



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 417

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 25

Senate, April 8, 2014

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
2 Office of Early Childhood. The office shall be under the direction of the
3 Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, whose appointment
4 shall be made by the Governor. Such appointment shall be in
5 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, of the
6 general statutes, as amended by this act. The commissioner shall be
7 responsible for implementing the policies and directives of the office.
8 The commissioner shall have the authority to designate any employee
9 as his or her agent to exercise all or part of the authority, powers and
10 duties of the commissioner in his or her absence. Said office shall be
11 within the Department of Education for administrative purposes.

12 (b) The office shall be responsible for:

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

15 (2) Developing and implementing the early childhood information
16 system, in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this act;

17 (3) Developing and reporting on the early childhood accountability
18 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of this act;

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

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

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

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

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

34 (9) Comparing and analyzing data collected pursuant to reporting
35 requirements created under subdivision (8) of this subsection with the
36 data collected in the state-wide public school information system,
37 pursuant to section 10-10a of the general statutes, for population-level
38 analysis of children and families;

39 (10) Continually monitoring and evaluating all early care and
40 education and child development programs and services, focusing on
41 program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental and
42 educational needs of all children, while retaining distinct separation
43 between quality improvement services and child day care licensing
44 services;

45 (11) Coordinating home visitation services across programs for
46 young children;

47 (12) Providing information and technical assistance to persons
48 seeking early care and education and child development programs and
49 services;

50 (13) Assisting state agencies and municipalities in obtaining
51 available federal funding for early care and education and child
52 development programs and services;

53 (14) Providing technical assistance and consultation to providers of
54 early childhood care and education programs and services or any
55 potential provider of such programs and services in obtaining the
56 necessary licensure and certification;

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

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

63 (17) Developing, in consultation with the Early Childhood Cabinet,
64 established pursuant to section 10-16z of the general statutes, as
65 amended by this act, and the Head Start advisory committee,
66 established pursuant to section 10-16n of the general statutes, as
67 amended by this act, the system's policy and program goals;

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

71 (19) Providing families with opportunities for choice in services
72 including quality child care and community-based family-centered
73 services;

74 (20) Integrating early childhood care and education and special
75 education services;

76 (21) Promoting universal access to early childhood care and
77 education;

78 (22) Ensuring nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation;

79 (23) Performing any other activities that will assist in the provision
80 of early care and education and child development programs and
81 services;

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

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

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

91 (d) The Office of Early Childhood shall constitute a successor
92 department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e
93 and 4-39 of the general statutes, to (1) the Department of Education
94 with respect to sections 8-210, 10-16n, 10-16p to 10-16s, inclusive, 10-
95 16u, 10-16w, 10-16aa, 17b-749a, 17b-749c and 17b-749g to 17b-749i,
96 inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (2) the
97 Department of Social Services (A) with respect to sections 17b-12, 17b-
98 705a, 17b-730, 17b-733 to 17b-736, inclusive, 17b-738, 17b-739, 17b-749,
99 17b-749d to 17b-749f, inclusive, 17b-749j, 17b-749k, 17b-750 to 17b-
100 751a, inclusive, 17b-751d and 17b-751e of the general statutes, as
101 amended by this act, and (B) for the purpose of administering the child
102 care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and
103 Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and (3) the Department of
104 Public Health (A) with respect to sections 10a-194c, 12-634, 17a-28, 17a-

105 101 and 19a-80f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (B) for
106 the purpose of regulating child day care services pursuant to sections
107 19a-77, 19a-79, 19a-80, 19a-82, 19a-84 and 19a-86 to 19a-87e, inclusive,
108 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (C) for the purpose
109 of administering the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home
110 Visiting Program authorized under the Patient Protection and
111 Affordable Care Act of 2010, P.L. 111-148.

112 Sec. 2. Section 4-5 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes is
113 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
114 *passage*):

115 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
116 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
117 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner on Aging,
118 Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner,
119 Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer
120 Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic
121 and Community Development, State Board of Education,
122 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
123 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
124 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,
125 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Liquor Control
126 Commission, Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
127 Commissioner of Social Services, Commissioner of Developmental
128 Services, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of
129 Transportation, Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, Commissioner of
130 Housing, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, the Commissioner
131 of the Office of Early Childhood and the executive director of the
132 Office of Military Affairs. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department
133 head" also means the Commissioner of Education.

134 Sec. 3. Section 10-16bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

136 [(a) On and after July 1, 2013, there shall be a coordinated system of
137 early care and education and child development. The coordinated

138 system of early care and education and child development shall consist
139 of comprehensive and aligned policies, responsibilities, practices and
140 services for young children and their families, including prenatal care
141 and care for children from birth to eight years of age, inclusive, to
142 ensure optimal health, safety and learning for each child, and that are
143 in accordance with the plan developed by the planning director
144 pursuant to section 10-16cc.

145 (b) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
146 development shall (1) create a unified set of reporting requirements for
147 the programs described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section
148 10-16cc, for the purpose of collecting the data elements necessary to
149 perform quality assessments and longitudinal analysis; (2) compare
150 and analyze the data collected pursuant to reporting requirements
151 created under subdivision (1) of this subsection with the data collected
152 in the state-wide public school information system, pursuant to section
153 10-10a, for population-level analysis of children and families; (3)
154 develop and update appropriate early learning standards and
155 assessment tools for children from birth to five years of age, inclusive,
156 that are age and developmentally appropriate and that are aligned
157 with existing learning standards as of July 1, 2013, and assessment
158 tools for students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive; (4)
159 continually monitor and evaluate all early childhood education and
160 child care programs and services, focusing on program outcomes in
161 satisfying the health, safety, developmental and educational needs of
162 all children; (5) develop indicators that assess strategies designed to
163 strengthen the family through parental involvement in a child's
164 development and education, including children with special needs; (6)
165 increase the availability of early childhood education and child care
166 programs and services and encourage the providers of such programs
167 and services to work together to create multiple options that allow
168 families to participate in programs that serve the particular needs of
169 each family; (7) provide information and technical assistance to
170 persons seeking early childhood education and child care programs
171 and services; (8) assist state agencies and municipalities in obtaining
172 available federal funding for early childhood education and child care

173 programs and services; (9) provide technical assistance and
174 consultation to licensed providers of early childhood education and
175 child care programs and services and assist any potential provider of
176 such programs and services in obtaining the necessary licensure and
177 certification; (10) incorporate the quality rating and improvement
178 system developed by the Department of Education that covers home-
179 based, center-based and school-based early child care and learning;
180 (11) maintain a system of accreditation facilitation to assist early
181 childhood education and child care programs and services in
182 achieving national standards and program improvement; (12) create
183 partnerships between state agencies and philanthropic organizations
184 to assist in the implementation of the coordinated system of early care
185 and education and child development; (13) align the system's policy
186 and program goals with those of the Early Childhood Education
187 Cabinet, pursuant to section 10-16z, and the Head Start advisory
188 committee, pursuant to section 10-16n; (14) ensure a coordinated and
189 comprehensive state-wide system of professional development for
190 providers of early childhood education and child care programs and
191 services; (15) develop family-centered services that assist families in
192 their communities; (16) provide families with opportunities for choice
193 in services including quality child care; (17) integrate early childhood
194 education and special education services; (18) emphasize targeted
195 research-based interventions; (19) organize services into a coherent
196 system; (20) coordinate a comprehensive and accessible delivery
197 system for early childhood education and child care services; (21) focus
198 on performance measures to ensure that services are accountable,
199 effective and accessible to the consumer; (22) promote universal access
200 to early childhood care and education; (23) ensure nonduplication of
201 monitoring and evaluation; (24) encourage, promote and coordinate
202 funding for the establishment and administration of local and regional
203 early childhood councils that implement local and regional birth-to-
204 eight systems; and (25) perform any other activities that will assist in
205 the provision of early childhood education and child care programs
206 and services.]

