)
1685 Coordinate the development of a range of alternative programs to
1686 meet the needs of all children; (2) foster partnerships between school

1687 districts and private organizations; (3) provide information and
1688 assistance to parents in selecting an appropriate school readiness
1689 program; and (4) work to ensure, to the extent possible, that school
1690 readiness programs allow open enrollment for all children and allow
1691 families receiving benefits for such a program to choose a public or
1692 accredited private program.

1693 Sec. 34. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17b-749c of the general
1694 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1695 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1696 (a) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood shall
1697 establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide, on a
1698 competitive basis, supplemental quality enhancement grants to
1699 providers of child day care services or providers of school readiness
1700 programs pursuant to section 10-16p, as amended by this act, and
1701 section 10-16u, as amended by this act. Child day care providers and
1702 school readiness programs may apply for a supplemental quality
1703 enhancement grant at such time and on such form as the
1704 [Commissioner of Education] commissioner prescribes. Effective July
1705 1, [2011] 2014, the commissioner shall make funds payable to providers
1706 under such grants on a prospective basis.

1707 (b) Priority for such grants shall be given to programs that are: (1)
1708 Included in a local school readiness plan; (2) full-day, year-round
1709 programs; and (3) accredited, as defined in subdivision (4) of
1710 subsection (a) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

1711 Sec. 35. Section 17b-749d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1712 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1713 Each licensed child day care provider receiving funding directly
1714 from the [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood
1715 shall adopt a sliding fee scale based on family income. The
1716 Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall develop a
1717 minimum sliding fee scale which may be adjusted upward by each
1718 such licensed day care program. All income derived from such fees

1719 shall be used to support the child day care program.

1720 Sec. 36. Section 17b-749e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1721 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1722 The [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood shall
1723 establish and fund five regional accreditation projects, within available
1724 appropriations. The [department] office shall select qualified
1725 applicants for each region through a request for proposal process. The
1726 [department] office shall give priority to child day care facilities where
1727 at least twenty per cent of the children live with families earning less
1728 than seventy-five per cent of the state median income level.

1729 Sec. 37. Section 17b-749f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1730 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1731 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services, in consultation with the
1732 Commissioner of Education,] Early Childhood shall develop and
1733 implement a performance-based evaluation system to evaluate
1734 licensed child day care centers, within available appropriations. Such a
1735 performance-based evaluation system shall be similar to the Head
1736 Start Performance Standards in 45 CFR 1304.

1737 (b) The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall
1738 conduct, within available appropriations, a longitudinal study that
1739 examines the developmental progress of children and their families
1740 both during and following participation in a child day care program.

1741 (c) The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall report
1742 to the General Assembly, in accordance with section 11-4a, on or
1743 before January 1, [1998] 2015, on the implementation of the
1744 performance-based evaluation system and on the longitudinal study,
1745 and annually thereafter on the cumulative results of the evaluations.

1746 Sec. 38. Section 17b-749g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1747 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1748 (a) There is established a child care facilities loan guarantee

1749 program for the purpose of guaranteeing loans for the expansion or
1750 development of child care and child development centers in the state.
1751 The program shall contain any moneys required by law to be
1752 deposited in the program, including, but not limited to, any moneys
1753 appropriated by the state, premiums and fees for guaranteeing loans,
1754 and proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease or rental of collateral
1755 relating to loan guarantees. Any balance remaining in the program at
1756 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the program for
1757 the fiscal year next succeeding. The program shall be used to guarantee
1758 loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and to pay reasonable
1759 and necessary expenses incurred for administration under this section.
1760 The Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood may enter into a
1761 contract with a quasi-public agency, banking institution or nonprofit
1762 corporation to provide for the administration of the program, provided
1763 no loan guarantee shall be made from the program without the
1764 authorization of the commissioner as provided in subsection (b) of this
1765 section. The total aggregate amount of guarantees from the program,
1766 with respect to the insured portions of the loan, may not exceed at any
1767 one time an amount equal to three times the balance in the guarantee
1768 program.

1769 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the [Commissioner of
1770 Education] commissioner, may guarantee the repayment of loans,
1771 including, but not limited to, principal and interest, to a lending
1772 institution that has provided funding for the construction,
1773 reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of child care and child
1774 development facilities. The total aggregate of any loan guarantee
1775 under this section shall be not less than twenty per cent and shall not
1776 exceed fifty per cent of the principal amount of the obligation, as
1777 determined by approved underwriting standards approved by the
1778 commissioner, and upon such terms and conditions as the
1779 commissioner may prescribe. The term of any loan guarantee shall be
1780 determined by the useful life of the improvement but in no event shall
1781 exceed thirty years. The commissioner shall arrange by contract with
1782 each lending institution or the borrower to safeguard the interests of

1783 the program in the event of a default by the borrower, including, at the
1784 discretion of the commissioner, provision for notice to the program of
1785 default by the borrower, for foreclosure or other realization upon any
1786 security for the loan, for the time and conditions for payment to the
1787 lending institution by the program of the amount of any loss to the
1788 lending institution guaranteed by the program and for the disposition
1789 of the proceeds realized from any security for the loan guaranteed.
1790 When it appears desirable for a temporary period upon default or
1791 threatened default by the borrower, the commissioner may authorize
1792 payments of installments of principal or interest, or both, from the
1793 program to the lending institution, and of taxes and insurance, which
1794 payments shall be repaid under such conditions as the program may
1795 prescribe and the program may also agree to revise terms of financing
1796 when such appears pertinent. Upon request of the lending institution,
1797 the commissioner may at any time, under such equitable terms and
1798 conditions as it may prescribe, consent to the release of the borrower
1799 from his liability under the loan or consent to the release of parts of
1800 any secured property from the lien of the lending institution.

1801 (c) Priority for loan guarantees shall be given to financing child care
1802 centers and child development centers that (1) have obtained
1803 accreditation from the National Association for the Education of
1804 Young Children or have an application pending for such accreditation,
1805 and (2) are included in a local school readiness plan, and (3) shall
1806 promote the colocation of programs endorsed by the [Commissioners
1807 of Education and Social Services] commissioner pursuant to section 4b-
1808 31. School readiness programs, licensed child care providers or
1809 nonprofit developers of a child care center operating under a legally
1810 enforceable agreement with child care providers are eligible for such
1811 guaranteed loans.

1812 (d) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may adopt
1813 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1814 establish procedures and qualifications for application for guarantees
1815 under this section.

1816 Sec. 39. Section 17b-749h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1817 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1818 (a) There is established a program to be known as the "child care
1819 facilities direct revolving loan program". The program shall contain
1820 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the program,
1821 including, but not limited to, any moneys appropriated by the state,
1822 premiums, fees, interest payments and principal payments on direct
1823 loans and proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease or rental of
1824 collateral relating to direct loans. Any balance remaining in the
1825 program at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the
1826 program for the next succeeding fiscal year. The program shall be used
1827 to make loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, to make loan
1828 guarantees and to pay reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in
1829 administering loans and loan guarantees under this section. The
1830 Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood may enter into a
1831 contract with a quasi-public agency, banking institution or nonprofit
1832 corporation to provide for the administration of the loan program,
1833 provided no loan or loan guarantee shall be made from the fund
1834 without the authorization of the commissioner as provided in
1835 subsection (b) of this section.

1836 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the [Commissioner of
1837 Education] commissioner, may enter into a contract to provide
1838 financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans, deferred loans or
1839 guaranteed loans to child care providers or to nonprofit developers of
1840 a child care facility operating under a legally enforceable agreement
1841 with a child care provider, for costs or expenses incurred and directly
1842 connected with the expansion, improvement or development of child
1843 care facilities. Such costs and expenses may include: (1) Advances of
1844 loan proceeds for direct loans; (2) expenses incurred in project
1845 planning and design, including architectural expenses; (3) legal and
1846 financial expenses; (4) expenses incurred in obtaining required permits
1847 and approvals; (5) options to purchase land; (6) expenses incurred in
1848 obtaining required insurance; (7) expenses incurred in meeting state
1849 and local child care standards; (8) minor renovations and upgrading

1850 child care facilities to meet such standards and loans for the purpose of
1851 obtaining licensure under section 19a-77, as amended by this act; (9)
1852 purchase and installation of equipment, machinery and furniture,
1853 including equipment needed to accommodate children with special
1854 needs; and (10) other preliminary expenses authorized by the
1855 commissioner. Loan proceeds shall not be used for the refinancing of
1856 existing loans, working capital, supplies or inventory.

1857 (c) The amount of a direct loan under this section may be up to
1858 eighty per cent of the total amount of investment but shall not exceed
1859 twenty-five thousand dollars for such facility as determined by the
1860 commissioner except [that] if an applicant for a loan under this section
1861 has an existing loan that is guaranteed by the child care facilities loan
1862 guarantee program, established under section 17b-749g, as amended
1863 by this act, the direct loan provided under this section shall not exceed
1864 twenty per cent of the investment. The amount of any guarantee and a
1865 direct loan under this section shall not exceed eighty per cent.

1866 (d) Each provider applying for a loan under this section shall submit
1867 an application, on a form provided by the commissioner that shall
1868 include, but is not limited to, the following information: (1) A detailed
1869 description of the proposed or existing child care facility; (2) an
1870 itemization of known and estimated costs; (3) the total amount of
1871 investment required to expand or develop the child care facility; (4) the
1872 funds available to the applicant without financial assistance from the
1873 [department] office; (5) the amount of financial assistance sought from
1874 the [department] office; (6) information relating to the financial status
1875 of the applicant, including, if available, a current balance sheet, a profit
1876 and loss statement and credit references; and (7) evidence that the loan
1877 applicant shall, as of the loan closing, own, have an option to purchase
1878 or have a lease for the term of the loan. Security for the loan may
1879 include an assignment of the lease or other subordination of any
1880 mortgage and the borrower shall be in default if the loan is not used
1881 for the intended purpose.

1882 (e) Payments of principal and interest on such loans shall be paid to

1883 the State Treasurer for deposit in the child care facilities direct
1884 revolving loan program established in subsection (a) of this section.

1885 (f) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may adopt
1886 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the provisions
1887 of this section. Such regulations may clarify loan procedures,
1888 repayment terms, security requirements, default and remedy
1889 provisions, and such other terms and conditions as [said] the
1890 commissioner shall deem appropriate.

1891 Sec. 40. Section 17b-749i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1892 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1893 Within appropriations available to the State Treasurer for child care
1894 facilities, not already allocated toward debt service for specific child
1895 care facilities, the Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood may,
1896 upon submission of a request by a facility operating a child care
1897 program that is financed with tax-exempt or taxable bonds issued
1898 through the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority,
1899 allow actual debt service, comprised of principal, interest and
1900 premium, if any, on the loan or loans, a debt service reserve fund and a
1901 reasonable repair and replacement reserve to be paid, provided such
1902 debt service terms and amounts are determined by the commissioner,
1903 at the time the loan is entered into, to be reasonable in relation to the
1904 useful life and base value of the property.

1905 Sec. 41. Section 17b-749j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1906 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1907 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall
1908 establish health and safety standards, within available appropriations,
1909 for the child care subsidy program. The commissioner shall adopt
1910 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, which shall include, but not
1911 be limited to, the following: (1) A requirement for the provider or
1912 relative to apply for reimbursement from the [Department of Social
1913 Services] Office of Early Childhood; (2) a requirement for the provider
1914 or relative to provide reasonable confirmation of physical premises

1915 safety pursuant to 45 CFR Part 98.41; and (3) minimum health and
1916 safety training appropriate to the provider setting and the prevention
1917 and control of infectious diseases, including immunization. The
1918 commissioner shall, within available appropriations, distribute
1919 information on the availability of health and safety training and
1920 assistance.

1921 Sec. 42. Section 17b-749k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1922 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1923 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood shall,
1924 within available appropriations, require any person, other than a
1925 relative, providing child care services to a child in the child's home
1926 who receives a child care subsidy from the [Department of Social
1927 Services] Office of Early Childhood to submit to state and national
1928 criminal history records checks. The criminal history records checks
1929 required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance
1930 with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the
1931 state child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k.

1932 (b) The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall have
1933 the discretion to refuse payments for child care under any financial
1934 assistance program administered by him or her if the person providing
1935 such child care has been convicted in this state or any other state of a
1936 felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted use
1937 or threatened use of physical force against another person, of cruelty to
1938 persons under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing
1939 morals of children under section 53-21, abandonment of children
1940 under the age of six years under section 53-23 or any felony where the
1941 victim of the felony is a child under eighteen years of age, or of a
1942 violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
1943 53a-73a, or has a criminal record or was the subject of a substantiated
1944 report of child abuse in this state or any other state that the
1945 commissioner reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to
1946 provide child care.

1947 Sec. 43. Section 17b-750 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1948 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1949 No child care subsidy shall be paid to an unlicensed child care
1950 provider if such provider has been convicted of any crime involving
1951 sexual assault of a minor or serious physical injury to a minor or any
1952 crime committed in any other state or jurisdiction the essential
1953 elements of which are substantially the same as such crimes. If the
1954 [commissioner] Commissioner of Early Childhood has reason to
1955 believe that a provider of child care services has been so convicted, the
1956 commissioner may demand that such provider be subject to state and
1957 national criminal history records checks. If criminal history records
1958 checks are required pursuant to this section, such checks shall be
1959 conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.

1960 Sec. 44. Section 17b-751 of the 2014 supplement to the general
1961 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1962 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1963 (a) There is established a Children's Trust Fund, the resources of
1964 which shall be used by the Commissioner of [Social Services] Early
1965 Childhood to fund programs aimed at preventing child abuse and
1966 neglect and family resource programs. Said fund is intended to be in
1967 addition to those resources that would otherwise be appropriated by
1968 the state for programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect
1969 and family resource programs. The commissioner may apply for and
1970 accept any federal funds which are available for a Children's Trust
1971 Fund and shall administer such funds in the manner required by
1972 federal law. The fund shall receive money from grants and gifts made
1973 pursuant to section 17a-18. The commissioner may solicit and accept
1974 funds, on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the
1975 prevention of child abuse and neglect and family resource programs.
1976 The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall adopt
1977 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1978 administer the fund and to set eligibility requirements for programs
1979 seeking funding. Youth service bureaus may receive funds from the

1980 Children's Trust Fund.

1981 (b) On or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
1982 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
1983 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
1984 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
1985 services, public health and education concerning the source and
1986 amount of funds received by the Children's Trust Fund, and the
1987 manner in which such funds were administered and disbursed.

1988 Sec. 45. Section 17b-751d of the 2014 supplement to the general
1989 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1990 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1991 [(a) The Department of Social Services] The Office of Early
1992 Childhood shall be the lead state agency for community-based,
1993 prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen
1994 and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect. The
1995 responsibilities of the [department] office shall include, but not be
1996 limited to, collaborating with state agencies, hospitals, clinics, schools
1997 and community service organizations, to: (1) Initiate programs to
1998 support families at risk for child abuse or neglect; (2) assist
1999 organizations to recognize child abuse and neglect; (3) encourage
2000 community safety; (4) increase broad-based efforts to prevent child
2001 abuse and neglect; (5) create a network of agencies to advance child
2002 abuse and neglect prevention; and (6) increase public awareness of
2003 child abuse and neglect issues. The [department] office, subject to
2004 available state, federal and private funding, shall be responsible for
2005 implementing and maintaining programs and services, including, but
2006 not limited to: (A) The Nurturing Families Network, established
2007 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17b-751b; (B) Family
2008 Empowerment Initiative programs; (C) Help Me Grow; (D) [the
2009 Kinship Fund and Grandparent's Respite Fund; (E)] Family School
2010 Connection; [(F)] (E) support services for residents of a respite group
2011 home for girls; [(G) legal services on behalf of indigent children; (H)]
2012 (F) volunteer services; [(I)] (G) family development training; [(J)] (H)

2013 shaken baby syndrome prevention; and [(K)] (L) child sexual abuse
2014 prevention.

2015 [(b) Not later than sixty days after October 5, 2009, the
2016 Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance with
2017 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
2018 Assembly, having cognizance of matters relating to human services
2019 and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on the
2020 integration of the duties described in subsection (a) of this section into
2021 the department.]

2022 Sec. 46. Section 17b-751e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2023 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2024 Any order, regulation or contract of the Children's Trust Fund
2025 Council agency or the Department of Social Services that is in force on
2026 [September 1, 2009] July 1, 2014, shall continue in force and effect as an
2027 order, regulation or contract of the [Department of Social Services]
2028 Office of Early Childhood until amended, repealed or superseded
2029 pursuant to law.

2030 Sec. 47. Subdivision (11) of subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the
2031 2014 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
2032 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2033 (11) The [Department of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood
2034 for the purpose of (A) determining the suitability of a person to care
2035 for children in a facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-77, as
2036 amended by this act, 19a-80, as amended by this act, or 19a-87b, as
2037 amended by this act; (B) determining the suitability of such person for
2038 licensure; or (C) an investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-
2039 80f, as amended by this act;

2040 Sec. 48. Section 19a-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2041 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2042 (a) As used in sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by

2043 this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this
2044 act, "child day care services" shall include:

2045 (1) A "child day care center" which offers or provides a program of
2046 supplementary care to more than twelve related or unrelated children
2047 outside their own homes on a regular basis;

2048 (2) A "group day care home" which offers or provides a program of
2049 supplementary care (A) to not less than seven or more than twelve
2050 related or unrelated children on a regular basis, or (B) that meets the
2051 definition of a family day care home except that it operates in a facility
2052 other than a private family home;

2053 (3) A "family day care home" which consists of a private family
2054 home caring for not more than six children, including the provider's
2055 own children not in school full time, where the children are cared for
2056 not less than three or more than twelve hours during a twenty-four-
2057 hour period and where care is given on a regularly recurring basis
2058 except that care may be provided in excess of twelve hours but not
2059 more than seventy-two consecutive hours to accommodate a need for
2060 extended care or intermittent short-term overnight care. During the
2061 regular school year, a maximum of three additional children who are
2062 in school full time, including the provider's own children, shall be
2063 permitted, except that if the provider has more than three children
2064 who are in school full time, all of the provider's children shall be
2065 permitted;

2066 (4) "Night care" means the care provided for one or more hours
2067 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.;

2068 (5) "Year-round" program means a program open at least fifty
2069 weeks per year.

2070 (b) For licensing requirement purposes, child day care services shall
2071 not include such services which are:

2072 (1) (A) Administered by a public school system, or (B) administered

2073 by a municipal agency or department and located in a public school
2074 building;

2075 (2) Administered by a private school which is in compliance with
2076 section 10-188 and is approved by the State Board of Education or is
2077 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of
2078 Education;

2079 (3) Classes in music, dance, drama and art that are no longer than
2080 two hours in length; classes that teach a single skill that are no longer
2081 than two hours in length; library programs that are no longer than two
2082 hours in length; scouting; programs that offer exclusively sports
2083 activities; rehearsals; academic tutoring programs; or programs
2084 exclusively for children thirteen years of age or older;

2085 (4) Informal arrangements among neighbors and formal or informal
2086 arrangements among relatives in their own homes, provided the
2087 relative is limited to any of the following degrees of kinship by blood
2088 or marriage to the child being cared for or to the child's parent: Child,
2089 grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle or child of one's aunt or
2090 uncle;

2091 (5) Drop-in supplementary child care operations for educational or
2092 recreational purposes and the child receives such care infrequently
2093 where the parents are on the premises;

2094 (6) Drop-in supplementary child care operations in retail
2095 establishments where the parents remain in the same store as the child
2096 for retail shopping, provided the drop-in supplementary child-care
2097 operation does not charge a fee and does not refer to itself as a child
2098 day care center;

2099 (7) Drop-in programs administered by a nationally chartered boys'
2100 and girls' club;

2101 (8) Religious educational activities administered by a religious
2102 institution exclusively for children whose parents or legal guardians

2103 are members of such religious institution;

2104 (9) Administered by Solar Youth, Inc., a New Haven-based
2105 nonprofit youth development and environmental education
2106 organization, provided Solar Youth, Inc. informs the parents and legal
2107 guardians of any children enrolled in its programs that such programs
2108 are not licensed by the [Department of Public Health] Office of Early
2109 Childhood to provide child day care services;

2110 (10) Programs administered by organizations under contract with
2111 the Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-851a that
2112 promote the reduction of teenage pregnancy through the provision of
2113 services to persons who are ten to nineteen years of age, inclusive; or

2114 (11) Administered by the Cardinal Shehan Center, a Bridgeport-
2115 based nonprofit organization that is exclusively for school age
2116 children, provided the Cardinal Shehan Center informs the parents
2117 and legal guardians of any children enrolled in its programs that such
2118 programs are not licensed by the [Department of Public Health] Office
2119 of Early Childhood to provide child day care services.

2120 (c) No registrant or licensee of any child day care services as defined
2121 in subsection (a) of this section shall be issued an additional
2122 registration or license to provide any such services at the same facility.

2123 (d) When a licensee has vacated premises approved by the
2124 [department] office for the provision of child day care services and the
2125 landlord of such licensee establishes to the satisfaction of the
2126 [department] office that such licensee has no legal right or interest to
2127 such approved premises, the [department] office may make a
2128 determination with respect to an application for a new license for the
2129 provision of child day care services at such premises.

2130 Sec. 49. Section 19a-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2132 (a) The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood shall

2133 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
2134 carry out the purposes of sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as
2135 amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by
2136 this act, and to assure that child day care centers and group day care
2137 homes shall meet the health, educational and social needs of children
2138 utilizing such child day care centers and group day care homes. Such
2139 regulations shall (1) specify that before being permitted to attend any
2140 child day care center or group day care home, each child shall be
2141 protected as age-appropriate by adequate immunization against
2142 diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella,
2143 hemophilus influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the
2144 schedule of active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f,
2145 including appropriate exemptions for children for whom such
2146 immunization is medically contraindicated and for children whose
2147 parents object to such immunization on religious grounds, (2) specify
2148 conditions under which child day care center directors and teachers
2149 and group day care home providers may administer tests to monitor
2150 glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and
2151 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs
2152 specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving
2153 child day care services at such child day care center or group day care
2154 home pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice
2155 medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or
2156 another state, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to
2157 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant
2158 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written
2159 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child, (3) specify that an
2160 operator of a child day care center or group day care home, licensed
2161 before January 1, 1986, or an operator who receives a license after
2162 January 1, 1986, for a facility licensed prior to January 1, 1986, shall
2163 provide a minimum of thirty square feet per child of total indoor
2164 usable space, free of furniture except that needed for the children's
2165 purposes, exclusive of toilet rooms, bathrooms, coatrooms, kitchens,
2166 halls, isolation room or other rooms used for purposes other than the
2167 activities of the children, (4) specify that a child day care center or

2168 group day care home licensed after January 1, 1986, shall provide
2169 thirty-five square feet per child of total indoor usable space, (5)
2170 establish appropriate child day care center staffing requirements for
2171 employees certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation by the American
2172 Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Safety
2173 Council, American Safety and Health Institute or Medic First Aid
2174 International, Inc., (6) specify that on and after January 1, 2003, a child
2175 day care center or group day care home (A) shall not deny services to a
2176 child on the basis of a child's known or suspected allergy or because a
2177 child has a prescription for an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or
2178 similar automatic injectable equipment used to treat an allergic
2179 reaction, or for injectable equipment used to administer glucagon, (B)
2180 shall, not later than three weeks after such child's enrollment in such a
2181 center or home, have staff trained in the use of such equipment on-site
2182 during all hours when such a child is on-site, (C) shall require such
2183 child's parent or guardian to provide the injector or injectable
2184 equipment and a copy of the prescription for such medication and
2185 injector or injectable equipment upon enrollment of such child, and (D)
2186 shall require a parent or guardian enrolling such a child to replace
2187 such medication and equipment prior to its expiration date, and (7)
2188 specify that on and after January 1, 2005, a child day care center or
2189 group day care home (A) shall not deny services to a child on the basis
2190 of a child's diagnosis of asthma or because a child has a prescription
2191 for an inhalant medication to treat asthma, and (B) shall, not later than
2192 three weeks after such child's enrollment in such a center or home,
2193 have staff trained in the administration of such medication on-site
2194 during all hours when such a child is on-site, and (8) establish physical
2195 plant requirements for licensed child day care centers and licensed
2196 group day care homes that exclusively serve school-age children.
2197 When establishing such requirements, the [department] Office of Early
2198 Childhood shall give consideration to child day care centers and group
2199 day care homes that are located in private or public school buildings.
2200 With respect to this subdivision only, the commissioner shall
2201 implement policies and procedures necessary to implement the
2202 physical plant requirements established pursuant to this subdivision

2203 while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in
2204 regulation form. Until replaced by policies and procedures
2205 implemented pursuant to this subdivision, any physical plant
2206 requirement specified in the [department's] office's regulations that is
2207 generally applicable to child day care centers and group day care
2208 homes shall continue to be applicable to such centers and group day
2209 care homes that exclusively serve school-age children. The
2210 commissioner shall print notice of the intent to adopt regulations
2211 pursuant to this subdivision in the Connecticut Law Journal not later
2212 than twenty days after the date of implementation of such policies and
2213 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
2214 subdivision shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

2215 (b) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner may adopt
2216 regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, to establish civil penalties of not
2217 more than one hundred dollars per day for each day of violation and
2218 other disciplinary remedies that may be imposed, following a
2219 contested-case hearing, upon the holder of a license issued under
2220 section 19a-80, as amended by this act, to operate a child day care
2221 center or group day care home or upon the holder of a license issued
2222 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, to operate a family day
2223 care home.

2224 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall exempt
2225 Montessori schools accredited by the American Montessori Society or
2226 the Association Montessori Internationale from any provision in
2227 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section which
2228 sets requirements on group size or child to staff ratios or the provision
2229 of cots.

2230 Sec. 50. Section 19a-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2231 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2232 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
2233 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
2234 child day care center or group day care home without a license issued

2235 in accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by
2236 this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act.
2237 Applications for such license shall be made to the Commissioner of
2238 [Public Health] Early Childhood on forms provided by the
2239 commissioner and shall contain the information required by
2240 regulations adopted under said sections. The forms shall contain a
2241 notice that false statements made therein are punishable in accordance
2242 with section 53a-157b.

2243 (b) (1) Upon receipt of an application for a license, the
2244 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall issue such license
2245 if, upon inspection and investigation, said commissioner finds that the
2246 applicant, the facilities and the program meet the health, educational
2247 and social needs of children likely to attend the child day care center or
2248 group day care home and comply with requirements established by
2249 regulations adopted under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as
2250 amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as
2251 amended by this act. The commissioner shall offer an expedited
2252 application review process for an application submitted by a municipal
2253 agency or department. The commissioner shall have discretion to
2254 determine whether a change of operator, ownership or location request
2255 from a currently licensed person or entity, as described in subsection
2256 (a) of this section, shall require the filing of a new license application
2257 from such person or entity. Each license shall be for a term of four
2258 years, shall be nontransferable, and may be renewed upon receipt by
2259 the commissioner of a renewal application and accompanying
2260 licensure fee. The commissioner may suspend or revoke such license
2261 after notice and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in section
2262 19a-84, as amended by this act, for violation of the regulations adopted
2263 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and
2264 sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act.

2265 (2) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall collect
2266 from the licensee of a day care center a fee of five hundred dollars
2267 prior to issuing or renewing a license for a term of four years. The
2268 commissioner shall collect from the licensee of a group day care home

2269 a fee of two hundred fifty dollars prior to issuing or renewing a license
2270 for a term of four years. The commissioner shall require only one
2271 license for a child day care center operated in two or more buildings,
2272 provided the same licensee provides child day care services in each
2273 building and the buildings are joined together by a contiguous
2274 playground that is part of the licensed space.

2275 (3) The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall make
2276 an unannounced visit, inspection or investigation of each licensed
2277 child day care center and group day care home at least once each year.
2278 At least once every two years, the local health director, or the local
2279 health director's designee, shall make an inspection of each licensed
2280 child day care center and group day care home.

2281 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, within
2282 available appropriations, shall require each prospective employee of a
2283 child day care center or group day care home in a position requiring
2284 the provision of care to a child to submit to state and national criminal
2285 history records checks. The criminal history records checks required
2286 pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
2287 section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state
2288 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. Pursuant
2289 to the interagency agreement provided for in section 10-16s, the
2290 Department of Social Services may agree to transfer funds
2291 appropriated for criminal history records checks to the [Department of
2292 Public Health] Office of Early Childhood. The commissioner shall
2293 notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection.

2294 (d) The commissioner shall inform each licensee, by way of a plain
2295 language summary provided not later than sixty days after the
2296 regulation's effective date, of new or changed regulations adopted
2297 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, or
2298 sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act, with
2299 which a licensee must comply.

2300 Sec. 51. Section 19a-80f of the general statutes is repealed and the

2301 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2302 (a) As used in this section, "facility" means a child day care center, a
2303 group day care home and a family day care home, as defined in section
2304 19a-77, as amended by this act, and a youth camp, as defined in section
2305 19a-420.

2306 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
2307 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
2308 designee, shall provide to the [Department of Public Health] Office of
2309 Early Childhood all records concerning reports and investigations of
2310 child abuse or neglect that have been reported to, or are being
2311 investigated by, the Department of Children and Families pursuant to
2312 section 17a-101g, including records of any administrative hearing held
2313 pursuant to section 17a-101k: (1) Occurring at any facility, and (2) by
2314 any staff member or licensee of any facility and by any household
2315 member of any family day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as
2316 amended by this act, irrespective of where the abuse or neglect
2317 occurred.

2318 (c) The Department of Children and Families and the [Department
2319 of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood shall jointly investigate
2320 reports of abuse or neglect occurring at any facility. All information,
2321 records and reports concerning such investigation shall be shared
2322 between agencies as part of the investigative process.

2323 (d) The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood shall
2324 compile a listing of allegations of violations that have been
2325 substantiated by the [Department of Public Health] Office of Early
2326 Childhood concerning a facility during the prior three-year period. The
2327 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall disclose
2328 information contained in the listing to any person who requests it,
2329 provided the information may be disclosed pursuant to sections 17a-
2330 101g and 17a-101k and does not identify children or family members
2331 of those children.

2332 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the

2333 Commissioner of Children and Families has made a finding
2334 substantiating abuse or neglect: (1) That occurred at a facility, or (2) by
2335 any staff member or licensee of any facility, or by any household
2336 member of any family day care home and such finding is included on
2337 the state child abuse or neglect registry, maintained by the Department
2338 of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101k, such finding
2339 may be included in the listing compiled by the [Department of Public
2340 Health] Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (d) of this
2341 section and may be disclosed to the public by the [Department of
2342 Public Health] Office of Early Childhood.

2343 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
2344 Commissioner of Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-101j,
2345 has notified the [Department of Public Health] Office of Early
2346 Childhood of a recommended finding of child abuse or neglect at a
2347 facility and if such child abuse or neglect resulted in or involves (1) the
2348 death of a child; (2) the risk of serious physical injury or emotional
2349 harm of a child; (3) the serious physical harm of a child; (4) the arrest
2350 of a person due to abuse or neglect of a child; (5) a petition filed by the
2351 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-112 or
2352 46b-129; or (6) sexual abuse of a child, the Commissioner of [Public
2353 Health] Early Childhood may include such finding of child abuse or
2354 neglect in the listing under subsection (d) of this section and may
2355 disclose such finding to the public. The Commissioner of Children and
2356 Families, or the commissioner's designee, shall immediately notify the
2357 Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood when such child
2358 abuse or neglect is not substantiated after an investigation has been
2359 completed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-101g or a
2360 recommended finding of child abuse or neglect is reversed after a
2361 hearing or appeal conducted in accordance with the provisions of
2362 section 17a-101k. The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early
2363 Childhood shall immediately remove such information from the listing
2364 and shall not further disclose any such information to the public.

2365 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, all
2366 records provided by the Commissioner of Children and Families, or

2367 the commissioner's designee, to the [Department of Public Health]
2368 Office of Early Childhood regarding child abuse or neglect occurring at
2369 any facility, may be utilized in an administrative proceeding or court
2370 proceeding relative to facility licensing. In any such proceeding, such
2371 records shall be confidential, except as provided [by the provisions of]
2372 under section 4-177c, and such records shall not be subject to
2373 disclosure pursuant to section 1-210.

2374 Sec. 52. Section 19a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2375 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2376 The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood shall utilize
2377 consultative services and assistance from the Departments of
2378 Education, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services
2379 and from municipal building, fire and health departments. The
2380 commissioner shall make periodic inspections of licensed day care
2381 centers, group day care homes and family day care homes and shall
2382 provide technical assistance to licensees and applicants for licenses to
2383 assist them to attain and maintain the standards established in
2384 regulations adopted under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as
2385 amended by this act, 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this
2386 act, and 19a-87b, as amended by this act.

2387 Sec. 53. Section 19a-86 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2388 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2389 The [commissioner] Commissioner of Early Childhood may request
2390 the Attorney General to bring an action in the superior court for the
2391 judicial district of Hartford to enjoin any person, group of persons,
2392 association, organization, corporation, institution, or agency, public or
2393 private, from maintaining a child day care center or group day care
2394 home without a license or operating a child day care center or group
2395 day care home in violation of regulations adopted under sections 19a-
2396 77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87,
2397 inclusive, as amended by this act.

2398 Sec. 54. Section 19a-87 of the general statutes is repealed and the

2399 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2400 (a) Any person or officer of an association, organization or
2401 corporation who [shall establish, conduct, maintain or operate]
2402 establishes, conducts, maintains or operates a day care center or group
2403 day care home without a current and valid license shall be subject to a
2404 civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars a day for each day
2405 that such center or home is operated without a license.