207 [(c) The coordinated system of early care and education and child

208 development] The Office of Early Childhood shall collaborate with
209 local and regional early childhood councils. [to implement the
210 coordinated system of early care and education and child development
211 at the local level.] Such early childhood councils shall: (1) Develop and
212 implement a comprehensive plan for an early childhood system for the
213 community served by such early childhood council, (2) develop policy
214 and program planning, (3) encourage community participation by
215 emphasizing substantial parental involvement, (4) collect, analyze and
216 evaluate data with a focus on program and service outcomes, (5)
217 allocate resources, and (6) perform any other functions that will assist
218 in the provision of early childhood programs and services. Such early
219 childhood councils may enter into memoranda of agreement with the
220 local or regional school readiness council, described in section 10-16r,
221 of the town or region served by such early childhood council to
222 perform the duties and functions of a school readiness council, in
223 accordance with the provisions of [said] section 10-16r, as amended by
224 this act, or if no such local or regional school readiness council exists
225 for the town or region of such early childhood council, perform the
226 duties and functions of a school readiness council, in accordance with
227 the provisions of section 10-16r, as amended by this act.

228 [(d) The coordinated system of early care and education and child
229 development may enter into memoranda of agreement with and accept
230 donations from nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to
231 accomplish the purposes of this section.]

232 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Early
233 Childhood shall develop and implement an early childhood
234 information system. Such early childhood information system shall
235 facilitate and encourage the sharing of data between and among early
236 childhood service providers by tracking (1) the health, safety and
237 school readiness of all young children receiving early care and
238 education services from any local or regional board of education,
239 school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p of the general
240 statutes, as amended by this act, or any program receiving public
241 funding, in a manner similar to the system described in section 10-10a

242 of the general statutes, (2) the characteristics of the existing and
243 potential workforce serving such children, and (3) the characteristics of
244 such programs serving such children.

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

252 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than December 31,
253 2015, the Office of Early Childhood shall develop, in consultation with
254 the Early Childhood Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z of
255 the general statutes, an early childhood accountability plan. Such plan
256 shall (1) identify and define appropriate population indicators and
257 program and system performance measures of the health, safety and
258 readiness of children to enter kindergarten, and early school success of
259 children, and shall identify any new or improved data required for
260 such purposes; and (2) include aggregate information on the
261 characteristics of children and programs tracked by the early
262 childhood information system, developed pursuant to section 4 of this
263 act, including, but not limited to, family income, whether the families
264 of such children receive assistance through temporary assistance for
265 needy families, pursuant to section 17b-112 of the general statutes, or a
266 similar program, and the communities in which such children reside
267 using a performance measurement accountability framework.

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

271 (c) Not later than January 15, 2016, the Office of Early Childhood
272 shall (1) submit the early childhood accountability plan, and (2)
273 annually report on the results of such plan and report cards to the joint
274 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of

275 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with
276 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

277 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Office of Early Childhood shall
278 develop, in consultation with the Department of Education, a plan for
279 (1) changing the requirement for when a child five years of age may
280 enroll in kindergarten pursuant to section 10-15c of the general statutes
281 from January first of any school year to October first of any school
282 year, and (2) the creation of spaces in school readiness programs and
283 public and private prekindergarten programs for those children who
284 reach five years of age after October first of any school year and are not
285 eligible to enroll in kindergarten for such school year. Not later than
286 June 30, 2015, the office shall submit such plan to the joint standing
287 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
288 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
289 4a of the general statutes.

290 Sec. 7. Section 10-14n of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
291 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
292 *from passage*):

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

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

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

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

309 (d) The scores on each component of the mastery examination for
310 each tenth or eleventh grade student may be included on the
311 permanent record and transcript of each such student who takes such
312 examination. For each tenth or eleventh grade student who meets or
313 exceeds the state-wide mastery goal level on any component of the
314 mastery examination, a certification of having met or exceeded such
315 goal level shall be made on the permanent record and the transcript of
316 each such student and such student shall be issued a certificate of
317 mastery for such component. Each tenth or eleventh grade student
318 who fails to meet the mastery goal level on each component of said
319 mastery examination may annually take or retake each such
320 component at its regular administration until such student scores at or
321 above each such state-wide mastery goal level or such student
322 graduates or reaches age twenty-one.

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

326 [(f) Not later than April 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Education
327 shall develop and implement a state-wide developmentally
328 appropriate kindergarten assessment tool that measures a child's level
329 of preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not be used as a
330 measurement tool for program accountability pursuant to section 10-
331 16s.]

332 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-266p of the 2014 supplement to
333 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
334 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

335 (a) The State Board of Education shall administer a priority school
336 district grant program to assist certain school districts to improve
337 student achievement and enhance educational opportunities. The

338 grant program shall include the priority school district portions of the
339 grant programs established pursuant to sections [10-16p,] 10-265f, 10-
340 265m and 10-266t. The grant program and its component parts shall be
341 for school districts in (1) the eight towns in the state with the largest
342 population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, (2)
343 towns which rank for the first fiscal year of each biennium from one to
344 eleven when all towns are ranked in descending order from one to one
345 hundred sixty-nine based on the number of children under the
346 temporary family assistance program, as defined in subdivision (17) of
347 section 10-262f, plus the mastery count of the town, as defined in
348 subdivision (13) of section 10-262f, and (3) towns which rank for the
349 first fiscal year of each biennium one to eleven when all towns are
350 ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based
351 on the ratio of the number of children under the temporary family
352 assistance program as so defined to the resident students of such town,
353 as defined in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, plus the grant mastery
354 percentage of the town, as defined in subdivision (12) of section 10-
355 262f. The State Board of Education shall utilize the categorical grant
356 program established under this section and sections 10-266q and 10-
357 266r and other educational resources of the state to work cooperatively
358 with such school districts during any school year to improve their
359 educational programs or [to provide early childhood education or]
360 early reading intervention programs. The component parts of the grant
361 shall be allocated according to the provisions of sections [10-16p,] 10-
362 265f, 10-265m and 10-266t. Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of
363 section 10-276a, the State Board of Education shall allocate one million
364 dollars to each of the eight towns described in subdivision (1) of this
365 subsection and five hundred thousand dollars to each of the towns
366 described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, except the
367 towns described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not receive
368 any additional allocation if they are also described in subdivision (2) or
369 (3) of this subsection.