2406 (b) If the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood has
2407 reason to believe that a violation has occurred for which a civil penalty
2408 is authorized by subsection (a) of this section, he or she may send to
2409 such person or officer by certified mail, return receipt requested, or
2410 personally serve upon such person or officer, a notice which shall
2411 include: (1) A reference to the section or sections of the general statutes
2412 or regulations involved; (2) a short and plain statement of the matters
2413 asserted or charged; (3) a statement of the maximum civil penalty
2414 which may be imposed for such violation; and (4) a statement of the
2415 party's right to request a hearing, such request to be submitted in
2416 writing to the commissioner not later than thirty days after the notice
2417 is mailed or served.

2418 (c) If such person or officer so requests, the commissioner shall
2419 [hold a hearing on the violation asserted] cause a hearing to be held.
2420 The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter
2421 54. If such person or officer fails to request a hearing or fails to appear
2422 at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the
2423 person or officer has committed such violation, the commissioner may,
2424 in his or her discretion, order that a civil penalty be imposed that is not
2425 greater than the penalty stated in the notice. The commissioner shall
2426 send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified
2427 mail, return receipt requested, to the person or officer named in such
2428 order.

2429 Sec. 55. Section 19a-87a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2430 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2431 (a) The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood shall have
2432 the discretion to refuse to license under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80,
2433 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as
2434 amended by this act, a person to conduct, operate or maintain a day
2435 care center or a group day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as
2436 amended by this act, or to suspend or revoke the license or take any
2437 other action set forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to
2438 section 19a-79, as amended by this act, if, the person who owns,
2439 conducts, maintains or operates such center or home or a person
2440 employed therein in a position connected with the provision of care to
2441 a child receiving child day care services, has been convicted in this
2442 state or any other state of a felony as defined in section 53a-25
2443 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force
2444 against another person, of cruelty to persons under section 53-20,
2445 injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of children under section
2446 53-21, abandonment of children under the age of six years under
2447 section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the felony is a child
2448 under eighteen years of age, or of a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a,
2449 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or has a criminal record in
2450 this state or any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes
2451 renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct, operate or maintain or
2452 be employed by a child day care center or group day care home.
2453 However, no refusal of a license shall be rendered except in accordance
2454 with the provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive.

2455 (b) Any person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a
2456 child day care center or group day care home shall notify the
2457 commissioner of any criminal conviction of the owner, conductor,
2458 operator or maintainer of the center or home or of any person
2459 employed therein in a position connected with the provision of care to
2460 a child receiving child day care services, immediately upon obtaining
2461 knowledge of the conviction. Failure to comply with the notification
2462 requirement may result in the suspension or revocation of the license
2463 or the imposition of any action set forth in regulation, and shall subject
2464 the licensed person to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred

2465 dollars per day for each day after the person obtained knowledge of
2466 the conviction.

2467 (c) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking
2468 employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a
2469 child receiving child day care services to make a false written
2470 statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a form
2471 bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are punishable,
2472 which statement he does not believe to be true and is intended to
2473 mislead the prospective employer.

2474 (d) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child day
2475 care center or a group day care home is operating without a current
2476 and valid license or in violation of regulations adopted under section
2477 19a-79, as amended by this act, or in a manner which may pose a
2478 potential danger to the health, welfare and safety of a child receiving
2479 child day care services, may report such information to the
2480 [Department of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood. The
2481 [department] office shall investigate any report or complaint received
2482 pursuant to this subsection. The name of the person making the report
2483 or complaint shall not be disclosed unless (1) such person consents to
2484 such disclosure, (2) a judicial or administrative proceeding results
2485 therefrom or (3) a license action pursuant to subsection (a) of this
2486 section results therefrom. All records obtained by the [department]
2487 office in connection with any such investigation shall not be subject to
2488 the provisions of section 1-210 for a period of thirty days from the date
2489 of the petition or other event initiating such investigation, or until such
2490 time as the investigation is terminated pursuant to a withdrawal or
2491 other informal disposition or until a hearing is convened pursuant to
2492 chapter 54, whichever is earlier. A formal statement of charges issued
2493 by the [department] office shall be subject to the provisions of section
2494 1-210 from the time that it is served or mailed to the respondent.
2495 Records which are otherwise public records shall not be deemed
2496 confidential merely because they have been obtained in connection
2497 with an investigation under this section.

2498 (e) In addition to any powers the [Department of Public Health]
2499 office may have, in any investigation (1) concerning an application,
2500 reinstatement or renewal of a license for a child day care center, a
2501 group day care home or a family day care home, as such terms are
2502 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, (2) of a complaint
2503 concerning child day care services, as described in section 19a-77, as
2504 amended by this act, or (3) concerning the possible provision of
2505 unlicensed child day care services, the [Department of Public Health]
2506 office may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel testimony and
2507 order the production of books, records and documents. If any person
2508 refuses to appear, testify or produce any book, record or document
2509 when so ordered, a judge of the Superior Court may make such order
2510 as may be appropriate to aid in the enforcement of this section.

2511 Sec. 56. Section 19a-87b of the 2014 supplement to the general
2512 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
2513 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2514 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
2515 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
2516 family day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this
2517 act, without a license issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health]
2518 Early Childhood. Licensure forms shall be obtained from the
2519 [Department of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood. Applications
2520 for licensure shall be made to the commissioner on forms provided by
2521 the [department] office and shall contain the information required by
2522 regulations adopted under this section. The licensure and application
2523 forms shall contain a notice that false statements made therein are
2524 punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b. Applicants shall state,
2525 in writing, that they are in compliance with the regulations adopted by
2526 the commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. Before a
2527 family day care home license is granted, the [department] office shall
2528 make an inquiry and investigation which shall include a visit and
2529 inspection of the premises for which the license is requested. Any
2530 inspection conducted by the [department] office shall include an
2531 inspection for evident sources of lead poisoning. The [department]

2532 office shall provide for a chemical analysis of any paint chips found on
2533 such premises. Neither the commissioner nor the commissioner's
2534 designee shall require an annual inspection for homes seeking license
2535 renewal or for licensed homes, except that the commissioner or the
2536 commissioner's designee shall make [unannounced visits, during
2537 customary business hours, to at least thirty-three and one-third per
2538 cent of the licensed family day care homes each year] an unannounced
2539 visit, inspection or investigation of each licensed family day care home
2540 at least once every year. A licensed family day care home shall not be
2541 subject to any conditions on the operation of such home by local
2542 officials, other than those imposed by the [department] office pursuant
2543 to this subsection, if the home complies with all local codes and
2544 ordinances applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

2545 (b) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member to a
2546 person or entity maintaining a family day care home, as defined in
2547 section 19a-77, as amended by this act, without an approval issued by
2548 the [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner. Any person
2549 seeking to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family day
2550 care home shall submit an application for such approval to the
2551 [department] office. Applications for approval shall: (1) Be made to the
2552 commissioner on forms provided by the [department] office, (2)
2553 contain the information required by regulations adopted under this
2554 section, and (3) be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. The
2555 approval application forms shall contain a notice that false statements
2556 made in such form are punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b.

2557 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, within
2558 available appropriations, shall require each initial applicant or
2559 prospective employee of a family day care home in a position
2560 requiring the provision of care to a child, including an assistant or
2561 substitute staff member, to submit to state and national criminal
2562 history records checks. The criminal history records checks required
2563 pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
2564 section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state
2565 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The

2566 commissioner shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this
2567 subsection.

2568 (d) An application for initial licensure pursuant to this section shall
2569 be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars and such license shall be
2570 issued for a term of four years. An application for renewal of a license
2571 issued pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fee of forty
2572 dollars and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in
2573 the family day care home has received age-appropriate immunizations
2574 in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of
2575 this section. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed
2576 for a term of four years.

2577 (e) An application for initial staff approval or renewal of staff
2578 approval shall be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. Such
2579 approvals shall be issued or renewed for a term of two years.

2580 (f) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
2581 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to assure
2582 that family day care homes, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended
2583 by this act, shall meet the health, educational and social needs of
2584 children utilizing such homes. Such regulations shall ensure that the
2585 family day care home is treated as a residence, and not an institutional
2586 facility. Such regulations shall specify that each child be protected as
2587 age-appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria,
2588 pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus
2589 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of
2590 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f. Such
2591 regulations shall provide appropriate exemptions for children for
2592 whom such immunization is medically contraindicated and for
2593 children whose parents object to such immunization on religious
2594 grounds. Such regulations shall also specify conditions under which
2595 family day care home providers may administer tests to monitor
2596 glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and
2597 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs
2598 specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving

2599 day care services at a family day care home pursuant to a written order
2600 of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, an
2601 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
2602 with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
2603 accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a
2604 parent or guardian of such child. Such regulations shall specify
2605 appropriate standards for extended care and intermittent short-term
2606 overnight care. The commissioner shall inform each licensee, by way of
2607 a plain language summary provided not later than sixty days after the
2608 regulation's effective date, of any new or changed regulations adopted
2609 under this subsection with which a licensee must comply.

2610 Sec. 57. Section 19a-87c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2611 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2612 (a) Any person or officer of an association, organization or
2613 corporation who shall establish, conduct, maintain or operate a family
2614 day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act,
2615 without a current and valid license shall be subject to a civil penalty of
2616 not more than one hundred dollars a day for each day that such home
2617 is operated without a license.

2618 (b) If the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood has
2619 reason to believe that a violation has occurred for which a civil penalty
2620 is authorized by subsection (a) of this section, [he] the commissioner
2621 may send to such person or officer by certified mail, return receipt
2622 requested, or personally serve upon such person or officer, a notice
2623 which shall include: (1) A reference to the section or sections of the
2624 general statutes or regulations involved; (2) a short and plain
2625 statement of the matters asserted or charged; (3) a statement of the
2626 maximum civil penalty which may be imposed for such violation; and
2627 (4) a statement of the party's right to request a hearing. Such request
2628 shall be submitted in writing to the commissioner not later than thirty
2629 days after the notice is mailed or served.

2630 (c) If such person or officer so requests, the commissioner shall

2631 [hold a hearing on the violation asserted] cause a hearing to be held.
2632 The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter
2633 54. If such person or officer fails to request a hearing or fails to appear
2634 at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the
2635 person or officer has committed such violation, the commissioner may,
2636 in his or her discretion, order that a civil penalty be imposed that is not
2637 greater than the penalty stated in the notice. The commissioner shall
2638 send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified
2639 mail, return receipt requested, to the person or officer named in such
2640 order.

2641 Sec. 58. Section 19a-87d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2642 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2643 The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood may request
2644 the Attorney General to bring an action, in the superior court for the
2645 judicial district in which such home is located, to enjoin any person,
2646 group of persons, association, organization, corporation, institution or
2647 agency, public or private, from maintaining a family day care home, as
2648 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, without a license or
2649 in violation of regulations adopted under section 19a-87b, as amended
2650 by this act, and satisfactory proof of the lack of a license or the
2651 violation of the regulations without more shall entitle the
2652 commissioner to injunctive relief.

2653 Sec. 59. Section 19a-87e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2654 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2655 (a) The Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood may (1)
2656 refuse to license under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a
2657 person to own, conduct, operate or maintain a family day care home,
2658 as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, (2) refuse to
2659 approve under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a person to act
2660 as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family day care home, as
2661 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, or (3) suspend or
2662 revoke the license or approval or take any other action that may be set

2663 forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as
2664 amended by this act, if the person who owns, conducts, maintains or
2665 operates the family day care home, the person who acts as an assistant
2666 or substitute staff member in a family day care home or a person
2667 employed in such family day care home in a position connected with
2668 the provision of care to a child receiving child day care services, has
2669 been convicted, in this state or any other state of a felony, as defined in
2670 section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of
2671 physical force against another person, or has a criminal record in this
2672 state or any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes
2673 renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct, operate or maintain or
2674 be employed by a family day care home, or act as an assistant or
2675 substitute staff member in a family day care home, or if such persons
2676 or a person residing in the household has been convicted in this state
2677 or any other state of cruelty to persons under section 53-20, injury or
2678 risk of injury to or impairing morals of children under section 53-21,
2679 abandonment of children under the age of six years under section 53-
2680 23, or any felony where the victim of the felony is a child under
2681 eighteen years of age, a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b,
2682 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, illegal manufacture, distribution,
2683 sale, prescription, dispensing or administration under section 21a-277
2684 or 21a-278, or illegal possession under section 21a-279, or if such
2685 person, a person who acts as assistant or substitute staff member in a
2686 family day care home or a person employed in such family day care
2687 home in a position connected with the provision of care to a child
2688 receiving child day care services, either fails to substantially comply
2689 with the regulations adopted pursuant to section 19a-87b, as amended
2690 by this act, or conducts, operates or maintains the home in a manner
2691 which endangers the health, safety and welfare of the children
2692 receiving child day care services. Any refusal of a license or approval
2693 pursuant to this section shall be rendered in accordance with the
2694 provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive. Any person whose
2695 license or approval has been revoked pursuant to this section shall be
2696 ineligible to apply for a license or approval for a period of one year
2697 from the effective date of revocation.

2698 (b) When the commissioner intends to suspend or revoke a license
2699 or approval or take any other action against a license or approval set
2700 forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as amended by
2701 this act, the commissioner shall notify the licensee or approved staff
2702 member in writing of the commissioner's intended action. The licensee
2703 or approved staff member may, if aggrieved by such intended action,
2704 make application for a hearing in writing over the licensee's or
2705 approved staff member's signature to the commissioner. The licensee
2706 or approved staff member shall state in the application in plain
2707 language the reasons why the licensee or approved staff member
2708 claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the
2709 commissioner within thirty days of the licensee's or approved staff
2710 member's receipt of notification of the intended action. The
2711 commissioner shall thereupon hold a hearing within sixty days from
2712 receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the date
2713 of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the hearing,
2714 to the licensee or approved staff member. The provisions of this
2715 subsection shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a
2716 license or approval under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act,
2717 provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such
2718 denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the
2719 applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license or approval
2720 application.

2721 (c) Any person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a
2722 family day care home or approved to act as an assistant or substitute
2723 staff member in a family day care home shall notify the commissioner
2724 of any conviction of the owner, conductor, operator or maintainer of
2725 the family day care home or of any person residing in the household or
2726 any person employed in such family day care home in a position
2727 connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child day care
2728 services, of a crime which affects the commissioner's discretion under
2729 subsection (a) of this section, immediately upon obtaining knowledge
2730 of such conviction. Failure to comply with the notification requirement
2731 of this subsection may result in the suspension or revocation of the

2732 license or approval or the taking of any other action against a license or
2733 approval set forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as
2734 amended by this act, and shall subject the licensee or approved staff
2735 member to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars per
2736 day for each day after the person obtained knowledge of the
2737 conviction.

2738 (d) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking
2739 employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a
2740 child receiving family day care home services to make a false written
2741 statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a form
2742 bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are punishable,
2743 which statement such person does not believe to be true and is
2744 intended to mislead the prospective employer.

2745 (e) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a family day
2746 care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, is
2747 operating without a current and valid license or in violation of the
2748 regulations adopted under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, or
2749 in a manner which may pose a potential danger to the health, welfare
2750 and safety of a child receiving child day care services, may report such
2751 information to [any office of the Department of Public Health] the
2752 Office of Early Childhood. The [department] office shall investigate
2753 any report or complaint received pursuant to this subsection. The
2754 name of the person making the report or complaint shall not be
2755 disclosed unless (1) such person consents to such disclosure, (2) a
2756 judicial or administrative proceeding results from such report or
2757 complaint, or (3) a license action pursuant to subsection (a) of this
2758 section results from such report or complaint. All records obtained by
2759 the [department] office in connection with any such investigation shall
2760 not be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 for a period of thirty
2761 days from the date of the petition or other event initiating such
2762 investigation, or until such time as the investigation is terminated
2763 pursuant to a withdrawal or other informal disposition or until a
2764 hearing is convened pursuant to chapter 54, whichever is earlier. A
2765 formal statement of charges issued by the [department] office shall be

2766 subject to the provisions of section 1-210 from the time that it is served
2767 or mailed to the respondent. Records which are otherwise public
2768 records shall not be deemed confidential merely because they have
2769 been obtained in connection with an investigation under this section.

2770 Sec. 60. Section 8-210 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
2771 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
2772 *1, 2014*):

2773 (a) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
2774 Social Services or the Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood,
2775 as appropriate, may enter into a contract with a municipality or a
2776 qualified private, nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance
2777 for the planning, construction, renovation, site preparation and
2778 purchase of improved or unimproved property as part of a capital
2779 development project for neighborhood facilities. Such facilities may
2780 include, but are not limited to, child day care facilities, elderly centers,
2781 multipurpose human resource centers, emergency shelters for the
2782 homeless and shelters for victims of domestic violence. The financial
2783 assistance shall be in the form of state grants-in-aid equal to (1) all or
2784 any portion of the cost of such capital development project if the
2785 grantee is a qualified private nonprofit corporation, or (2) up to two-
2786 thirds of the cost of such capital development project if the grantee is a
2787 municipality, as determined by the Commissioner of Social Services or
2788 the Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood, as appropriate.