370 Sec. 9. Section 10-16n of the general statutes is repealed and the
371 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

372 (a) The Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
373 Commissioner of Social Services,] the Office of Early Childhood shall
374 establish a competitive grant program to assist nonprofit agencies and
375 local and regional boards of education, which are federal Head Start
376 grantees, in (1) establishing extended-day and full-day, year-round,
377 Head Start programs or expanding existing Head Start programs to
378 extended-day or full-day, year-round programs, (2) enhancing
379 program quality, and (3) increasing the number of children served. The
380 commissioner, after consultation with the committee established
381 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall establish criteria for the
382 grants, provided at least twenty-five per cent of the funding for such
383 grants shall be for the purpose of enhancing program quality.
384 Nonprofit agencies or boards of education seeking grants pursuant to
385 this section shall make application to the [Commissioner of Education]
386 commissioner on such forms and at such times as the commissioner
387 shall prescribe. All grants pursuant to this section shall be funded
388 within the limits of available appropriations or otherwise from federal
389 funds and private donations. All full-day, year-round Head Start
390 programs funded pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with
391 federal Head Start performance standards.

392 (b) The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood shall
393 annually allocate to each town in which the number of children under
394 the [aid to dependent children] temporary family assistance program,
395 as defined in subdivision [(14)] (17) of section 10-262f, equals or
396 exceeds nine hundred children, determined for the fiscal year ending
397 June 30, 1996, an amount equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars
398 plus eight and one-half dollars for each child under the [aid to
399 dependent children] temporary family assistance program, provided
400 such amount may be reduced proportionately so that the total amount
401 awarded pursuant to this subsection does not exceed two million
402 seven hundred thousand dollars. The [department] office shall award
403 grants to the local and regional boards of education for such towns and
404 nonprofit agencies located in such towns which meet the criteria
405 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to maintain the
406 programs established or expanded with funds provided pursuant to

407 this subsection in the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, and June 30,
408 1997. Any funds remaining in the allocation to such a town after grants
409 are so awarded shall be used to increase allocations to other such
410 towns. Any funds remaining after grants are so awarded to boards of
411 education and nonprofit agencies in all such towns shall be available to
412 local and regional boards of education and nonprofit agencies in other
413 towns in the state for grants for such purposes.

414 (c) There is established a committee to advise the [Commissioner of
415 Education] commissioner concerning the coordination, priorities for
416 allocation and distribution, and utilization of funds for Head Start and
417 concerning the competitive grant program established under this
418 section, and to evaluate programs funded pursuant to this section. The
419 committee shall consist of the following members: (1) One member
420 designated by the [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner; (2)
421 six members who are directors of Head Start programs, two from
422 community action agency program sites or school readiness liaisons,
423 one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the
424 Senate and one by the speaker of the House of Representatives, two
425 from public school program sites, one of whom shall be appointed by
426 the majority leader of the Senate and one by the majority leader of the
427 House of Representatives, and two from other nonprofit agency
428 program sites, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader
429 of the Senate and one by the minority leader of the House of
430 Representatives; (3) one member designated by the Commission on
431 Children; (4) one member designated by the Early Childhood
432 [Education] Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z, as
433 amended by this act; (5) two members designated by the Head Start
434 Association, one of whom shall be the parent of a present or former
435 Head Start student; (6) one member designated by the Connecticut
436 Association for Community Action who shall have expertise and
437 experience concerning Head Start; (7) one member designated by the
438 Region I Office of Head Start within the federal Administration of
439 Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human
440 Services; and (8) the director of the Head Start Collaboration Office.

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

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

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

450 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
451 (A) meets the standards set by the [department] Office of Early
452 Childhood pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the
453 requirements of section 10-16q, as amended by this act, and (B)
454 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
455 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible
456 children, except as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q, as
457 amended by this act;

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

462 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
463 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
464 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
465 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
466 section 10-266p, as amended by this act, or in a former priority school
467 district receiving a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and,
468 on and after July 1, 2001, excluding such a school in a transitional
469 school district receiving a grant pursuant to section 10-16u, as
470 amended by this act;

471 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district

472 pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended by this act, or in a former
473 priority school district in which forty per cent or more of the lunches
474 served are served to students who are eligible for free or reduced price
475 lunches;

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

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

484 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Education] the
485 Office of Early Childhood; and

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

487 (8) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood.

488 (b) (1) The [Department of Education] office shall be the lead agency
489 for school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, as
490 amended by this act, school readiness program providers eligible for
491 funding from the [Department of Education] office shall include local
492 and regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,
493 family resource centers and providers of child day care centers, as
494 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, Head Start
495 programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet such
496 standards established by the [Commissioner of Education]
497 commissioner. The [department] office shall establish standards for
498 school readiness programs. The standards may include, but need not
499 be limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum
500 content, including preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent
501 involvement, staff qualifications and training, transition to school and
502 administration. The [department] office shall develop age-appropriate

503 developmental skills and goals for children attending such programs.
504 The commissioner, in consultation with the president of the Board of
505 Regents for Higher Education, the [Commissioner of] Commissioners
506 of Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall
507 develop a professional development program for the staff of school
508 readiness programs.

509 (2) For purposes of this section:

510 (A) Prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications" means there is in each
511 classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood
512 development associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by
513 an organization approved by the [Commissioner of Education]
514 commissioner and twelve credits or more in early childhood education
515 or child development, as determined by the commissioner or the
516 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after
517 consultation with the [Commissioners of Education and Social
518 Services] commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I)
519 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or [State
520 Board of Education] Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally
521 accredited; (ii) an associate's degree with twelve credits or more in
522 early childhood education or child development, as determined by the
523 commissioner or the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
524 Education, after consultation with the [Commissioners of Education
525 and Social Services] commissioner, from such an institution; (iii) a
526 four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood
527 education or child development, as determined by the commissioner
528 or the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after
529 consultation with the [Commissioners of Education and Social
530 Services] commissioner, from such an institution; or (iv) certification
531 pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood
532 education or special education;

533 (B) From July 1, 2015, [to] until June 30, 2020, "staff qualifications"
534 means that for each early childhood education program accepting state
535 funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such

536 program's child day care program or school readiness program, (i) at
537 least fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility
538 for a classroom of children hold (I) certification pursuant to section 10-
539 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early
540 childhood special education, or (II) a bachelor's degree with a
541 concentration in early childhood education, including, but not limited
542 to, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child study, child
543 development or human growth and development, from an institution
544 of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
545 Education or Office of Higher Education, and regionally accredited,
546 provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of
547 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education and the
548 [Department of Education] office, and (ii) such remaining individuals
549 with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children hold an
550 associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education,
551 including, but not limited to, an associate's degree in early childhood
552 education, child study, child development or human growth and
553 development, from an institution of higher education (I) accredited by
554 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
555 Education, and (II) regionally accredited, provided such associate
556 degree program is approved by the Board of Regents for Higher
557 Education or Office of Higher Education and the [Department of
558 Education] office; and

559 (C) On and after July 1, 2020, "staff qualifications" means that for
560 each early childhood education program accepting state funds for
561 infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
562 child day care program or school readiness program, one hundred per
563 cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a
564 classroom of children hold (i) certification pursuant to section 10-145b
565 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood
566 special education, or (ii) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in
567 early childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's
568 degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or
569 human growth and development, from an institution of higher
570 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education

571 or [State Board of Education] Office of Higher Education, and (II)
572 regionally accredited, provided such bachelor's degree program is
573 approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of
574 Higher Education and the [Department of Education] office.

575 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
576 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
577 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
578 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed [as a teacher] by an early
579 childhood education program that accepts state funds for infant,
580 toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's child day
581 care program or school readiness program [and meets the staff
582 qualifications required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of
583 this subsection] shall be considered to meet the staff qualifications
584 required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this
585 subsection. No such early childhood education program shall
586 terminate any such individual from employment for purposes of
587 meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph
588 (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection. [Any such individual
589 who terminates his or her employment with such early childhood
590 education program and accepts a teacher position at another early
591 childhood education program accepting state funds for spaces
592 associated with such program's child day care program or school
593 readiness program shall submit documentation of such individual's
594 progress toward meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth
595 in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection in a
596 manner determined by the Department of Education.]

597 (4) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
598 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
599 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
600 other than those bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs [(A)
601 and] (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, may submit
602 documentation concerning such degree for review and assessment by
603 the [Department of Education] office as to whether such degree has a
604 sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy

605 the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs [(A) and] (B) and (C).

606 (c) The [Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
607 Commissioner of Social Services,] commissioner shall establish a grant
608 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
609 eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
610 section 10-266p, as amended by this act, or in former priority school
611 districts as provided in this subsection. Under the program, the grant
612 shall be provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which
613 such priority school district or former priority school district is located.
614 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an
615 applicant's designation as a priority school district for the initial year
616 of application, except that if a school district that receives a grant
617 pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school
618 district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school
619 district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this
620 subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
621 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
622 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
623 priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a
624 plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local
625 request for proposal process to the [Departments of Education and
626 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and
627 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for
628 funding] commissioner. The commissioner shall review and approve
629 such plans. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the
630 local or regional school readiness council established pursuant to
631 section 10-16r, as amended by this act; (2) be based on a needs and
632 resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for
633 proposals for providers of accredited school readiness programs,
634 provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have
635 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the
636 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have
637 received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social
638 Services, pursuant to section 17b-749i, as amended by this act, on or
639 before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the office, are

640 exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests for
641 proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
642 17b-749a, as amended by this act, in order to extend the hours and
643 days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide
644 child day care services for children attending such programs.

645 (d) (1) The [Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
646 Commissioner of Social Services,] commissioner shall establish a
647 competitive grant program [to provide spaces in accredited school
648 readiness programs] for eligible children who reside (A) in an area
649 served by a priority school or a former priority school, [as provided for
650 in subdivision (2) of this subsection,] (B) in a town ranked one to fifty
651 when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
652 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school
653 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, as
654 amended by this act, or (C) in a town formerly a town described in
655 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2)
656 of this subsection. A town in which a priority school is located, a
657 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
658 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town
659 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a
660 grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred seven thousand dollars
661 per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-
662 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority
663 school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
664 subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
665 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
666 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
667 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school
668 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
669 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the
670 [Department of Education] commissioner. In awarding grants
671 pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to
672 applications submitted by regional school readiness councils and may,
673 within available appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one
674 hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority

675 schools in such district. A town or regional school readiness council
676 awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to
677 purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited school
678 readiness programs.

679 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
680 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town
681 received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is
682 no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a
683 phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
684 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
685 this subsection.

686 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
687 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
688 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
689 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
690 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
691 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
692 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
693 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
694 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
695 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
696 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year
697 following the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
698 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
699 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
700 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
701 this subsection.

702 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
703 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph
704 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June
705 30, 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if
706 the town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
707 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

708 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
709 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
710 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
711 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
712 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
713 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
714 section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except that such per child cost
715 shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round, and (B)
716 multiplying the number of additional or decreased slots the districts
717 have requested for the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid by
718 the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
719 section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except such per child cost shall
720 be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If said sum exceeds
721 the available appropriation, such number of requested additional slots
722 shall be reduced, as determined by the [Commissioner of Education]
723 commissioner, to stay within the available appropriation.

724 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
725 this section are not expended, the [Commissioner of Education]
726 commissioner may deposit such unexpended funds in the account
727 established under section 10-16aa, as amended by this act, and use
728 such unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of section
729 10-16aa, as amended by this act.

730 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2012] 2015, and each fiscal
731 year thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c)
732 of this section are not expended, an amount up to five hundred
733 thousand dollars of such unexpended funds may be available for the
734 provision of professional development for early childhood care and
735 education program providers, [offered by a professional development
736 and program improvement system within the Connecticut State
737 University System] and staff employed in such programs, provided
738 such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool
739 slots. Such unexpended funds may be available for use in accordance
740 with the provisions of this subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year.
741 The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may use such

742 unexpended funds on and after [July 1, 2012, in consultation with the
743 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education] July 1, 2015, to
744 support early childhood education programs accepting state funds in
745 satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B)
746 and (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The
747 [Department of Education] commissioner shall use any such funds to
748 provide assistance to individual staff members, giving priority to those
749 staff members (i) attending an institution of higher education [(i)
750 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or [State
751 Board of Education] Office of Higher Education, and approved by the
752 office, and [(ii)] regionally accredited, at a maximum of five thousand
753 dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher education
754 courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than December 31,
755 [2013] 2015, an associate's degree, as such degrees are described in said
756 subparagraphs (B) and (C), [at an in-state public institution of higher
757 education or a Connecticut-based for-profit or nonprofit institution of
758 higher education] or (ii) receiving noncredit competency-based
759 training approved by the office, at a maximum of one thousand dollars
760 per staff member per year, provided such staff members have applied
761 for all available federal and state scholarships and grants, and such
762 assistance does not exceed such staff members' financial need.
763 Individual staff members shall apply for such unexpended funds in a
764 manner determined by the [Department of Education] commissioner.
765 The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner shall determine [, in
766 consultation with the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
767 Education,] how such unexpended funds shall be distributed.

768 (C) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
769 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
770 deposited pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or used
771 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the [Commissioner
772 of Education] commissioner may use such unexpended funds to
773 support local school readiness programs. The commissioner may use
774 such funds for purposes including, but not limited to, (i) assisting local
775 school readiness programs in meeting and maintaining accreditation
776 requirements, (ii) providing training in implementing the preschool

777 assessment and curriculum frameworks, including training to enhance
778 literacy teaching skills, (iii) developing a state-wide preschool
779 curriculum, (iv) developing student assessments for students in grades
780 kindergarten to two, inclusive, (v) developing and implementing best
781 practices for parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten student
782 learning, (vi) developing and implementing strategies for children to
783 transition from preschool to kindergarten, (vii) providing for
784 professional development, including assisting in career ladder
785 advancement, for school readiness staff, and (viii) providing
786 supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for grants
787 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

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

794 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
795 this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, shall not
796 discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion
797 or disability. For purposes of this section, a nonsectarian program
798 means any public or private school readiness program that is not
799 violative of the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the State of
800 Connecticut or the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the
801 United States of America.