2789 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
2790 [Education] Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a
2791 municipality, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit
2792 corporation for state financial assistance in developing and operating
2793 child day care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of
2794 economic, social or environmental conditions, provided no such
2795 financial assistance shall be available for the operating costs of any
2796 such day care center unless it has been licensed by the Commissioner
2797 of [Public Health] Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80, as
2798 amended by this act. Such financial assistance shall be available for a

2799 program of a municipality, of a human resource development agency
2800 or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel,
2801 equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and
2802 remodeling of physical facilities of such day care centers. Such contract
2803 shall provide for state financial assistance, within available
2804 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of
2805 the cost of such program as determined by the Commissioner of
2806 [Education] Early Childhood, if not federally assisted, or (2) equal to
2807 one-half of the amount by which the net cost of such program as
2808 approved by the Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood
2809 exceeds the federal grant-in-aid thereof. The Commissioner of
2810 [Education] Early Childhood may authorize child day care centers
2811 provided financial assistance pursuant to this subsection to apply a
2812 program surplus to the next program year. The Commissioner of
2813 [Education] Early Childhood shall consult with directors of child day
2814 care centers in establishing fees for the operation of such centers.

2815 (c) The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood, in
2816 consultation with representatives from child care centers, within
2817 available appropriations, shall develop guidelines for state-contracted
2818 child care center programs. The guidelines shall include standards for
2819 program quality and design and identify short and long-term
2820 outcomes for families participating in such programs. The
2821 [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood, within available
2822 appropriations, shall provide a copy of such guidelines to each state-
2823 contracted child care center. Each state-contracted child care center
2824 shall use the guidelines to develop a program improvement plan for
2825 the next twelve-month period and shall submit the plan to the
2826 [department] Office of Early Childhood. The plan shall include goals to
2827 be used for measuring such improvement. The [department] Office of
2828 Early Childhood shall use the plan to monitor the progress of the
2829 center.

2830 (d) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
2831 [Education] Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a
2832 municipality, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit

2833 corporation for state financial assistance for a project of renovation of
2834 any child day care facility receiving assistance pursuant to the
2835 provisions of this section, to make such facility accessible to the
2836 physically disabled, in the form of a state grant-in-aid equal to (1) the
2837 total net cost of the project as approved by the Commissioner of
2838 [Education] Early Childhood, or (2) the total amount by which the net
2839 cost of the project as approved by the Commissioner of [Education]
2840 Early Childhood exceeds the federal grant-in-aid thereof.

2841 (e) Any municipality, human resource development agency or
2842 nonprofit corporation which enters into a contract pursuant to this
2843 section for state financial assistance for a day care facility shall have
2844 sole responsibility for the development of the budget of the day care
2845 program, including, but not limited to, personnel costs, purchases of
2846 equipment, supplies, activities and program materials, within the
2847 resources provided by the state under said contract. Upon local
2848 determination of a change in the type of day care service required in
2849 the area, a municipality, human resource development agency or
2850 nonprofit corporation may, within the limits of its annual budget and
2851 subject to the provisions of this subsection and sections 19a-77 to 19a-
2852 80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive,
2853 as amended by this act, change its day care service. An application to
2854 change the type of child day care service provided shall be submitted
2855 to the Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood. Not later than
2856 forty-five days after the Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood
2857 receives the application, the Commissioner of [Education] Early
2858 Childhood shall advise the municipality, human resource
2859 development agency or nonprofit corporation of the Commissioner of
2860 [Education's] Early Childhood's approval, denial or approval with
2861 modifications of the application. If the Commissioner of [Education]
2862 Early Childhood fails to act on the application not later than forty-five
2863 days after the application's submittal, the application shall be deemed
2864 approved.

2865 (f) The Commissioner of [Education] Early Childhood may, in his
2866 discretion, with the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy

2867 and Management authorize the expenditure of such funds for the
2868 purposes of this section as shall enable the Commissioner of
2869 [Education] Early Childhood to apply for, qualify for and provide the
2870 state's share of a federally assisted day care program.

2871 Sec. 61. Subsection (a) of section 10a-194c of the general statutes is
2872 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
2873 *1, 2014*):

2874 (a) The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority
2875 shall establish a program to finance low interest loans for child care
2876 and child development centers, family resource centers and Head Start
2877 programs that shall be known as the Connecticut Child Care Facilities
2878 Program. Loans shall be made for the purpose of new construction or
2879 renovation of existing centers or complying with federal, state and
2880 local child care requirements, including health and safety standards.
2881 For purposes of this section, "child development center" means a
2882 building used by a nonprofit school readiness program, as defined in
2883 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, and "child care center" means a
2884 nonprofit facility that is licensed by the [Department of Public Health]
2885 Office of Early Childhood as a child day care center or a group day
2886 care home, both as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act.

2887 Sec. 62. Section 12-634 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2888 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2889 The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit against
2890 any tax due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or
2891 212 in an amount not to exceed sixty per cent of the total cash amount
2892 invested during the taxable year by the business firm in programs
2893 operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant to
2894 section 12-632 for planning, site preparation, construction, renovation
2895 or acquisition of facilities for purposes of establishing a child day care
2896 facility to be used primarily by the children of such business firm's
2897 employees and equipment installed for such facility, including kitchen
2898 appliances, to the extent that such equipment or appliances are

2899 necessary in the use of such facility for purposes of child day care,
2900 provided: (1) Such facility is operated under the authority of a license
2901 issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood in
2902 accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by
2903 this act, (2) such facility is operated without profit by such business
2904 firm related to any charges imposed for the use of such facility for
2905 purposes of child day care, and (3) the amount of tax credit allowed
2906 any business firm under the provisions of this section for any income
2907 year may not exceed fifty thousand dollars. If two or more business
2908 firms share in the cost of establishing such a facility for the children of
2909 their employees, each such taxpayer shall be allowed such credit in
2910 relation to the respective share, paid or incurred by such taxpayer, of
2911 the total expenditures for the facility in such income year. The
2912 commissioner shall not grant a credit pursuant to this section to any
2913 taxpayer claiming a credit for the same year pursuant to section 12-
2914 217x.

2915 Sec. 63. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the 2014 supplement to
2916 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2917 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2918 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: Any
2919 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, any
2920 resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not
2921 so licensed, any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, medical
2922 examiner, dentist, dental hygienist or psychologist, a school employee,
2923 as defined in section 53a-65, social worker, police officer, juvenile or
2924 adult probation officer, juvenile or adult parole officer, member of the
2925 clergy, pharmacist, physical therapist, optometrist, chiropractor,
2926 podiatrist, mental health professional or physician assistant, any
2927 person who is a licensed or certified emergency medical services
2928 provider, any person who is a licensed or certified alcohol and drug
2929 counselor, any person who is a licensed marital and family therapist,
2930 any person who is a sexual assault counselor or a domestic violence
2931 counselor, as defined in section 52-146k, any person who is a licensed
2932 professional counselor, any person who is a licensed foster parent, any

2933 person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child
2934 day care center, group day care home or family day care home licensed
2935 by the state, any employee of the Department of Children and
2936 Families, any employee of the Department of Public Health, any
2937 employee of the Office of Early Childhood who is responsible for the
2938 licensing of child day care centers, group day care homes, family day
2939 care homes or youth camps, the Child Advocate and any employee of
2940 the Office of the Child Advocate and any family relations counselor,
2941 family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor
2942 employed by the Judicial Department.

2943 Sec. 64. Subsection (b) of section 17b-90 of the 2014 supplement to
2944 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2945 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2946 (b) No person shall, except for purposes directly connected with the
2947 administration of programs of the Department of Social Services and in
2948 accordance with the regulations of the commissioner, solicit, disclose,
2949 receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in
2950 or acquiesce in the use of, any list of the names of, or any information
2951 concerning, persons applying for or receiving assistance from the
2952 Department of Social Services or persons participating in a program
2953 administered by said department, directly or indirectly derived from
2954 the records, papers, files or communications of the state or its
2955 subdivisions or agencies, or acquired in the course of the performance
2956 of official duties. The Commissioner of Social Services shall disclose (1)
2957 to any authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner such
2958 information directly related to unemployment compensation,
2959 administered pursuant to chapter 567 or information necessary for
2960 implementation of sections 17b-688b, 17b-688c and 17b-688h and
2961 section 122 of public act 97-2 of the June 18 special session, (2) to any
2962 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and
2963 Addiction Services any information necessary for the implementation
2964 and operation of the basic needs supplement program, (3) to any
2965 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Administrative
2966 Services or the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public

2967 Protection such information as the Commissioner of Social Services
2968 determines is directly related to and necessary for the Department of
2969 Administrative Services or the Department of Emergency Services and
2970 Public Protection for purposes of performing their functions of
2971 collecting social services recoveries and overpayments or amounts due
2972 as support in social services cases, investigating social services fraud or
2973 locating absent parents of public assistance recipients, (4) to any
2974 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Children and
2975 Families necessary information concerning a child or the immediate
2976 family of a child receiving services from the Department of Social
2977 Services, including safety net services, if the Commissioner of Children
2978 and Families or the Commissioner of Social Services has determined
2979 that imminent danger to such child's health, safety or welfare exists to
2980 target the services of the family services programs administered by the
2981 Department of Children and Families, (5) to a town official or other
2982 contractor or authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner
2983 such information concerning an applicant for or a recipient of
2984 assistance under state-administered general assistance deemed
2985 necessary by the Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor
2986 Commissioner to carry out their respective responsibilities to serve
2987 such persons under the programs administered by the Labor
2988 Department that are designed to serve applicants for or recipients of
2989 state-administered general assistance, (6) to any authorized
2990 representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
2991 Services for the purposes of the behavioral health managed care
2992 program established by section 17a-453, (7) to any authorized
2993 representative of the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early
2994 Childhood to carry out his or her respective responsibilities under
2995 programs that regulate child day care services or youth camps, (8) to a
2996 health insurance provider, in IV-D support cases, as defined in
2997 subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information
2998 concerning a child and the custodial parent of such child that is
2999 necessary to enroll such child in a health insurance plan available
3000 through such provider when the noncustodial parent of such child is
3001 under court order to provide health insurance coverage but is unable

3002 to provide such information, provided the Commissioner of Social
3003 Services determines, after providing prior notice of the disclosure to
3004 such custodial parent and an opportunity for such parent to object,
3005 that such disclosure is in the best interests of the child, (9) to any
3006 authorized representative of the Department of Correction, in IV-D
3007 support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of
3008 section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is
3009 necessary to identify inmates or parolees with IV-D support cases who
3010 may benefit from Department of Correction educational, training, skill
3011 building, work or rehabilitation programming that will significantly
3012 increase an inmate's or parolee's ability to fulfill such inmate's support
3013 obligation, (10) to any authorized representative of the Judicial Branch,
3014 in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b)
3015 of section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is
3016 necessary to: (A) Identify noncustodial parents with IV-D support
3017 cases who may benefit from educational, training, skill building, work
3018 or rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase such
3019 parent's ability to fulfill such parent's support obligation, (B) assist in
3020 the administration of the Title IV-D child support program, or (C)
3021 assist in the identification of cases involving family violence, (11) to
3022 any authorized representative of the State Treasurer, in IV-D support
3023 cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-
3024 231, information that is necessary to identify child support obligors
3025 who owe overdue child support prior to the Treasurer's payment of
3026 such obligors' claim for any property unclaimed or presumed
3027 abandoned under part III of chapter 32, or (12) to any authorized
3028 representative of the Commissioner of Housing for the purpose of
3029 verifying whether an applicant for the renters rebate program
3030 established by section 12-170d is a recipient of cash assistance from the
3031 Department of Social Services and the amount of such assistance. No
3032 such representative shall disclose any information obtained pursuant
3033 to this section, except as specified in this section. Any applicant for
3034 assistance provided through said department shall be notified that, if
3035 and when such applicant receives benefits, the department will be
3036 providing law enforcement officials with the address of such applicant

3037 upon the request of any such official pursuant to section 17b-16a.

3038 Sec. 65. Subsection (a) of section 10-16mm of the general statutes is
3039 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3040 *1, 2014*):

3041 (a) There is established a task force to address the academic
3042 achievement gaps in Connecticut by considering effective approaches
3043 to closing the achievement gaps in elementary, middle and high
3044 schools. The task force shall develop, in consultation with the
3045 Department of Education, the Connecticut State University System, the
3046 Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap established
3047 pursuant to section 10-16nn, and the joint standing committee of the
3048 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
3049 a master plan to eliminate the academic achievement gaps by January
3050 1, 2020. Such master plan shall: (1) Identify the achievement gaps that
3051 exist among and between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C)
3052 socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and (E) English language learners
3053 and students whose primary language is English; (2) focus efforts on
3054 closing the achievement gaps identified in subdivision (1) of this
3055 subsection; (3) establish annual benchmarks for implementation of the
3056 master plan and closing the achievement gaps; and (4) make
3057 recommendations regarding the creation of a Secretary of Education.];
3058 and (5) develop a plan for (A) changing the requirement for when a
3059 child five years of age may enroll in kindergarten pursuant to section
3060 10-15c from January first of the school year to October first of the
3061 school year, and (B) the creation of spaces in school readiness
3062 programs for those children who reach the age of five after October
3063 first of any school year and are no longer eligible to enroll in
3064 kindergarten for such school year.] The task force may amend such
3065 master plan at any time. For purposes of this section, "achievement
3066 gaps" means the existence of a significant disparity in the academic
3067 performance of students among and between (A) racial groups, (B)
3068 ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and (E) English
3069 language learners and students whose primary language is English.

3070 Sec. 66. Section 17b-7a of the general statutes is repealed and the
3071 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3072 The Commissioner of Social Services shall develop a state-wide
3073 fraud early detection system. The purpose of such system shall be to
3074 identify, investigate and determine if an application for assistance
3075 under (1) programs administered by the department, including, but
3076 not limited to, ~~[(1)] (A)~~ the temporary family assistance program, ~~[(2)]~~
3077 (B) the supplemental nutrition assistance program, ~~[(3)] (C)~~ the child
3078 care subsidy program, or ~~[(4)] (D)~~ the Medicaid program pursuant to
3079 Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and (2) the child care subsidy
3080 program administered by the Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to
3081 section 17b-749, as amended by this act, is fraudulent prior to granting
3082 assistance. The Commissioner of Social Services shall consult with the
3083 Commissioner of Early Childhood regarding the development of such
3084 state-wide fraud early detection system for such child care subsidy
3085 program. The [commissioner] Commissioner of Social Services shall
3086 adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, for the purpose of
3087 developing and implementing said system. The [commissioner]
3088 Commissioner of Social Services shall submit quarterly reports
3089 concerning savings realized through the implementation of the state-
3090 wide fraud early detection system to the joint standing committees of
3091 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
3092 services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

3093 Sec. 67. Subsection (d) of section 31-286a of the general statutes is
3094 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3095 *1, 2014*):

3096 (d) For purposes of this section, "sufficient evidence" means (1) a
3097 certificate of self-insurance issued by a workers' compensation
3098 commissioner pursuant to section 31-284, (2) a certificate of compliance
3099 issued by the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to section 31-286, (3) a
3100 certificate of insurance issued by any stock or mutual insurance
3101 company or mutual association authorized to write workers'
3102 compensation insurance in this state or its agent, or (4) in lieu of a

3103 physical certificate of insurance being presented for the issuance or
3104 renewal of licenses and permits issued by the Department of
3105 Consumer Protection, [or] the Department of Public Health or the
3106 Office of Early Childhood, the entrance by the applicant on the
3107 renewal form of the name of the insurer, insurance policy number,
3108 effective dates of coverage, and a certification that the same is truthful
3109 and accurate.

3110 Sec. 68. Section 1 of special act 13-16 is amended to read as follows
3111 (*Effective from passage*):

3112 Any child day care facility or child day care center that received a
3113 loan pursuant to section 10a-194c of the general statutes, as amended
3114 by this act, prior to July 1, 2012, and that (1) entered into a contract
3115 with the Commissioner of Social Services pursuant to section 8-210 of
3116 the general statutes, as amended by this act, on or before July 1, 2012,
3117 for state financial assistance in operating a child day care facility or
3118 child day care center, or (2) received a grant pursuant to subsection (c)
3119 of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall
3120 continue to receive state financial assistance from the [Department of
3121 Education] Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to section 8-210 of the
3122 general statutes, as amended by this act, and subsection (c) of section
3123 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, until the loan
3124 received pursuant to section 10a-194c of the general statutes, as
3125 amended by this act, is fully paid off by such child day care facility or
3126 child day care center.

3127 Sec. 69. Section 19a-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3128 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3129 (a) When the Commissioner of [Public Health] Early Childhood has
3130 reason to believe any person licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80,
3131 inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87,
3132 inclusive, as amended by this act, has failed substantially to comply
3133 with the regulations adopted under said sections, the commissioner
3134 may notify the licensee in writing of the commissioner's intention to

3135 suspend or revoke the license or to impose a licensure action. Such
3136 notice shall be served by certified mail stating the particular reasons
3137 for the proposed action. The licensee may, if aggrieved by such
3138 intended action, make application for a hearing in writing over the
3139 licensee's signature to the commissioner. The licensee shall state in the
3140 application in plain language the reasons why the licensee claims to be
3141 aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner
3142 [within] not later than thirty days [of] after the licensee's receipt of
3143 notification of the intended action. The commissioner shall thereupon
3144 hold a hearing [within] or cause a hearing to be held not later than
3145 sixty days [from] after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten
3146 days prior to the date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time
3147 and place of the hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be
3148 conducted by the commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by
3149 the commissioner in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or
3150 hearing officer may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of
3151 witnesses. The licensee shall be entitled to be represented by counsel
3152 and a transcript of the hearing shall be made. If the hearing is
3153 conducted by a hearing officer, the hearing officer shall state the
3154 hearing officer's findings and make a recommendation to the
3155 commissioner on the issue of revocation or suspension or the intended
3156 licensure action. The commissioner, based upon the findings and
3157 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
3158 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision in writing
3159 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
3160 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
3161 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
3162 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
3163 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
3164 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
3165 appeal as provided in section 19a-85, as amended by this act. Any
3166 licensee whose license has been revoked pursuant to this subsection
3167 shall be ineligible to apply for a license for a period of one year from
3168 the effective date of revocation.

3169 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the denial of an
3170 initial application for a license under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80,
3171 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as
3172 amended by this act, provided the commissioner shall notify the
3173 applicant of any such denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing
3174 written notice to the applicant at the applicant's address shown on the
3175 license application.

3176 Sec. 70. Section 19a-85 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3178 Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Commissioner of [Public
3179 Health] Early Childhood rendered under section 19a-82 or 19a-84, as
3180 amended by this act, may appeal the decision of the commissioner in
3181 accordance with section 4-183, except venue for such appeal shall be in
3182 the judicial district of New Britain. Such appeal shall have precedence
3183 in the order of trial as provided in section 52-192.

3184 Sec. 71. Subdivision (14) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is
3185 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3186 *passage*):

3187 (14) "Employer" means an elected school committee, a board of
3188 education, the State Board of Education, the Office of Early Childhood,
3189 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or any of the constituent
3190 units, the governing body of the Children's Center and its successors,
3191 the E. O. Smith School and any other activity, institution or school
3192 employing members.

3193 Sec. 72. Subdivision (20) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is
3194 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3195 *passage*):

3196 (20) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or
3197 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly
3198 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of
3199 Education, the Office of Early Childhood, the board of governors or

3200 any of its constituent units, the E. O. Smith School, the Children's
3201 Center and its successors, the State Education Resource Center
3202 established pursuant to section 10-4q, joint activities of boards of
3203 education authorized by subsection (b) of section 10-158a and any
3204 institution supported by the state at which teachers are employed or
3205 any incorporated secondary school not under the orders and
3206 superintendence of a duly elected school committee or board of
3207 education but located in a town not maintaining a high school and
3208 providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located, and
3209 which has been approved by the State Board of Education under the
3210 provisions of part II of chapter 164, provided that such institution or
3211 such secondary school is classified as a public school by the retirement
3212 board.

3213 Sec. 73. Subdivision (26) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is
3214 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3215 *passage*):

3216 (26) "Teacher" means (A) any teacher, permanent substitute teacher,
3217 principal, assistant principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent or
3218 superintendent employed by the public schools in a professional
3219 capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State
3220 Board of Education, provided on and after July 1, 1975, such certificate
3221 shall be for the position in which the person is then employed, except
3222 as provided for in section 10-183qq, (B) certified personnel who
3223 provide health and welfare services for children in nonprofit schools,
3224 as provided in section 10-217a, under an oral or written agreement, (C)
3225 any person who is engaged in teaching or supervising schools for
3226 adults if the annual salary paid for such service is equal to or greater
3227 than the minimum salary paid for a regular, full-time teaching position
3228 in the day schools in the town where such service is rendered, (D) a
3229 member of the professional staff of the State Board of Education, the
3230 Office of Early Childhood, or of the Board of Regents for Higher
3231 Education or any of the constituent units, and (E) a member of the staff
3232 of the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section
3233 10-4q employed in a professional capacity while possessing a

3234 certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education. A
3235 "permanent substitute teacher" is one who serves as such for at least
3236 ten months during any school year.

3237 Sec. 74. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
3238 subsection (b) of section 17b-90 and sections 19a-77, 19a-79, 19a-80,
3239 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-84 to 19a-87e, inclusive, of the general statutes, as
3240 amended by this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, the
3241 Commissioner of Early Childhood may enter into a memorandum of
3242 agreement with the Commissioner of Public Health regarding (1)
3243 assistance of the Department of Public Health in the implementation of
3244 the provisions of sections 19a-77, 19a-79, 19a-80, 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-84
3245 to 19a-87e, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
3246 and (2) the disclosure of records received by the Office of Early
3247 Childhood, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-90 and section
3248 19a-80f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to the
3249 Department of Public Health.

3250 Sec. 75. Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3251 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3252 As used in this chapter:

3253 (1) "Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or
3254 organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during
3255 school vacations or on weekends by a person, partnership,
3256 corporation, association, the state or a municipal agency for
3257 recreational or educational purposes and accommodating for profit or
3258 under philanthropic or charitable auspices five or more children, who
3259 are at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age, who are
3260 (A) not bona fide personal guests in the private home of an individual,
3261 and (B) living apart from their relatives, parents or legal guardian, for
3262 a period of three days or more per week or portions of three or more
3263 days per week, provided any such relative, parent or guardian who is
3264 an employee of such camp shall not be considered to be in the position
3265 of loco parentis to such employee's child for the purposes of this

3266 chapter, but does not include (i) classroom-based summer instructional
3267 programs operated by any person, provided no activities that may
3268 pose a health risk or hazard to participating children are conducted at
3269 such programs, (ii) public schools, or private schools in compliance
3270 with section 10-188 and approved by the State Board of Education or
3271 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of
3272 Education, which operate a summer educational program, (iii) licensed
3273 day care centers, or (iv) drop-in programs for children who are at least
3274 six years of age administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls'
3275 club;

3276 (2) "Resident camp" means any youth camp which is established,
3277 conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land on which
3278 there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate
3279 five or more children who are at least three years of age and under
3280 sixteen years of age for at least seventy-two consecutive hours and in
3281 which the campers attending such camps eat and sleep;

3282 (3) "Day camp" means any youth camp which is established,
3283 conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land on which
3284 there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate
3285 five or more children who are at least three years of age and under
3286 sixteen years of age during daylight hours for at least three days a
3287 week with the campers eating and sleeping at home, except for one
3288 meal per day, but does not include programs operated by a municipal
3289 agency;

3290 (4) "Person" means the state or any municipal agency, individual,
3291 partnership, association, organization, limited liability company or
3292 corporation;

3293 (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Public Health]
3294 Early Childhood; and

3295 (6) ["Department" means the Department of Public Health.] "Office"
3296 means the Office of Early Childhood.

3297 Sec. 76. Section 19a-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3298 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3299 No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
3300 without a license issued by the [department] office. Applications for
3301 such license shall be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the
3302 opening of the youth camp on forms provided and in accordance with
3303 procedures established by the commissioner and shall be accompanied
3304 by a fee of eight hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a
3305 nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a fee of three hundred
3306 fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a
3307 nonprofit organization, for no more than five days duration and for
3308 which labor and materials are donated, no fee. All such licenses shall
3309 be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance unless
3310 surrendered for cancellation or suspended or revoked by the
3311 commissioner for violation of this chapter or any regulations adopted
3312 under section 19a-428, as amended by this act, and shall be renewable
3313 upon payment of [a] an eight-hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if
3314 the licensee is a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a three-
3315 hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp
3316 affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for no more than five days
3317 duration and for which labor and materials are donated, no fee.

3318 Sec. 77. Section 19a-422 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3319 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3320 To be eligible for the issuance or renewal of a youth camp license
3321 pursuant to this chapter, the camp shall satisfy the following
3322 requirements: (1) The location of the camp shall be such as to provide
3323 adequate surface drainage and afford facilities for obtaining a good
3324 water supply; (2) each dwelling unit, building and structure shall be
3325 maintained in good condition, suitable for the use to which it is put,
3326 and shall present no health or fire hazard as so certified by the
3327 [department] office and the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal, as
3328 indicated by a current fire marshal certificate dated within the past
3329 year and available on site when the youth camp is in operation; (3)

3330 there shall be an adequate and competent staff, which includes the
3331 camp director or assistant director, one of whom shall be on site at all
3332 times the camp is in operation, activities specialists, counselors and
3333 maintenance personnel, of good character and reputation; (4) prior to
3334 assuming responsibility for campers, staff shall be trained, at a
3335 minimum, on the camp's policies and procedures pertaining to
3336 behavioral management and supervision, emergency health and safety
3337 procedures and recognizing, preventing and reporting child abuse and
3338 neglect; (5) all hazardous activities, including, but not limited to,
3339 archery, aquatics, horseback riding and firearms instruction, shall be
3340 supervised by a qualified activities specialist who has adequate
3341 experience and training in such specialist's area of specialty; (6) the
3342 staff of a resident and nonresident camp shall at all times include an
3343 adult trained in the administration of first aid as required by the
3344 commissioner; (7) records of personal data for each camper shall be
3345 kept in any reasonable form the camp director may choose, and shall
3346 include (A) the camper's name, age and address, (B) the name, address
3347 and telephone number of the parents or guardian, (C) the dates of
3348 admission and discharge, and (D) such other information as the
3349 commissioner shall require. Any youth camp licensed under this
3350 chapter shall operate only as the type of camp authorized by such
3351 license. Such camps shall not advertise any service they are not
3352 equipped or licensed to offer. The license shall be posted in a
3353 conspicuous place at camp headquarters and failure to so post the
3354 license shall result in the presumption that the camp is being operated
3355 in violation of this chapter.

3356 Sec. 78. Section 19a-423 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3357 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3358 (a) The commissioner may take any of the actions authorized under
3359 subsection (b) of this section if the youth camp licensee: (1) Is convicted
3360 of any offense involving moral turpitude, the record of conviction
3361 being conclusive evidence thereof; (2) is legally adjudicated insane or
3362 mentally incompetent, the record of such adjudication being
3363 conclusive evidence thereof; (3) uses any narcotic or any controlled

3364 drug, as defined in section 21a-240, to an extent or in a manner that
3365 such use impairs the licensee's ability to properly care for children; (4)
3366 fails to comply with the statutes and regulations for licensing youth
3367 camps; (5) furnishes or makes any misleading or any false statement or
3368 report to the [department] office; (6) refuses to submit to the
3369 [department] office any reports or refuses to make available to the
3370 [department] office any records required by it in investigating the
3371 facility for licensing purposes; (7) fails or refuses to submit to an
3372 investigation or inspection by the [department] office or to admit
3373 authorized representatives of the [department] office at any reasonable
3374 time for the purpose of investigation, inspection or licensing; (8) fails
3375 to provide, maintain, equip and keep in safe and sanitary condition
3376 premises established for or used by the campers pursuant to minimum
3377 standards prescribed by the [department] office or by ordinances or
3378 regulations applicable to the location of such facility; or (9) wilfully or
3379 deliberately violates any of the provisions of this chapter.

3380 (b) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, after a
3381 contested case hearing held in accordance with the provisions of
3382 chapter 54, may take any of the following actions, singly or in
3383 combination, in any case in which the commissioner finds that there
3384 has been a substantial failure to comply with the requirements
3385 established under sections 19a-420 to 19a-428, inclusive, as amended
3386 by this act, the Public Health Code or regulations adopted pursuant to
3387 section 19a-428, as amended by this act: (1) Revoke a license; (2)
3388 suspend a license; (3) impose a civil penalty of not more than one
3389 hundred dollars per violation for each day of occurrence; (4) place a
3390 licensee on probationary status and require such licensee to report
3391 regularly to the [department] office on the matters that are the basis of
3392 the probation; (5) restrict the acquisition of other facilities for a period
3393 of time set by the commissioner; or (6) impose limitations on a license.

3394 (c) The commissioner shall notify the licensee, in writing, of the
3395 commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose
3396 a licensure action. The licensee may, if aggrieved by such intended
3397 action, make application for a hearing, in writing, over the licensee's

3398 signature to the commissioner. The licensee shall state in the
3399 application in plain language the reasons why the licensee claims to be
3400 aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner not
3401 later than thirty days after the licensee's receipt of notification of the
3402 intended action.

3403 (d) The commissioner shall hold a hearing not later than sixty days
3404 after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the
3405 date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the
3406 hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by the
3407 commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner,
3408 in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or hearing officer may
3409 issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses. The licensee
3410 shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and a transcript of the
3411 hearing shall be made. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer,
3412 the hearing officer shall state the hearing officer's findings and make a
3413 recommendation to the commissioner on the issue of revocation or
3414 suspension or the intended licensure action.

3415 (e) The commissioner, based upon the findings and
3416 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
3417 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision, in writing,
3418 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
3419 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
3420 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
3421 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
3422 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
3423 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
3424 appeal in the same manner as provided in section 19a-85.

3425 (f) The provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section
3426 shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a license under
3427 section 19a-421, as amended by this act, provided the commissioner
3428 notifies the applicant of any such denial and the reasons for such
3429 denial by mailing written notice to the applicant at the applicant's
3430 address shown on the license application.

3431 (g) If the [department] office determines that the health, safety or
3432 welfare of a child or staff person at a youth camp requires imperative
3433 emergency action by the [department] office to halt an activity being
3434 provided at the camp, the [department] office may issue a cease and
3435 desist order limiting the license and requiring the immediate cessation
3436 of the activity. The [department] office shall provide the licensee with
3437 an opportunity for a hearing regarding the issuance of a cease and
3438 desist order. Such hearing shall be held not later than ten business
3439 days after the date of issuance of the order. Upon receipt of such order,
3440 the licensee shall cease providing the activity and provide immediate
3441 notification to staff and the parents of all children attending the camp
3442 that such activity has ceased at the camp until such time as the cease
3443 and desist order is dissolved by the [department] office.

3444 Sec. 79. Section 19a-425 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3445 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3446 Any person who establishes, conducts or maintains a youth camp
3447 without a license as required by this chapter for a first offense shall be
3448 subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars, and
3449 for a second or subsequent offense shall be subject to a civil penalty of
3450 not more than one thousand five hundred dollars, and each day
3451 during which a youth camp is conducted or maintained without a
3452 license, after notification to such person by the commissioner, shall
3453 constitute a separate offense. The [Commissioner of Public Health]
3454 commissioner may apply to the superior court for the judicial district
3455 of Hartford, or for the judicial district where the defendant named in
3456 such application resides, for an injunction to restrain the operation or
3457 maintenance of a youth camp by any person other than a licensed
3458 operator. The application for such injunction or the issuance of the
3459 same shall be in addition to and shall not relieve any such person from
3460 the imposition of a civil penalty under this section. In connection with
3461 any such application for an injunction, it shall not be necessary to
3462 prove that an adequate remedy at law does not exist.

3463 Sec. 80. Section 19a-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the

3464 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3465 The [Department of Public Health] office shall inspect or cause to be
3466 inspected the facilities to be operated by an applicant for an original
3467 license before the license shall be granted, and shall annually thereafter
3468 inspect or cause to be inspected the facilities of all licensees. No annual
3469 inspection shall be required under this section in the case of facilities of
3470 a licensee located in any dormitory, classroom or other building or any
3471 athletic facility owned and maintained by any college or university,
3472 provided a timely safety inspection of such building or facility,
3473 satisfactory to the [department] office, is conducted by or on behalf of
3474 such college or university.

3475 Sec. 81. Section 19a-427 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3476 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3477 The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner is authorized to
3478 accept, on behalf of the state, any grants of federal or private funds
3479 made available for any purposes consistent with the provisions of this
3480 chapter. The commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary of the
3481 Office of Policy and Management, may direct the disposition of any
3482 such grants so accepted in conformity with the terms and conditions
3483 under which given.

3484 Sec. 82. Section 19a-428 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3485 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3486 (a) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
3487 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, relating to
3488 the safe operation of youth camps, including, but not limited to,
3489 personnel qualifications for director and staff; ratio of staff to campers;
3490 sanitation and public health; personal health, first aid and medical
3491 services; food handling, mass feeding and cleanliness; water supply
3492 and waste disposal; water safety, including use of lakes and rivers,
3493 swimming and boating equipment and practices, vehicle condition and
3494 operation; building and site design; equipment; and condition and
3495 density of use, as the commissioner may deem necessary or desirable.

3496 Such regulations shall be construed to be minimum standards subject
3497 to the imposition and enforcement of higher standards by any town,
3498 city or borough.

3499 (b) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
3500 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, allowing
3501 physical examinations or health status certifications required by youth
3502 camps prior to the date of arrival at youth camps to be made by a
3503 physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse
3504 licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or a physician assistant licensed
3505 pursuant to chapter 370. Such regulations shall permit a physical
3506 examination that is required for school purposes to also be used to
3507 satisfy any such required youth camp examination or certification,
3508 subject to such conditions regarding the timeliness of such
3509 examination as the commissioner deems appropriate.