802 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
803 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
804 16u, as amended by this act, shall be used to supplant federal, state or
805 local funding received by such town for early childhood education,
806 provided a town may use an amount determined in accordance with
807 this subsection for coordination, program evaluation and
808 administration. Such amount shall be at least twenty-five thousand
809 dollars but not more than seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be

810 determined by the [Department of Education, in consultation with the
811 Department of Social Services,] commissioner based on the school
812 readiness grant award allocated to the town pursuant to subsection (c)
813 or (d) of this section or section 10-16u, as amended by this act, and the
814 number of operating sites for coordination, program evaluation and
815 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
816 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
817 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed twenty-five
818 thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to
819 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u, as amended by
820 this act, shall designate a person to be responsible for such
821 coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a
822 liaison between the town and the [Departments of Education and
823 Social Services] commissioner. Each school readiness program that
824 receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, as amended
825 by this act, shall provide information to the [department]
826 commissioner or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
827 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

828 (h) For the first three years a town receives grants pursuant to this
829 section, such grants may be used, with the approval of the
830 commissioner, to prepare a facility or staff for operating a school
831 readiness program and shall be adjusted based on the number of days
832 of operation of a school readiness program if a shorter term of
833 operation is approved by the commissioner.

834 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
835 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
836 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
837 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who
838 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
839 readiness program located outside such region.

840 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
841 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for
842 purposes of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the

843 determination of average daily membership pursuant to subdivision
844 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-261.

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

849 Sec. 11. Section 10-16q of the general statutes is repealed and the
850 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

851 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
852 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
853 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
854 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
855 children of working parents and parents in education or training
856 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
857 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
858 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
859 insurance company and information on whether the child is
860 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
861 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
862 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
863 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
864 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
865 training in such practices; (5) nutrition services; (6) referrals to family
866 literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide
867 for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
868 (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of children from
869 different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other
870 communities; (8) a plan of transition for participating children from the
871 school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer
872 of records from the program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan
873 for professional development for staff, including, but not limited to,
874 training (A) in preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to
875 assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for

876 families participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d, as
877 amended by this act; and (11) an annual evaluation of the effectiveness
878 of the program. [On and after July 1, 2000, school readiness programs
879 shall use the assessment measures developed pursuant to section 10-
880 16s in conducting their annual evaluations.]

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

885 [(2)] (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2009] 2014, and each
886 fiscal year thereafter, the per child cost of the [Department of
887 Education] Office of Early Childhood school readiness program
888 offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand
889 three hundred forty-six dollars.

890 [(3)] (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section
891 10-16p, as amended by this act, the [Department of Education] office
892 shall not provide funding to any school readiness provider that (A) on
893 or before January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a town to
894 provide school readiness services pursuant to this section and is not
895 accredited on January 1, 2007, or (B) after January 1, 2004, first entered
896 into a contract with a town to provide school readiness services
897 pursuant to this section and does not become accredited by the date
898 three years after the date on which the provider first entered into such
899 a contract, except that the [Commissioner of Education] commissioner
900 may grant an extension of time for a school readiness program to
901 become accredited or reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such
902 extension, the [Department of Education] office conducts an on-site
903 assessment of any such program and maintains a report of such
904 assessment completed in a uniform manner, as prescribed by the
905 commissioner, that includes a list of conditions such program must
906 fulfill to become accredited or reaccredited, (ii) on or before June 30,
907 2014, the program is licensed by the Department of Public Health if
908 required to be licensed by chapter 368a, and on and after July 1, 2014,

909 the program is licensed by the office if required to be licensed by
910 chapter 368a, (iii) the program has a corrective action plan that shall be
911 prescribed by and monitored by the [Commissioner of Education]
912 office, and (iv) the program meets such other conditions as may be
913 prescribed by the commissioner. During the period of such extension,
914 such program shall be eligible for funding pursuant to [said] section
915 10-16p, as amended by this act.

916 [(4)] (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care
917 services and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject
918 to such per child cost limitation.

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

922 (d) A town or school readiness council may file a waiver application
923 to the [Department of Education] office on forms provided by the
924 [department] office for the purpose of seeking approval of a school
925 readiness schedule that varies from the minimum hours and number
926 of days provided for in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-
927 16p, as amended by this act, or from the definition of a year-round
928 program pursuant to subdivision [(7) of said] (6) of subsection (a) of
929 section 10-16p, as amended by this act. The [Department of Education]
930 office may [, in consultation with the Department of Social Services,]
931 approve any such waiver if the [departments find] office finds that the
932 proposed schedule meets the purposes set forth in the provisions of
933 section 10-160 concerning the development of school readiness
934 programs and maximizes available dollars to serve more children or
935 address community needs.

936 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-16r of the general statutes is
937 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
938 *1, 2014*):

939 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
940 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of

941 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
942 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
943 act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this act,
944 and 17b-749c, as amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among
945 providers of school readiness programs; (3) assist in the identification
946 of (A) the need for school readiness programs and the number of
947 children not being served by such a program, and (B) for priority
948 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended by this act,
949 the number of children not being served by such a program and the
950 estimated operating cost of providing universal school readiness to
951 eligible children in such districts who are not being served; (4) submit
952 biennial reports to the [Department of Education] Office of Early
953 Childhood on the number and location of school readiness spaces and
954 estimates of future needs; (5) submit biennial reports on factors
955 identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection; (6) cooperate
956 with the [department] office in any program evaluation [and, on and
957 after July 1, 2000, use measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s]
958 for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of school readiness
959 programs; (7) identify existing and prospective resources and services
960 available to children and families; (8) facilitate the coordination of the
961 delivery of services to children and families, including (A) referral
962 procedures, and (B) before and after-school child care for children
963 attending kindergarten programs; (9) exchange information with other
964 councils, the community and organizations serving the needs of
965 children and families; (10) make recommendations to school officials
966 concerning transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten;
967 and (11) encourage public participation.

968 Sec. 13. Section 10-16u of the general statutes is repealed and the
969 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

970 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2002] 2015, and each fiscal year
971 thereafter, the Commissioner of [Education, in consultation with the
972 Commissioner of Social Services,] the Office of Early Childhood shall
973 provide grants, within available appropriations, to eligible school
974 readiness program providers pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-

975 16p, as amended by this act, to provide spaces in accredited school
976 readiness programs for eligible children who reside in transitional
977 school districts pursuant to section 10-263c, except for transitional
978 school districts eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of section
979 10-16p, as amended by this act. Under the program, the grant shall be
980 provided to the town in which such transitional school district is
981 located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on
982 a school district's designation as a transitional school district in the
983 initial year of application, except that grants pursuant to this section
984 shall not be provided for transitional school districts eligible for grants
985 pursuant to subsection (c) of [said] section 10-16p, as amended by this
986 act. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available
987 funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official
988 of such town and the superintendent of schools for such transitional
989 school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds
990 and responses to the local request for proposal process to the
991 [Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments shall
992 jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of such
993 plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall] commissioner.
994 The commissioner shall review and approve such plans, provided such
995 plans meet the requirements specified in subsection (c) of [said] section
996 10-16p, as amended by this act.

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

999 [Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Education]
1000 The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood shall provide,
1001 within available appropriations, technical assistance and training to
1002 [school readiness programs] early childhood providers to assist in the
1003 [application of preschool curriculum guidelines adopted by the State
1004 Board of Education] implementation of the early learning and
1005 development standards developed by the Office of Early Childhood,
1006 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

1007 Sec. 15. Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the

1008 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1009 (a) There is established the Early Childhood [Education] Cabinet.
1010 The cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of the Office of
1011 Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the
1012 Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, [(2) one
1013 representative from the Department of Education who is responsible
1014 for programs required under the Individuals With Disabilities
1015 Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time,
1016 appointed by the Commissioner of Education,] (3) the Commissioner
1017 of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, (4) [a representative
1018 from an institution of higher education in this state appointed by] the
1019 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or the
1020 president's designee, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the
1021 commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental
1022 Services, or the commissioner's designee, (7) the Commissioner of
1023 Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, (8) the
1024 executive director of the Commission on Children, or the executive
1025 director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head
1026 Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child
1027 who attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the
1028 minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative
1029 of a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the
1030 minority leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut
1031 Family Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of
1032 the House of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state funded
1033 child care center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14)
1034 two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of
1035 whom is a member of [the House of Representatives] a board of
1036 education for a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in
1037 section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who has a child
1038 attending a school in [a priority school district] an educational reform
1039 district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the
1040 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is [a member of the
1041 Senate] a representative of an association of early education and child
1042 care providers and one of whom is a representative of a public

1043 elementary school with a prekindergarten program, (16) [two] four
1044 appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the
1045 Connecticut Head Start Association, [and] one of whom is a
1046 representative of the business [or philanthropic] community in this
1047 state, one of whom is a representative of the philanthropic community
1048 in this state and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
1049 State Employees Association, and (17) the Secretary of the Office of
1050 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. [The chairperson
1051 of the council shall be appointed from among its members by the
1052 Governor.]

1053 (b) The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood shall serve
1054 as a cochairperson of the cabinet. The other cochairperson of the
1055 cabinet shall be appointed from among its members by the Governor.
1056 The cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Members shall not be
1057 compensated for their services. Any member who fails to attend three
1058 consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all
1059 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have
1060 resigned from the cabinet.

1061 [(b)] (c) Within available [appropriations and such private funding
1062 as may be available] resources, the Early Childhood [Education]
1063 Cabinet shall (1) [coordinate among state agencies, as well as public
1064 and private partnerships, the development of services that enhance the
1065 health, safety and learning of children from birth to nine years of age,
1066 inclusive] advise the Office of Early Childhood, established pursuant
1067 to section 1 of this act, (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and
1068 annually thereafter, develop an annual plan of action that assigns the
1069 appropriate state agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal
1070 Head Start Act of 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time,
1071 and (3) not later than March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an
1072 annual state-wide strategic report, pursuant to said federal Head Start
1073 Act, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the
1074 progress such agencies have made toward the completion of such tasks
1075 outlined under said federal Head Start Act and this subsection to the
1076 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly

1077 having cognizance of matters relating to education and human
1078 services.

1079 [(c)] (d) The Early Childhood [Education] Cabinet shall be within
1080 the [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood for
1081 administrative purposes only.

1082 Sec. 16. Section 10-16aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
1083 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1084 There is established an account to be known as the competitive
1085 district grant account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account
1086 within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
1087 required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account
1088 shall be expended by the Commissioner of [Education] the Office of
1089 Early Childhood for the purposes of providing grants to competitive
1090 school districts to make slots available in [preschool] school readiness
1091 programs. For purposes of this section, "competitive school district"
1092 means a school district described in [subdivision (1) of] subsection (d)
1093 of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, that has more than nine
1094 thousand students enrolled in schools in the district.

1095 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Office of Early Childhood
1096 is designated as the state agency for the administration of the child
1097 care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and
1098 Development Block Grant Act of 1990.

1099 Sec. 18. Section 17b-2 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
1100 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1101 *1, 2014*):

1102 The Department of Social Services is designated as the state agency
1103 for the administration of (1) [the child care development block grant
1104 pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990;
1105 (2)] the Connecticut energy assistance program pursuant to the Low
1106 Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; [(3)] (2) the state plan for
1107 vocational rehabilitation services for the fiscal year ending June 30,

1108 1994; [(4)] (3) the refugee assistance program pursuant to the Refugee
1109 Act of 1980; [(5)] (4) the legalization impact assistance grant program
1110 pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; [(6)] (5)
1111 the temporary assistance for needy families program pursuant to the
1112 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
1113 1996; [(7)] (6) the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social
1114 Security Act; [(8)] (7) the supplemental nutrition assistance program
1115 pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; [(9)] (8) the state
1116 supplement to the Supplemental Security Income Program pursuant to
1117 the Social Security Act; [(10)] (9) the state child support enforcement
1118 plan pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act; and [(11)] (10)
1119 the state social services plan for the implementation of the social
1120 services block grants and community services block grants pursuant to
1121 the Social Security Act.

1122 Sec. 19. Subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of section 17b-705a of the
1123 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1124 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1125 (c) On or after July 1, [2012] 2014, and monthly thereafter, the
1126 Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood shall
1127 compile a list of the names of family child care providers who have
1128 participated in the child care subsidy program established pursuant to
1129 section 17b-749, as amended by this act, within the previous six
1130 calendar months. Such list shall be considered a public record, as
1131 defined in section 1-200.

1132 (d) For purposes of sections 4-65a and 5-270 and subsection (a) of
1133 section 5-278, the [Department of Social Services] Office of Early
1134 Childhood shall be considered an executive branch employer and an
1135 organization representing family child care providers that has been
1136 designated by the State Board of Labor Relations, pursuant to section
1137 5-275 or subsection (g) of this section, as the exclusive bargaining agent
1138 of such providers, shall have the right to bargain [with the state]
1139 concerning the terms and conditions of participation of family child
1140 care providers in the program covered by this section, including, but

1141 not limited to, (1) state reimbursement rates, (2) benefits, (3) payment
1142 procedures, (4) contract grievance arbitration, and (5) training,
1143 professional development and other requirements and opportunities
1144 appropriate for family child care providers.

1145 (e) (1) If the organization representing family child care providers
1146 and the [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood do
1147 not reach an agreement not later than one hundred fifty days after
1148 negotiations have begun, the parties shall jointly select an arbitrator.
1149 The arbitrator selected shall have experience as an impartial arbitrator
1150 of labor-management disputes, and shall not be an individual
1151 employed as an advocate or consultant for labor or management in
1152 labor-management disputes. If the parties fail to agree on an arbitrator
1153 not later than one hundred sixty days after negotiations have begun,
1154 the selection of the arbitrator shall be made using the procedures
1155 under the voluntary labor arbitration rules of the American Arbitration
1156 Association.

1157 (2) Each party shall submit to the arbitrator, and to each other, a
1158 proposal setting forth such party's position on how each of the
1159 unresolved issues shall be resolved.

1160 (3) The arbitrator shall convene a hearing to allow the parties to
1161 provide evidence and argument to the arbitrator. The parties shall
1162 have the right to submit written briefs to the arbitrator. The arbitration
1163 record shall be officially closed at the close of the hearing, or the
1164 arbitrator's receipt of briefs, whichever is later.

1165 (4) The arbitrator's authority is limited to selecting the complete
1166 proposal of one party or the other on any unresolved issue. The
1167 arbitrator shall issue an award not later than forty-five days after the
1168 close of the record.