3510 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
3511 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that
3512 specify conditions under which youth camp directors and staff may
3513 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed
3514 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including
3515 controlled drugs specified in the regulations adopted by the
3516 commissioner, to a child enrolled in a youth camp at such camp. The
3517 regulations shall require authorization pursuant to: (1) The written
3518 order of a physician licensed to practice medicine or a dentist licensed
3519 to practice dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced
3520 practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician
3521 assistant licensed under chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under
3522 chapter 375 or an optometrist licensed under chapter 380; and (2) the
3523 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

3524 Sec. 83. Section 19a-429 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3525 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3526 Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a youth camp,
3527 as defined in section 19a-420, as amended by this act, is operating

3528 without a current and valid license or in violation of regulations
3529 adopted under section 19a-428, as amended by this act, or in a manner
3530 which may pose a potential danger to the health, welfare and safety of
3531 a child receiving youth camp services, may report such information to
3532 the [Department of Public Health] office. The [department] office shall
3533 investigate any report or complaint received pursuant to this section.
3534 In connection with any investigation of a youth camp, the
3535 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner or [said] the
3536 commissioner's authorized agent may administer oaths, issue
3537 subpoenas, compel testimony and order the production of books,
3538 records and documents. If any person refuses to appear, to testify or to
3539 produce any book, record or document when so ordered, a judge of
3540 the Superior Court may make such order as may be appropriate to aid
3541 in the enforcement of this section. The name of the person making the
3542 report or complaint shall not be disclosed unless (1) such person
3543 consents to such disclosure, (2) a judicial or administrative proceeding
3544 results therefrom, or (3) a license action pursuant to section 19a-423, as
3545 amended by this act, results from such report or complaint. All records
3546 obtained by the [department] office in connection with any such
3547 investigation shall not be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 for a
3548 period of thirty days from the date of the petition or other event
3549 initiating such investigation, or until such time as the investigation is
3550 terminated pursuant to a withdrawal or other informal disposition or
3551 until a hearing is convened pursuant to chapter 54, whichever is
3552 earlier. A formal statement of charges issued by the [department] office
3553 shall be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 from the time that it is
3554 served or mailed to the respondent. Records which are otherwise
3555 public records shall not be deemed confidential merely because they
3556 have been obtained in connection with an investigation under this
3557 section.

3558 Sec. 84. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Commissioner of Early Childhood
3559 shall develop a plan to provide spaces to all eligible children, as
3560 defined in section 85 of this act, in an accredited school readiness
3561 program, as defined in section 85 of this act, or a school readiness

3562 program seeking accreditation, as defined in section 85 of this act. The
3563 commissioner shall submit such plan to the Governor on or before
3564 January 1, 2015.

3565 Sec. 85. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this section:

3566 (1) "Eligible town" means a town in which a priority school, as
3567 defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this
3568 act, is located or a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked
3569 in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
3570 (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, whose school district is
3571 not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p of the general
3572 statutes;

3573 (2) "Eligible regional school readiness council" means a regional
3574 school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r of
3575 the general statutes, as amended by this act, for a region in which a
3576 priority school is located;

3577 (3) "Eligible children" means children (A) three and four years of age
3578 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
3579 pursuant to section 10-15c of the general statutes, or who are eligible to
3580 enroll in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant
3581 to section 10-16t of the general statutes, and (B) who reside (i) in an
3582 area served by a priority school or a former priority school, as
3583 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the
3584 general statutes, as amended by this act, (ii) in a town ranked one to
3585 fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
3586 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general
3587 statutes, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant
3588 to section 10-266p of the general statutes, (iii) in a town formerly a
3589 town described in clause (ii) of this subparagraph, as provided for in
3590 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the general
3591 statutes, as amended by this act, or (iv) in a town designated as an
3592 alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes,
3593 whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to

3594 section 10-266p of the general statutes;

3595 (4) "School readiness program" has the same meaning as provided
3596 in section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

3597 (5) "Priority school" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
3598 16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

3599 (6) "Accredited" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-16p
3600 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

3601 (7) "Seeking accreditation" has the same meaning as provided in
3602 section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

3603 (b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish a grant
3604 program for eligible towns and eligible regional school readiness
3605 councils for (1) start-up of school readiness classrooms, and (2)
3606 providing spaces to all eligible children in accredited school readiness
3607 programs and school readiness programs seeking accreditation. An
3608 eligible town or eligible regional school readiness council may apply
3609 for such grant to the commissioner, at such time and in such manner as
3610 the commissioner prescribes.

3611 Sec. 86. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before March 1, 2015,
3612 the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with the
3613 Department of Education, shall develop a preschool experience survey
3614 that may be included in kindergarten registration materials provided
3615 by local and regional boards of education to parents or guardians of
3616 children enrolling in kindergarten pursuant to section 10-184 of the
3617 general statutes. The board shall use such survey to collect information
3618 regarding (1) whether the child enrolling in kindergarten has
3619 participated in a preschool program, and (2) (A) if such child has
3620 participated in a preschool program, the nature, length and setting of
3621 such preschool program, or (B) if the child has not participated in a
3622 preschool program, the reasons why such child did not participate in a
3623 preschool program, including, but not limited to, financial difficulty,
3624 lack of transportation, parental choice regarding enrollment,

3625 limitations related to the hours of operation of available preschool
3626 programs and any other barriers to participation in a preschool
3627 program. A local or regional board of education shall not require any
3628 parent or guardian of such child to complete such survey as a
3629 condition of such child's enrollment in kindergarten.

3630 Sec. 87. Subsection (c) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is
3631 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3632 *1, 2014*):

3633 (c) [On or before July 1, 2013, the department shall expand the] The
3634 state-wide public school information system [as follows] shall:

3635 (1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and
3636 district performance growth and make such information available to
3637 local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating
3638 educational performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled
3639 in public schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or
3640 calculated based on information received from local and regional
3641 boards of education and other relevant sources. Such information shall
3642 include, but not be limited to:

3643 (A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations
3644 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall
3645 include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the
3646 home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and
3647 student mobility, [and] (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's
3648 readiness to enter public school at the kindergarten level, and (v) data
3649 collected, if any, from the preschool experience survey, described in
3650 section 86 of this act;

3651 (B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)
3652 teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation
3653 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas,
3654 (ii) teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly
3655 qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or
3656 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by

3657 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable
 3658 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute
 3659 teachers in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to
 3660 absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a
 3661 teacher's aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier
 3662 to each teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school
 3663 information system;

3664 (C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be
 3665 limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates,
 3666 (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records,
 3667 such as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary
 3668 actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not
 3669 English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support
 3670 personnel, and (vii) information relating to instructional technology,
 3671 such as access to computers.

3672 (2) Collect data relating to student enrollment in and graduation
 3673 from institutions of higher education for any student who had been
 3674 assigned a unique student identifier pursuant to subsection (b) of this
 3675 section, provided such data is available.

3676 (3) Develop means for access to and data sharing with the data
 3677 systems of public institutions of higher education in the state.

3678 Sec. 88. Sections 10-16s, 10-16cc, 10-16dd, 17b-23 and 19a-83 of the
 3679 general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2014*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-145a(f)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-76d(a)(8)(D)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	4-5
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-16bb
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-14n
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-266p(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16n
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16p
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16q
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16r
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16u
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16w
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16z
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16aa
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-2
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-705a(c) to (e)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-12
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-730
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-733
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-734
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-735(a)
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-736
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-737
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-738
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-739
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749a
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749c(a) and (b)
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749d
Sec. 36	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749e
Sec. 37	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749f
Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749g
Sec. 39	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749h
Sec. 40	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749i
Sec. 41	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749j
Sec. 42	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749k
Sec. 43	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-750
Sec. 44	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-751
Sec. 45	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-751d
Sec. 46	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-751e
Sec. 47	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17a-28(g)(11)

Sec. 48	July 1, 2014	19a-77
Sec. 49	July 1, 2014	19a-79
Sec. 50	July 1, 2014	19a-80
Sec. 51	July 1, 2014	19a-80f
Sec. 52	July 1, 2014	19a-82
Sec. 53	July 1, 2014	19a-86
Sec. 54	July 1, 2014	19a-87
Sec. 55	July 1, 2014	19a-87a
Sec. 56	July 1, 2014	19a-87b
Sec. 57	July 1, 2014	19a-87c
Sec. 58	July 1, 2014	19a-87d
Sec. 59	July 1, 2014	19a-87e
Sec. 60	July 1, 2014	8-210
Sec. 61	July 1, 2014	10a-194c(a)
Sec. 62	July 1, 2014	12-634
Sec. 63	July 1, 2014	17a-101(b)
Sec. 64	July 1, 2014	17b-90(b)
Sec. 65	July 1, 2014	10-16mm(a)
Sec. 66	July 1, 2014	17b-7a
Sec. 67	July 1, 2014	31-286a(d)
Sec. 68	from passage	SA 13-16, Sec. 1
Sec. 69	July 1, 2014	19a-84
Sec. 70	July 1, 2014	19a-85
Sec. 71	from passage	10-183b(14)
Sec. 72	from passage	10-183b(20)
Sec. 73	from passage	10-183b(26)
Sec. 74	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 75	July 1, 2014	19a-420
Sec. 76	July 1, 2014	19a-421
Sec. 77	July 1, 2014	19a-422
Sec. 78	July 1, 2014	19a-423
Sec. 79	July 1, 2014	19a-425
Sec. 80	July 1, 2014	19a-426
Sec. 81	July 1, 2014	19a-427
Sec. 82	July 1, 2014	19a-428
Sec. 83	July 1, 2014	19a-429
Sec. 84	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 85	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 86	from passage	New section
Sec. 87	July 1, 2014	10-10a(c)

Sec. 88	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	Repealer section
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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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

Section 1 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to add dyslexia to the individualized education program (IEP) form that planning and placement teams use to provide special education and related services to special education students. This conforms to the federal IDEA definition of "specific learning disability." This could result in a minimal cost, of less than \$1,000 to SDE, for re-printing the IEP forms. Additionally, this could result in a potential cost to local and regional school districts as more students may be identified as needing special education services.

Section 2 requires that beginning July 1, 2015 all teacher preparation programs that lead to professional teacher certification must include detection and recognition of, and appropriate interventions for, students with dyslexia. This results in a one-time cost of \$40,000 in FY 15 to both the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the University of Connecticut. The costs are due to faculty release time for curriculum and faculty development associated with including the detection and recognition of, and appropriate interventions for, students with dyslexia in teacher preparation programs.

Section 3 makes a clarifying change to special education laws and does not result in a fiscal impact.

Sections 501 - 566 and 585 conform to Executive Order No. 35 and

statutorily implements PA 13-184, the FY 14 - FY 15 Biennial Budget, as amended by PA 13-247. The Executive Order provided the administrative structure and programmatic responsibilities of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), while the budget transferred programs from various agencies, as outlined in the table below.

Funding Provided through PA 13-184 as amended by PA 13-247

Agency	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Public Health	-	2,276,721
Department of Social Services	15,786,565	125,063,655
Department of Education	112,241,097	111,829,980
Board of Regents	473,657	486,499
Office of Early Childhood - New Funding	1,082,638	1,645,487
Total General Fund	129,583,957	241,302,342
Federal Funds	16,672,568	33,261,381
TOTAL FUNDS	146,256,525	274,563,723

The following bulleted list summarizes the major programs transferred into OEC:

- Department of Social Services – Care4Kids (transferred in FY 15), Charts a Course, funding for 211 Infoline, Children's Trust Fund for Nurturing Families and Help Me Grow.
- Department of Education – School Readiness, Head Start and other early childhood programs.
- Department of Public Health – Licensure and regulation of child day care centers and administration of the federal home visitation program (both in FY 15).
- Board of Regents – Charts a Course.

Below is a section-by-section description of the various transfers and statutory creation of OEC under the bill.

Sections 501 - 507 establish the Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

and outline various responsibilities. **Section 501** makes OEC the successor agency to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for the Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funding. **Section 504** also requires OEC to develop and implement an early childhood information system. The agency currently has bond funds to support such a system.

Sections 508, 510 - 514 and 516 transfer responsibility for the School Readiness account from the State Department of Education (SDE) to OEC in FY 14. Funding of \$74.8 million was transferred in FY 14 and \$74.3 million in FY 15. Additionally, funding and responsibility for the competitive school readiness slots are transferred from SDE to OEC in FY 14 and corresponding funding totaling \$6.8 million in both FY 14 and FY 15. These transfers were included in the biennial budget.

Section 509 transfers responsibilities associated with Head Start from SDE to OEC in FY 14. Funding of \$4.3 million was included in both FY 14 and FY 15 in the biennial budget.

Section 510 specifies the use of certain carry forward funding for professional development, which changes the distribution of such funds.

Sections 511, 581, and 582 result in a cost associated with allowing for the expansion of school readiness seats and who is eligible for them, and increasing the cost per school readiness seat from a maximum of \$8,346 to \$8,670. Assuming the \$324 increase per-child is for full-day, full-year spaces, this change would result in additional costs of at least \$2,191,391 for current spaces. Any new seats would be funded at the \$8,670 rate as well.

sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee includes additional funding of \$2,191,391 for existing full-day, full-year school readiness seats at a rate of \$8,670. The budget also funds 1,020 new spaces in FY 15, of which 612 are supported by the full-day, full-year rate for a total of \$5.3 million. Carry forward funding of \$2.3 million supports start-up costs and

planning grants.

Sections 517 - 519, 521 - 522, 529, 532 - 534, and 538 - 540 transfer responsibilities associated with the child care subsidy program, commonly referred to as Care4Kids, from the Department of Social Services (DSS) to OEC in FY 15. Funding of \$101.5 million was transferred in FY 15 from DSS to OEC in the biennial budget.

Sections 541 - 543 transfer responsibilities associated with the Children's Trust Fund from DSS to OEC. Funding of \$11.7 million was transferred in FY 14 and FY 15 in the biennial budget.

Sections 523 - 528 transfer responsibilities associated with bond-funded grants to municipalities and state agencies for child care facilities from DSS to OEC. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the General Obligation (GO) bond authorization for such activities have been spent.

Sections 530 and 535 - 537 transfer the responsibilities associated with the child day care facilities program from SDE to OEC in FY 15. Funding of \$18.4 million was transferred in the budget in FY 14 and FY 15.

Section 531 transfers the responsibilities associated with the school readiness quality enhancement program from SDE to OEC in FY 14. Funding of \$3.9 million was transferred in the budget in FY 14 and FY 15.

Sections 544 - 556 and 566 implement the transfer of child care regulatory functions from the DPH to OEC. **Section 571** allows OEC to enter into a MOA with DPH associated with implementation. Funding of \$2.3 million and 40 positions were transferred from DPH to OEC in FY 15 in the budget.

Sections 547 and 553 will result in a cost of \$1.1 million in FY 15 and \$1.5 million in FY 16 related to increasing the frequency of child day

care licensing inspections.¹ State Comptroller - Fringe Benefit costs associated with these positions are \$406,623 in FY 15 and \$542,164 in FY 16. sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee includes funding of approximately \$1.1 million and related fringes to support 19 licensing inspection positions and 9 licensing positions related to background checks.

Sections 568 - 570 allow an individual who was employed by the State Board of Education to maintain their membership in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) now that they are an employee of the newly established Office of Early Childhood. Under current law, the individual would be limited to membership in the State Employees Retirement System. This change has no fiscal impact on the state contribution to either retirement system since it impacts a single employee at this time.

Section 572 - 580 will result in a transfer of costs from DPH to OEC associated with youth camp regulation. sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee transfers three positions and associated funding of \$373,196 from DPH to support the licensing of youth camps.

Section 583 will result in a cost of approximately \$300,000 associated with the design and implementation of a preschool experience survey. FY 15 funding is anticipated to support survey design, training, and piloting, while ongoing costs would be for statewide administration, data collection, and analysis.

Section 584 does not result in a fiscal impact to the State Department of Education associated with including this data in the existing statewide public school information system as they currently collect similar data.

¹ PA 13-184, the FY 14 - FY 15 Biennial Budget, as amended by PA 13-247 transferred 40 positions and related funding of \$2.3 million from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) in FY 15 for the licensure and regulation of child day care centers.

Sections 515, 520, 557 - 565, 567 and 585 make additional conforming and technical changes to reflect the transfers and do not result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the language in the underlying bill and results in the impact described above.

House "B" makes a clarifying change that does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5562 (as amended by House “A” and “B”)******AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), led by a commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the governor. It eliminates the coordinated system of early care and education and child development (“coordinated system”) and the position of planning director, precursors to OEC and its commissioner, and incorporates the coordinated system’s goals and duties into enumerated OEC duties (see BACKGROUND).

The office assumes the responsibility for administering early childhood programs and services currently run by the State Department of Education (SDE), the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Department of Public Health (DPH). For some programs, the bill designates OEC as the lead agency, entirely replacing the existing administering agency; for others, the existing administering agency maintains a consultative role. For example, for school readiness programming, OEC assumes the lead agency role but must consult with SDE and DSS for various aspects.

Program content generally remains the same after transfer to OEC. The transfer process makes OEC responsible for the following major programs as of July 1, 2014:

1. school readiness;
2. the Children’s Trust Fund;
3. Connecticut Charts-a-Course;

4. state and federally funded child day care subsidies;
5. child day care services management, evaluation, and professional development;
6. child day care facilities licensing and inspection, and
7. youth camp oversight.

The bill also reassigns various funds, grants, and loans to OEC oversight.

It makes several changes to school readiness program funding, which the state provides through various grants allowing towns to purchase seats for three- to five-year olds who are too young to attend kindergarten (see BACKGROUND). The bill expands the school readiness program in two ways by requiring OEC to:

1. expand the competitive grant for school readiness spaces under current law, and
2. create a new school readiness grant to enable eligible towns and regional school readiness councils to (a) start up new school readiness classrooms and (b) provide spaces to eligible children in school readiness programs that are accredited or seeking accreditation,

It also makes several other major substantive changes in the following ways:

1. requires OEC to make more frequent unannounced visits to all licensed day care centers, group day care homes, and family day care homes;
2. gives OEC more authority over school readiness staff qualification requirements; and
3. changes the organization and membership of certain councils,

committees, and cabinets.

The bill makes many minor, conforming, and technical changes and deletes several obsolete deadlines and statutes.

It also requires that (1) dyslexia be added to the special education individualized education program (IEP) form as a separate category and (2) instruction in dyslexia be added to teacher preparation programs that lead to a professional teacher certification.

It also requires boards of education to notify parents or guardians of preschool special education students who reach age five or age six of their legal right to hold the child back from entering kindergarten for a year.

*House Amendment "A" adds all the OEC provisions.

*House Amendment "B" specifies that dyslexia interventions should be "evidence based" rather than "appropriate."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for provisions relating to OEC organization, leadership, and responsibilities (§§ 501-503), the early childhood information system (§ 504), the early childhood accountability plan (§ 505), the kindergarten readiness assessment tool (§ 507), OEC financial support for Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) day care center loan recipients (§ 565), Teachers Retirement System (TRS) definitions (§§ 568-570), the preschool experience survey creation (§ 583), and regarding dyslexia on the IEP form (§ 1) and notification of parental rights (§ 3); July 1, 2014 for the remaining provisions.

§§ 501-502 — OFFICE ORGANIZATION, LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The bill creates OEC, to be housed in SDE for administrative purposes only. A commissioner, appointed by the governor as the department head, implements the policies and directives of the office (see BACKGROUND). The commissioner may designate an OEC

employee to act as her agent when she is absent.

The bill lists OEC responsibilities, shifting to OEC some tasks that the coordinated system must accomplish under current law. Table 1 lists OEC responsibilities. Those marked with an asterisk are currently assigned to the coordinated system of early care and education and child development and its planning director.

Table 1: OEC Responsibilities

Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering services to children and their families • Coordinating home visitation services across programs for young children • Providing information and technical assistance to individuals seeking programs and services* • Assisting state agencies and municipalities in obtaining federal funding for programs and services* • Providing technical assistance to providers of programs and services to obtain licensing and improve program quality* • Maintaining an accreditation facilitation initiative to assist providers of programs and services in achieving national standards and program improvement* • Providing families with opportunities for choice in services, including quality child care and community-based, family-centered services* • Performing any other activities that will assist in the provision of early care and education and child development programs and services* • Integrating early childhood care and education and special education services*
Systems and Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing an early childhood information system • Developing and reporting on the early childhood accountability plan • Establishing a quality rating and improvement system that covers home-based, center-based, and school-based early child care and learning* • Ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive statewide professional development system for providers and staff of programs and services* • Developing early learning and development standards for early care and education providers to use*
Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By September 1, 2014, beginning a statewide longitudinal evaluation of school readiness programs to examine children’s educational progress from preschool through grade four • Developing and implementing a statewide, developmentally appropriate

<p>assessment tool to measure kindergarten preparedness, but not to measure program accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluating all early care and education and child development programs and services, focusing on program outcomes while retaining distinct separation between quality improvement services and child day care licensing services* • Developing and implementing a performance-based evaluation system to evaluate licensed child day care centers
Data Collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a unified set of reporting requirements to collect data for quality assessments and longitudinal analysis* • Comparing and analyzing such data with the data collected in the statewide public school information system (PSIS) (see BACKGROUND) for population-level analysis of children and families*
Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing a communications strategy for outreach to families, service providers, and policymakers • Promoting universal access to early childhood care and education*
Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing, coordinating, and supporting public and private partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives* • Consulting with the Early Childhood Cabinet and the Head Start Advisory Committee* • Ensuring non-duplication of monitoring and evaluation (does not specify whether this pertains to programs/services or providers/staff)*

The bill allows OEC to enter into memoranda of agreement (MOAs) with, and accept donations from, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to accomplish the above duties.

It designates OEC as a successor department to SDE, DSS, and DPH for administration of certain programs, funds, and cabinets detailed in subsequent sections.

§ 503 — EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS

The bill requires OEC, rather than the coordinated system, to work with local and regional early childhood education councils. By law, these councils must, among other things, plan policies and programs, encourage parental involvement, and perform any other functions that

assist with early childhood programs and services.

§ 504 — EARLY CHILDHOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM

The bill requires OEC to develop and implement an early childhood information system for data-sharing among early childhood service providers. The information system must track the:

1. health, safety, and school readiness of all young children receiving early care and education services from any (a) public school board, (b) school readiness program, or (c) publicly funded program, in a manner similar to PSIS;
2. characteristics of (a) the existing and potential workforce serving such children and (b) such programs; and
3. data collected, if any, from the preschool experience survey.

The bill also requires local and regional school boards, school readiness programs receiving public funding, and child day care centers licensed by DPH or OEC to enter all children and staff into the early childhood information system.

§ 505 — EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

The bill requires OEC to develop, by December 31, 2015, in consultation with the Early Childhood Cabinet, an early childhood accountability plan. The plan must:

1. identify and define population indicators and program and system performance measures of the health, safety, and readiness of children to enter kindergarten;
2. identify and define early school success of children;
3. identify any new or improved data for these purposes; and
4. include aggregate information on characteristics of children and programs tracked by the system, including family income, receipt of public assistance, if any, and home communities.

Aggregate child and program data used in the plan must be organized using a performance measurement accountability framework. OEC must use the kindergarten readiness indicators and performance measures to develop report cards on the results of the early childhood accountability plan by July 1, 2015. OEC must submit the plan by January 15, 2016 to the Education and Appropriation committees and annually report to these committees on the plan results and report cards.

§ 506 — KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE AGE

The bill requires OEC, in consultation with SDE, to develop a plan for:

1. changing the date, from January 1 to October 1 of any school year, by which a child must reach age five in order to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment and
2. creating school readiness programs and public and private pre-kindergarten spaces for those children who do not turn age five by October 1 of any school year and are ineligible for kindergarten enrollment.

By June 30, 2015, OEC must submit the plan to the Education Committee.

SDE PROGRAMS TRANSFERRED TO OEC

§§ 510-511, 514 — *School Readiness*

Currently, school readiness is a network of programs that increases the number of full-day, full-year spaces in accredited programs for children aged three to five who are not old enough to enroll in public school. The programs use preschool curriculum standards established by the State Board of Education (SBE). Under the bill, most of the programs' content remains the same upon transfer to OEC, except as noted below.

The bill requires OEC, within available appropriations, to train and assist early childhood providers in implementing the state's early

learning and development standards. The standards, developed by OEC, replace the preschool curriculum guidelines adopted by SBE.

It eliminates the requirement that school readiness programs use annual evaluation assessment measures developed by the interagency agreement on the coordinated system of early care and education and child development.

Beginning July 1, 2015, up to \$500,000 of any unexpended priority school district school readiness grants may be used, if available, by the OEC commissioner for:

1. providing professional development to state-funded early childhood program providers and staff members or
2. assisting individual early childhood program staff members who are (a) attending a college or university course leading to a bachelor's degree (or, until December 31, 2015, an associate's degree) to satisfy school readiness staff qualifications at a maximum of \$5,000 per staff member per year or (b) receiving noncredit, competency-based training approved by OEC at a maximum of \$1,000 per staff member per year.

It allows the funds to be used at professional development programs and in systems offered outside the Connecticut State University System, but requires funds for higher education courses to be used at in-state public and private higher education institutions accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) or the Office of Higher Education (OHE) and approved by OEC.

DSS PROGRAMS TRANSFERRED TO OEC

§§ 522-528, 532-540 — *Child Day Care Services Lead Agency Duties*

The bill makes OEC the lead agency for child day care. As lead agency, OEC must, among other things:

1. take inventory of available day care services and funding

- sources;
2. train day care providers;
 3. develop a coordinated professional development system;
 4. adopt regulations for child day care services;
 5. establish a performance-based evaluation system for licensed day care centers; and
 6. within available appropriations, conduct a longitudinal study of children's and their families' progress during and after day care program participation.

OEC must report to the General Assembly (1) by January 1, 2015 on the implementation of the evaluation system and the longitudinal study and (2) annually thereafter on cumulative evaluation results.

The bill eliminates the lead agency duty to deliver ongoing training to child day care providers via videotaped workshops for broadcast on public access cable.

§ 522 — Connecticut Charts-a-Course

The bill eliminates the requirement that DSS develop and implement a statewide coordinated training and professional development system for child day care and early childhood education providers and staff, commonly known as Connecticut Charts-a-Course. It instead directs OEC to develop Connecticut Charts-a-Course with the Early Childhood Cabinet.

§§ 529, 538-540 — Federal and State Child Day Care Subsidies — Care 4 Kids

Under current law, Care 4 Kids helps low- to moderate-income families pay child care costs. This program is partially funded by the federal Child Care Development Fund. Under the bill, the substance of this program remains unchanged.

The bill requires the OEC commissioner to consult with the DSS commissioner to establish Care 4 Kids eligibility and program standards. It also requires the OEC commissioner, on July 1, 2014 and annually thereafter, to report to the Human Services and Appropriations committees about Care 4 Kids eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. The report must analyze OEC's (1) overpayments of Care 4 Kids benefits and (2) administrative costs incurred as a result of eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis.

The bill allows the OEC commissioner to make Care 4 Kids eligibility redeterminations on a six-month basis beginning July 1, 2014 if OEC's overpayments have increased in comparison with the period between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010, when eight-month periods were used.

The bill requires the OEC commissioner to, within available appropriations, (1) establish health and safety standards for Care 4 Kids and (2) require any day care provider receiving Care 4 Kids subsidies and providing services in a child's home to submit to criminal history records checks, except where the child is a relative.

If the OEC commissioner suspects that an unlicensed provider has been convicted of sexual assault or serious physical injury to a minor in another state, the commissioner may demand that the provider undergo criminal history records checks prior to receiving Care 4 Kids subsidies.

§§ 541-543 — Children's Trust Fund

By law, programs subsidized by the Children's Trust Fund are (1) aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect or (2) family resource programs. The bill transfers authority over the Children's Trust Fund and its related reporting requirements to OEC. It also assigns administration of Children's Trust Fund's abuse and neglect prevention programming to OEC, except for the Kinship Fund and Grandparents' Respite Fund, which remain with DSS and the probate

court.

The bill also authorizes continuity of orders, regulations, and contracts made by the Children's Trust Fund Council and DSS, the former Children's Trust Fund authorities, once OEC assumes control of the fund.

DPH PROGRAMS TRANSFERRED TO OEC

§§ 544-556, 567 — *Child Day Care Services' Licensing and Inspection*

The bill transfers day care licensing issuance and revocation, inspection, regulation, and investigation duties from DPH to OEC. OEC assumes responsibility for child day care centers, group day care homes, and family day care homes. OEC must:

1. receive license applications,
2. collect licensing fees,
3. require day care staff to submit to criminal history and child abuse records checks, and
4. notify licensees in writing of new regulations OEC adopts within 60 days after their effective date.

The bill also requires OEC, rather than DPH, to inspect child day care centers, group day care homes, and family day care homes. OEC must:

1. make yearly unannounced visits, inspections, or investigations of all licensed day care centers and group day care homes, rather than biennial visits as required by state regulations;
2. make yearly unannounced visits, inspections, or investigations of all, rather than one-third, of licensed family day care homes; and
3. require local health directors to inspect all licensed day care

centers and group day care homes biennially, as currently required by state regulations.

Additionally, OEC, rather than DPH, must approve, through an application process, all assistant or substitute staff members who work in family day care homes.

The bill also permits day care providers whose licenses have been suspended or revoked by OEC, rather than DPH, to appeal OEC's decision in the judicial district of New Britain.

§§ 572-580 — Youth Camp Oversight

The bill transfers youth camp regulation duties from DPH to OEC. These duties include licensing, discipline, license revocation, inspection, investigation, and regulation promulgation. OEC also assumes DPH's authority to accept federal grants or private funds for youth camps.

The bill requires OEC to assume various DPH youth camp licensing duties, including issuance, establishment of application procedures, suspension, and revocation. It also requires OEC to verify the health, safety, and recordkeeping practices of camps before issuing or renewing youth camp licenses.

It also allows OEC to take disciplinary action against a licensed youth camp if the camp commits certain acts listed in law. OEC disciplinary authority consists of (1) license revocation, suspension, or limitations; (2) daily fines; (3) probationary status with reporting requirements; (4) restrictions on acquiring additional facilities; (5) cease and desist orders against dangerous activity; and (6) court-ordered injunctions against operation.

Under the bill, OEC also assumes all DPH's duties for the license revocation process. The office must issue notice of intent to revoke a youth camp license, hold grievance hearings within 60 days at the licensee's request, and render a written decision about intended licensure action.

The bill requires OEC to inspect youth camp facilities before issuing initial licenses and annually thereafter. Consistent with current law, OEC does not need to inspect facilities located in dormitories, classrooms, or other buildings owned and inspected by a college or university.

It requires OEC to receive and investigate reports and complaints against youth camps. Investigatory duties include administering oaths, issuing subpoenas, and compelling testimony and discovery. OEC must also, when necessary, issue a formal statement of charges when findings indicate that a camp is operating without a license, violating regulations, or endangering children’s health, welfare, or safety.

The bill also requires OEC to assume DPH’s regulation promulgation authority. It allows OEC to make regulations concerning:

1. safe youth camp operation,
2. physical exams or health status requirements for students attending youth camps, and
3. conditions under which youth camp staff may administer diabetes glucose tests and other medications.

§§ 508-510, 513, 516, 524, 527, 530-531, 535-537 — TRANSFER OF GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAMS

The bill consolidates grant and loan programs administered by two different agencies into the OEC (see Table 2). The majority of these programs’ substance and content remain the same, unless noted below.

Table 2: Grant and Loan Programs for Transfer to OEC

<i>Bill Section</i>	<i>Grants / Loan Programs</i>	<i>Description</i>
State Department of Education		
§ 509	Head Start Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal child development grant program benefitting nonprofit entities and boards of education in towns with children aged birth to five receiving cash welfare benefits

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDE establishes a competitive grant program for applicants and allocates funds
§ 510	Competitive school district grant for preschool school readiness seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant program allows competitive school districts to buy school readiness spaces in other districts
§ 513	Transitional school district grants for school readiness seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-funded grant program provides spaces in school readiness programs for eligible children in transitional school districts
§ 516	Competitive District Grant Account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains funds to be spent by education commissioner on competitive school district grants for school readiness seats
§ 530	Subsidy program to purchase day care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program permits an agency to buy, or have parents buy, day care services from schools, centers, homes, family resource centers, Head Start programs, or boards of education Gives grants to school readiness program providers to increase their day care services hours
§ 531	Supplemental quality enhancement grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded on a competitive basis to child day care and school readiness providers
§ 535	Child care facilities loan guarantee program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guarantees loans for the expansion or development of child care and child development centers in the state Allows administering agency to enter into contracts with quasi-public agencies, banks, or nonprofits to administer the program; requires agency to authorize all loan guarantees
§ 536	Child care facilities direct revolving loan program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides loans for costs incurred with the development of child care facilities Allows administering agency to enter into contracts with quasi-public agencies, banks, or nonprofits to administer the program; requires agency to authorize all loan guarantees
§ 537	Debt service reserve fund for CHEFA-financed child care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows administering agency to allow actual debt service on loans, as well as determine the terms and amounts of the debt service
Department of Social Services		
§ 524	Grants for state and municipal employee child day care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses proceeds of up to \$6,024,798 in previously authorized state bonds to cover administrative costs of grants for planning, constructing, or renovating facilities for employee child care
§ 527	Loans for business firm employee child day care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers five-year loans at an interest rate established by the State Bond Commission for business firms to plan, construct, or renovate facilities for employee child care and child care for children in the firm's municipality Allows administering agency's commissioner to make regulations that set the loans' terms and conditions

SUBSTANTIVE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES**§ 510 — *Competitive Grant Program Expansion***

The bill allows alliance district towns that do not contain priority school districts to apply for competitive grants for school readiness seats. By law, an alliance district is a school district that is among the 30 lowest when ranked by district performance index, which measures academic performance derived from students' weighted results on statewide mastery tests. A priority school district has students with low standardized test scores and high levels of poverty; there are 15 such districts.