1169 (5) The factors to be considered by the arbitrator in arriving at a
1170 decision are: (A) The nature and needs of the family child care
1171 program and the needs and welfare of parents and children served by
1172 that program, including interests in better recruitment, retention and

1173 quality with respect to the covered family child care provider; (B) the
1174 history of negotiations between the parties including those leading to
1175 the instant proceeding; (C) the existing conditions of employment of
1176 similar groups of workers; (D) changes in the cost of living; and (E) the
1177 interests and welfare of the covered family child care providers.

1178 (6) The costs of the arbitrator and any fees associated with the
1179 arbitration proceeding shall be shared equally by the parties.

1180 (7) Any agreement or award reached pursuant to this section shall
1181 be submitted to the General Assembly for approval by filing the
1182 agreement or award with the clerks of the House and Senate. No
1183 provision of any agreement or award resulting from the collective
1184 bargaining process which would require supercedence of any law or
1185 regulation shall take effect without affirmative legislative approval.

1186 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any
1187 provision in any agreement or award which would require an
1188 additional appropriation in order to maintain the levels of services
1189 provided by existing appropriations shall be presented to the General
1190 Assembly for approval in accordance with the budgetary process
1191 applicable to appropriations, including, but not limited to, affirmative
1192 legislative approval. Other provisions of the agreement or award shall
1193 be deemed approved unless affirmatively rejected by a majority of
1194 either house not later than thirty days after the filing with the clerk of
1195 that chamber, provided the thirty-day period shall not begin or expire
1196 unless the General Assembly is in regular session. Once approved by
1197 the General Assembly, any provision of an agreement or award need
1198 not be resubmitted by the parties to such agreement or award as part
1199 of a future agreement approval process unless changes in the language
1200 of such provision are negotiated by the parties.

1201 Sec. 20. Section 17b-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1203 The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood
1204 may accept and receive, on behalf of the [Department of Social

1205 Services] Office of Early Childhood or on behalf of the Children's Trust
1206 Fund, established pursuant to section 17b-751, as amended by this act,
1207 any bequest or gift of personal property for services for a person who
1208 is, or members of whose immediate family are, receiving assistance or
1209 services from the [Department of Social Services, or both,] office or for
1210 services for a former recipient of assistance from the Department of
1211 Social Services or a potential recipient of assistance from the
1212 [Department of Social Services] office or for programs or services
1213 described in section 17b-751, as amended by this act. Any federal
1214 funds generated by virtue of any such bequest or gift may be used for
1215 the extension of services to such person or family members.

1216 Sec. 21. Section 17b-730 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1217 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1218 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early
1219 Childhood is authorized to take advantage of any federal statutes and
1220 regulations relating to child day care and shall have the power to
1221 administer any federally-assisted child day care program in the event
1222 that [said] such federal statutes or regulations require that [said] such
1223 federally-assisted program be administered by a single state agency.

1224 (b) The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early
1225 Childhood is authorized to take advantage of Title V of Public Law 88-
1226 452, entitled "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964", with respect to
1227 providing work training, aid and assistance to persons eligible for
1228 state-administered general assistance or public assistance, and to
1229 administer the same in such manner as is required for the receipt of
1230 federal funds therefor.

1231 Sec. 22. Section 17b-733 of the 2014 supplement to the general
1232 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1233 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1234 The [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood shall
1235 be the lead agency for child day care services in Connecticut. The
1236 [department] office shall: (1) Identify, annually, existing child day care

1237 services and maintain an inventory of all available services; (2) provide
1238 technical assistance to corporations and private agencies in the
1239 development and expansion of child day care services for families at
1240 all income levels, including families of their employees and clients; (3)
1241 study and identify funding sources available for child day care
1242 including federal funds and tax benefits; (4) study the cost and
1243 availability of liability insurance for child day care providers; (5)
1244 [provide, in conjunction with the Departments of Education and
1245 Higher Education, ongoing training for child day care providers
1246 including preparing videotaped workshops and distributing them to
1247 cable stations for broadcast on public access stations, and seek private
1248 donations to fund such training; (6)] encourage child day care services
1249 to obtain accreditation; [(7)] (6) develop a range of financing options
1250 for child care services, including the use of a tax-exempt bond
1251 program, a loan guarantee program and establishing a direct revolving
1252 loan program; [(8)] (7) promote the colocation of child day care and
1253 school readiness programs pursuant to section 4b-31; [(9)] (8) establish
1254 a performance-based evaluation system; [(10)] (9) develop for
1255 recommendation to the Governor and the General Assembly measures
1256 to provide incentives for the private sector to develop and support
1257 expanded child day care services; [(11)] (10) provide, within available
1258 funds and in conjunction with the temporary family assistance
1259 program, as defined in section 17b-680, and administered by the
1260 Department of Social Services, child day care to public assistance
1261 recipients; [(12)] (11) develop and implement, with the assistance of the
1262 [Departments of Public Health, Social Services, Education, Higher
1263 Education, Children and Families, Economic and Community
1264 Development and Consumer Protection, a state-wide coordinated
1265 child day care and early childhood education training system (A) for
1266 child day care centers, group day care homes and family day care
1267 homes that provide child day care services, and (B)] Early Childhood
1268 Cabinet, established pursuant to section 10-16z, as amended by this
1269 act, a coordinated and comprehensive state-wide early childhood care
1270 and education system of professional development for providers and
1271 staff of early childhood care and education programs, including child

1272 day care centers, group day care homes and family day care homes
1273 that provide child day care services, that makes available to such
1274 providers and their staff, within available appropriations, scholarship
1275 assistance, career counseling and training [,] and advancement in
1276 career ladders, as defined in section 4-124bb; [, through seamless
1277 articulation of levels of training, program accreditation support and
1278 other initiatives recommended by the Departments of Social Services,
1279 Education and Higher Education; (13)] (12) plan and implement a unit
1280 cost reimbursement system for state-funded child day care services
1281 such that, on and after January 1, 2008, any increase in reimbursement
1282 shall be based on a requirement that such centers meet the staff
1283 qualifications, as defined in subsection (b) of section 10-16p, as
1284 amended by this act; [(14)] (13) develop, within available funds,
1285 initiatives to increase compensation paid to child day care providers
1286 for educational opportunities, including, but not limited to, (A)
1287 incentives for educational advancement paid to persons employed by
1288 child day care centers receiving state or federal funds, and (B) support
1289 for the establishment and implementation by the Labor Commissioner
1290 of apprenticeship programs for child day care workers pursuant to
1291 sections 31-22m to 31-22q, inclusive, which programs shall be jointly
1292 administered by labor and management trustees; [(15)] (14) evaluate
1293 the effectiveness of any initiatives developed pursuant to subdivision
1294 [(14)] (13) of this section in improving staff retention rates and the
1295 quality of education and care provided to children; and [(16)] (15)
1296 report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly, in
1297 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the status of child
1298 day care in Connecticut. Such report shall include (A) an itemization of
1299 the allocation of state and federal funds for child care programs; (B) the
1300 number of children served under each program so funded; (C) the
1301 number and type of such programs, providers and support personnel;
1302 (D) state activities to encourage partnership between the public and
1303 private sectors; (E) average payments issued by the state for both part-
1304 time and full-time child care; (F) range of family income and
1305 percentages served within each range by such programs; and (G) age
1306 range of children served.