The bill also allows competitive grant recipients to use the funds to purchase school readiness seats in programs that are "seeking accreditation." Current law limits these funds to the purchase of seats in accredited programs only. The bill defines programs "seeking accreditation" as those:

1. seeking accreditation from (a) the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or (b) a Head Start on-site program review instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations or
2. attempting to meet criteria established by the early childhood commissioner.

The bill also changes the competitive grant amount for which a town or regional school readiness council may apply. Under current law, the grant may not exceed \$107,000 unless an applicant town has two or more priority schools (see BACKGROUND) in one district. The bill makes this amount a floor, rather than a ceiling, for all towns and councils that apply, including those towns with more than one priority school. It also requires the education commissioner to give preference when awarding competitive grants to towns that increase the number of school readiness spaces.

The bill allows any town that receives a competitive grant to use it

to prepare a facility and staff members for school readiness program operation during the entire five-year grant term. Current law allows competitive grants to be used for such purposes only during the first three years of the grant term.

The bill also allows the education commissioner to (a) give preference to towns that increase the number of school readiness seats when awarding competitive grants and (b) use unexpended school readiness funds to develop a plan for providing universal access to school readiness spaces.

§ 511 – State Per-Pupil School Readiness Reimbursement

The bill increases the state’s per-pupil cost reimbursement for school readiness programs from a maximum of \$8,346 to a maximum of \$8,670, within available appropriations, beginning in FY 15.

§ 511 – School Readiness Grant Ineligibility

The bill prohibits OEC from providing funding to any local or regional board of education that is a school readiness provider and does not collect data using the preschool experience survey and include it in PSIS. The prohibition begins in the 2015-16 school year.

§§ 517-519 — Federal Child Care Development Fund and Collective Bargaining

The bill requires OEC, rather than DSS, to (1) administer the federal block grant that provides much of the funding for the state’s child care programs and (2) bargain with unions that represent family child care providers.

§ 526 — Grants for Schools as Day Care Facilities

The bill requires the SDE commissioner, instead of the DSS commissioner, to establish a program providing grants to municipalities, local school boards, and child care providers to encourage the use of schools facilities for before- and after-school child day care. It also permits the SDE commissioner to adopt regulations related to this program.

PLANS AND GRANTS TO INCREASE PRESCHOOL ACCESS**§ 581 — School Readiness Universal Access Plan**

The bill requires the OEC commissioner to develop a plan to provide spaces in school readiness programs that are either accredited or seeking accreditation for all eligible children. The commissioner must submit the plan to the governor by January 1, 2015.

§ 582 — New School Readiness Grant

The bill requires the OEC commissioner to establish a new grant program to enable eligible towns and regional school readiness councils to (1) start up new school readiness classrooms and (2) provide spaces to eligible children in school readiness programs that are accredited or seeking accreditation.

The bill defines “eligible towns” as those that (1) contain a priority school or (2) are ranked among the 50 poorest in the state but whose school district is not a priority school district. It defines “eligible regional school readiness councils” as those comprised of two or more towns or school districts that contain a priority school.

It defines “eligible children” as children aged three-to-five years who are too young to enroll in kindergarten but will attend a school readiness program and who live in:

1. an area served by a priority school or former priority school,
2. a town ranked among the 50 poorest but not in a priority school district,
3. a town formerly ranked among the 50 poorest but not in a priority school district, or
4. a town designated as an alliance district that is not a priority school district.

Towns and children benefitting from this grant are also eligible competitive school readiness grant recipients (see BACKGROUND).

The bill does not specify whether a recipient may be awarded both grants, or if receipt of one grant eliminates eligibility for the other.

§§ 583-584 — *Preschool Experience Survey*

The bill requires the OEC commissioner to develop a preschool survey, in consultation with SDE, by March 1, 2015. Local or regional boards of education may provide the survey to parents or guardians of children enrolling in kindergarten along with required registration materials.

The board must use the survey to collect the following information:

1. whether the child enrolling in kindergarten has participated in a preschool program and
2. (a) if the child has participated in a preschool program, the nature, length, and setting of the program or (b) if the child has not, the reasons why.

For children who have not participated in a preschool program, the survey may ask about, among other topics, (1) financial difficulty, (2) lack of transportation, (3) parental choice regarding enrollment, (4) limitations related to available programs' hours of operation, and (5) any other barriers to participation.

The bill prohibits local or regional boards of education from requiring a parent or guardian to complete the survey as a condition of the child's kindergarten enrollment.

The bill also requires PSIS to include data collected from the preschool experience survey.

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND CABINETS

§ 509 — *Head Start Advisory Committee*

The bill requires the committee that advises the SDE commissioner on utilization of Head Start funds to instead advise the OEC commissioner. It also allows the OEC commissioner, rather than the

DSS commissioner, to appoint one member to the committee.

§ 512 — Local School Readiness Councils

The bill requires local school readiness councils (1) to cooperate with OEC during evaluation of school readiness program effectiveness and (2) submit biennial reports on the number and location of school readiness spaces and estimates of future needs to SDE. Under the bill, councils’ reports must include the estimated cost of providing school readiness seats to all eligible children, not just children in priority school districts, including the cost for school readiness programs that are in the process of seeking accreditation.

These councils advise their district’s chief elected official and superintendent on issues relating to school readiness.

§ 515 — Early Childhood Cabinet

The bill assigns to the Early Childhood Cabinet the new duty of advising OEC on policy and program goals, within available resources. This replaces the cabinet’s existing duty to coordinate services among state agencies to enhance the health, safety, and learning of children from birth to age nine.

The bill also reconstitutes the cabinet, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Early Childhood Cabinet Membership

<i>New Members</i>	<i>Appointing Authority</i>
OEC commissioner, or designee	n/a
Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) president, or designee	n/a
Member of school board in alliance district town	House speaker
Parent of a child attending school in education reform district	House speaker
Representative of an early education and child care provider association	Senate president pro tempore
State philanthropic community representative	Governor
Connecticut State Employees Association representative	Governor
<i>Removed Members</i>	
SDE representative responsible for programs	SDE commissioner

required under the federal IDEA	
Higher education institution representative	BOR president
House member	House speaker
Senate member	Senate president pro tempore
Parent of child attending a priority school district	House speaker
Retained Members	
SDE commissioner, or designee	n/a
DSS commissioner, or designee	n/a
DPH commissioner, or designee	n/a
Department of Developmental Services commissioner, or designee	n/a
Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner, or designee	n/a
Commission on Children executive director, or designee	n/a
Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office project director	n/a
Parent of child who attends or has attended a school readiness program	House minority leader
Early childhood education local provider	Senate minority leader
Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance representative	House majority leader
State-funded child day care center representative	Senate majority leader
Representative of a public elementary school with a pre-kindergarten program	Senate president pro tempore
Connecticut Head Start Association representative	Governor
State business community representative	Governor
OPM secretary, or designee	n/a

Under the bill, the governor appoints one co-chairperson from among the cabinet's members, rather than a single chairperson. The OEC commissioner serves as the other co-chair. The cabinet must meet at least quarterly. All cabinet members serve without pay and are deemed to have resigned if they miss at least half of the meetings in a calendar year.

The bill moves the cabinet from SDE to OEC for administrative purposes only.

OTHER CHANGES

§ 510 — School Readiness Program Staff Qualifications

The bill gives OEC more authority over school readiness staff qualification requirements. It allows the OEC commissioner to:

1. approve the organizations that may issue credentials equivalent to a childhood development associate credential,
2. determine whether a staff member has earned 12 credits or more in early childhood education or child development, and
3. determine whether a staff member has earned (a) an associate's degree with 12 credits or more in early childhood education or child development and (b) a bachelor's degree with 12 credits or more in early childhood education or child development.

The bill removes SBE's authority to accredit colleges' and universities' childhood development associate credentials and associate's and bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education, reserving this duty for BOR or the OHE. It also removes SDE's and DSS's roles in approving and accrediting staff qualification requirements.

The bill also allows school readiness program employees employed on or before June 30, 2015 to remain employed in their positions despite stricter staff requirements that take effect on July 1, 2015. Such grandfathered employees must hold (1) a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development or (2) a bachelor's degree and 12 credits or more in early childhood education or child development. It also removes the requirement that such school readiness program employees who leave one program to work at another submit documentation to SDE of progress toward meeting heightened staff requirements.

The bill also permits an individual who is not employed by a school readiness program prior to July 1, 2015, but who holds the same academic qualifications as grandfathered employees, to submit documentation of these qualifications to OEC for review. OEC may determine that these qualifications satisfy heightened staff

requirements beginning July 1, 2015.

§ 520 — Acceptance of Gifts

The bill permits the OEC commissioner, rather than the DSS commissioner, to accept and receive bequests or gifts of personal property on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund that are given for services to help people who are receiving or have immediate family members receiving assistance or services (1) from OEC, (2) formerly from DSS, or (3) potentially from OEC.

§ 521 — Utilization of Federal Programs

The bill permits the OEC commissioner to take advantage of and administer federally assisted day care programming and programming created under the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It removes the DSS commissioner's authority to access any of these programs and funds.

§ 557 — State Financial Assistance for Construction

The bill permits the OEC commissioner to contract on behalf of the state with municipalities, nonprofit entities, or human resources development agencies in order to provide state grants-in-aid for the following construction projects:

1. planning, constructing, and purchasing neighborhood facilities, including child care facilities, elderly centers, multipurpose human resource centers, emergency shelters for the homeless, and shelters for domestic violence victims; and
2. developing and operating day care facilities for disadvantaged children.

For the above projects, the OEC commissioner replaces the education commissioner as a contracting authority.

§ 560 — Mandated Reporters

The bill adds to the list of statutorily required mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect any OEC employee who is

responsible for licensing day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes, or youth camps. Currently, DPH employees responsible for such licensing are mandated reporters.

§ 561 — Youth Camp Information Disclosure

The DSS commissioner must disclose information about individuals receiving assistance from or participating in DSS programs to authorized representatives of the OEC commissioner, rather than the DPH commissioner. Such information must be disclosed so the representative may carry out the office's duties in overseeing child day care services or youth camps.

§ 563 — Statewide Fraud Early Detection System

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to consult with the OEC commissioner when developing a statewide fraud early detection system to investigate potentially fraudulent Care 4 Kids applications prior to granting child care subsidies.

§ 564 — Evidence of Workers' Compensation Insurance

The bill allows all applicants seeking a license or permit from OEC to, as an alternative to presenting a physical certificate of workers' compensation insurance, write on the license or permit renewal form (1) the name of the insurer, (2) insurance policy number, (3) effective dates of coverage, and (4) attestation that the information is true and accurate.

§ 565 — CHEFA Loans for Day Care Centers

The bill requires OEC, rather than SDE, to provide state financial assistance to day care centers that have received CHEFA loans through the Connecticut Child Care Facilities Program (see BACKGROUND) until the centers fully pay off their loans. By law, in order to receive this state financial assistance, centers must have either (1) entered into a contract with the DSS commissioner for the assistance prior to July 1, 2012 or (2) received a priority school district school readiness grant.

§ 566 — DSS Contracting for Children's Services Delivery

The bill removes DSS' ability to contract with DCF to perform duties and functions related to children's services, including registration of family day care homes.

§§ 568-570 — Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Definitions

The bill adds the following terms to statutory TRS definitions:

1. OEC to the list of employers,
2. schools under OEC order to the definition of "public schools," and
3. OEC professional staff to the definition of "teacher."

These are conforming changes that allow any OEC employee who is a member of TRS to continue in that retirement system.

§ 571 — OEC and DPH MOA

The bill permits OEC to enter into an MOA with DPH for assistance with and to share information regarding (1) day care licensing and investigation and (2) records on (a) DSS participants in child care programs and youth camps and (b) DPH abuse and neglect investigations of licensed day care providers.

§ 1 — DYSLEXIA ON THE IEP FORM

The bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to add dyslexia to the standard IEP form that planning and placement teams must use to describe the special education and related services that a special education student needs. Specifically, by January 1, 2015, SDE must add "SLD - Dyslexia" under the "specific learning disabilities" heading in the "primary disability" section of the IEP form. Dyslexia is a reading disability often characterized by difficulty in decoding letters and words. Dyslexia is currently covered by the state and federal special education laws but does not appear on the IEP form.

Current law is silent regarding what must be included on the IEP form, but state regulations require all districts use a standardized form

that the State Board of Education (SBE) approves.

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires school districts provide appropriate educational services to students with disabilities (see BACKGROUND).

§ 2 — DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTION IN TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

The bill requires that, beginning July 1, 2015, all teacher preparation programs that lead to professional teacher certification include instruction on detection and recognition of, and evidence-based interventions for, students with dyslexia. By law, these teacher preparation programs must already include instruction on literacy skills and best practices in the field of literacy training.

§ 3 — PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS AND KINDERGARTEN

By law, a local or regional board of education must, whenever a child has been identified as requiring special education, immediately inform parents or guardians of the laws relating to special education and of their rights under those laws. The bill requires the information to include explicit notice of a parent's or guardian's right, under existing law, to withhold a child age (1) five from enrolling in kindergarten until age six and (2) six from enrolling until age seven.

§ 585 — REPEALER

The bill repeals the following provisions that become obsolete upon OEC's creation:

1. the interagency agreement on school readiness;
2. the coordinated system of early care and child development and its planning director;
3. SDE's duty to develop a school readiness-to-kindergarten information sharing system;
4. DSS' ability to contract with DCF for duties and functions

related to children's services, including registration of family day care homes; and

5. day care licensees' duty to report to DPH on their programs' operation and finances.

BACKGROUND

Coordinated System of Early Care and Education and Child Development

In 2011, the governor appointed a planning director to create a plan for consolidating early childhood programs and services across several agencies into one coordinated system of early care and education and child development. This coordinated system is the precursor to OEC.

By law, the coordinated system must accomplish 25 tasks that address the following areas: (1) program reporting and data analysis, (2) student assessments, (3) program assessments, (4) family and parental involvement, (5) outreach and coordination, (6) funding, (7) licensing, and (8) professional development (CGS § 10-16bb (b)).

School Readiness Program

By law, a "school readiness program" is a nonreligious, SDE-funded education program that provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of at least 450 hours and 180 days for children between ages three and five who are too young to enroll in kindergarten (CGS § 10-16p(a)(1)).

SDE allocates school readiness funds using two different methods: a school readiness grant program and a competitive grant program. School readiness program grants are given to priority and former priority school districts. Competitive grants are given to (1) areas served by a priority or former priority school and (2) the 50 poorest or formerly poorest towns whose school district is not a priority district (CGS § 10-16p(c)-(d)).

School readiness program providers eligible for SDE funding

include local and regional boards of education, regional educational service centers (RESC), family resource centers, child day care centers, Head Start programs, and preschool programs (CGS § 10-16p(b)(1)).

Priority School

A priority school is one located in a nonpriority district where 40% or more of school lunches served are served to children with family incomes low enough to be eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches (CGS § 10-16p(a)(3)).

Department Heads

By law, department heads serve at the governor's pleasure for terms no longer than four years, unless reappointed. The General Assembly must confirm or reject each department head the governor nominates. The nominee or incumbent must (1) serve no longer than four years from March 1 during the year of appointment if confirmed or (2) serve only until March 10 during the year of appointment if denied (CGS §§ 4-6, 4-7).

PSIS

PSIS is a statewide, standardized electronic data collection and reporting system that tracks and reports data relating to student, teacher, school, and district performance growth. It makes this data available to local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating educational performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled in Connecticut public schools (CGS § 10-10a).

Connecticut Child Care Facilities Program

This program, established by CHEFA, finances low-interest loans for child care and child development centers, family resource centers, and Head Start programs (CGS § 10a-194c).

IDEA and IEPs

Under IDEA (20 USC 1400 et seq.), the term IEP means a written statement for each child with a disability that details the child's academic achievement level, sets goals for future achievement, and

details the specialized educational services the child needs to reach the goals. As with other states, Connecticut's special education laws (CGS §§ 10-76a to 10-76h) must conform with the federal law.

Legislative History

The House referred the original bill (File 477) to the Appropriations Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that deletes provisions regarding a multi-tiered method of providing state grants to school districts with high-cost special education students.

Related Bills

sSB 26, An Act Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood Education, favorably reported by the Education Committee, (1) widens the pool of school readiness programs eligible for competitive grants; (2) raises the per-child state reimbursement rate for school readiness programs; (3) requires OEC to develop a universal school readiness plan; and (4) makes OEC, rather than DPH, the lead agency for youth camp regulation.

sHB 5043 (File 493) favorably reported by the Education Committee, also adjusts the state's per-pupil cost reimbursement for school readiness programs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 1 (03/21/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 46 Nay 0 (04/24/2014)