1307 Sec. 23. Section 17b-734 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1308 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1309 The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood
1310 shall establish and administer a program of grants to municipalities
1311 and state agencies for the purpose of planning, site preparation,
1312 construction, renovation or acquisition of facilities for use as child care
1313 facilities to be used primarily by the children of employees of such
1314 municipalities or state agencies and other potential participants. If
1315 openings occur for other potential participants in such a child care
1316 facility, priority for such openings shall be given to families at or below
1317 seventy-five per cent of the state's median income.

1318 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 17b-735 of the general statutes is
1319 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1320 *1, 2014*):

1321 (a) For the purposes described in section 17b-734, as amended by
1322 this act, and for the payment of any administrative expenses of the
1323 [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood related
1324 thereto the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to
1325 time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more
1326 series and principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate six million
1327 twenty-four thousand seven hundred ninety-eight dollars, provided
1328 one million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2000.

1329 Sec. 25. Section 17b-736 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1330 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1331 The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood
1332 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to carry out the
1333 purposes of sections 17b-734 and 17b-735, as amended by this act.

1334 Sec. 26. Section 17b-737 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1335 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1336 The Commissioner of [Social Services] Education shall establish a
1337 program, within available appropriations, to provide grants to

1338 municipalities, boards of education and child care providers to
1339 encourage the use of school facilities for the provision of child day care
1340 services before and after school. In order to qualify for a grant, a
1341 municipality, board of education or child care provider shall guarantee
1342 the availability of a school site which meets the standards set on or
1343 before June 30, 2014, by the Department of Public Health and on and
1344 after July 1, 2014, by the Office of Early Childhood in regulations
1345 adopted under sections 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-79, as
1346 amended by this act, 19a-80, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-
1347 87a, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall agree to provide
1348 liability insurance coverage for the program. Grant funds shall be used
1349 by the municipality, board of education or child care provider for the
1350 maintenance and utility costs directly attributable to the use of the
1351 school facility for the day care program, for related transportation costs
1352 and for the portion of the municipality, board of education or child
1353 care provider liability insurance cost and other operational costs
1354 directly attributable to the day care program. The municipality or
1355 board of education may contract with a child day care provider for the
1356 program. The Commissioner of [Social Services] Education may adopt
1357 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for
1358 purposes of this section. The commissioner may utilize available child
1359 care subsidies to implement the provisions of this section and
1360 encourage association and cooperation with the Head Start program
1361 established pursuant to section 10-16n, as amended by this act.

1362 Sec. 27. Section 17b-738 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1363 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1364 The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood
1365 shall establish and administer a program of loans to business firms, as
1366 defined in subsection (a) of section 12-631, for the purpose of planning,
1367 site preparation, construction, renovation or acquisition of facilities,
1368 within the state, for use as licensed child day care centers, family day
1369 care homes or group day care homes to be used primarily by the
1370 children of employees of such corporations and children of employees
1371 of the municipalities in which such facilities are located. Such loans

1372 shall be made in accordance with the terms and conditions as provided
1373 in regulations adopted by the [Commissioner of Social Services]
1374 commissioner, in accordance with chapter 54, shall be made for a
1375 period not to exceed five years and shall bear interest at a rate to be
1376 determined in accordance with subsection (t) of section 3-20.

1377 Sec. 28. Section 17b-739 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1378 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1379 Whenever the state (1) constructs, acquires or receives as a gift any
1380 office building which accommodates three hundred or more state
1381 employees, or (2) alters, repairs or makes additions to an existing state
1382 building which accommodates three hundred or more employees and
1383 such alterations, repairs or additions affect at least twenty-five per cent
1384 of the square footage of such building, the Department of
1385 Administrative Services shall notify the [Department of Social
1386 Services] Office of Early Childhood. The [Department of Social
1387 Services] office, with the assistance of the Department of
1388 Administrative Services, shall determine the need for child care
1389 services for the employees in such building and other potential
1390 participants. If a demonstrated need for child care exists for thirty or
1391 more children of such employees and other potential participants and
1392 such care is unavailable, the Department of Administrative Services
1393 shall set aside adequate space for child care facilities in such building.
1394 If openings occur for other potential participants in such a child care
1395 facility, priority for such openings shall be given to families at or below
1396 seventy-five per cent of the state's median income. Such facilities shall
1397 meet all state licensure requirements. The provisions of this section
1398 shall not apply to correctional institutions.

1399 Sec. 29. Section 17b-749 of the 2014 supplement to the general
1400 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1401 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1402 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early
1403 Childhood shall establish and operate a child care subsidy program to
1404 increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services

1405 for families with a parent or caretaker who is working, attending high
1406 school or who receives cash assistance under the temporary family
1407 assistance program from the Department of Social Services and is
1408 participating in an approved education, training, or other job
1409 preparation activity. Services available under the child care program
1410 shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children under
1411 the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special
1412 needs. The [department] Office of Early Childhood shall open and
1413 maintain enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall
1414 administer such program within the existing budgetary resources
1415 available. The [department] office shall issue a notice on the
1416 [department's] office's Internet web site and shall provide written
1417 notice to recipients of program benefits and to service providers any
1418 time the [department] office closes the program to new applications,
1419 changes eligibility requirements, changes program benefits or makes
1420 any other change to the program's status or terms, provided the
1421 [department] office shall not be required to issue such notice when the
1422 [department] office expands program eligibility. Any change in the
1423 [department's] office's acceptance of new applications, eligibility
1424 requirements, program benefits or any other change to the program's
1425 status or terms for which the [department] office is required to give
1426 notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty
1427 days after the [department] office issues such notice.

1428 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
1429 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
1430 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
1431 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
1432 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
1433 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
1434 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
1435 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
1436 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
1437 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
1438 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
1439 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family

1440 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
1441 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
1442 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

1443 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
1444 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards
1445 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility
1446 system with preference given to serving recipients of temporary family
1447 assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities
1448 under the [department's] Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"
1449 program, working families whose temporary family assistance was
1450 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application
1451 for the child care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working
1452 families, adoptive families of children who were adopted from the
1453 Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of
1454 income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
1455 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
1456 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
1457 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
1458 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
1459 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
1460 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
1461 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
1462 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
1463 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
1464 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
1465 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers
1466 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which
1467 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding
1468 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative
1469 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate
1470 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover
1471 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment
1472 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy
1473 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
1474 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy

1475 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
1476 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
1477 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
1478 issued annually by the [Department of Social Services] office to the
1479 Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with [subdivision
1480 (10) of] section 17b-733, as amended by this act. Such action will
1481 include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of
1482 state and length of time on such waiting list.

1483 (d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2011, an applicant determined to be
1484 eligible for program benefits shall remain eligible for such benefits for
1485 a period of not less than eight months from the date that such
1486 applicant is determined to be eligible, provided the [commissioner]
1487 Commissioner of Social Services has not determined, during such
1488 eight-month period, that the applicant's circumstances have changed
1489 so as to render the applicant ineligible for program benefits. The
1490 [commissioner] Commissioner of Social Services shall not make an
1491 eligibility determination for a recipient of program benefits more than
1492 one time per eight-month period, except as provided in subsection (f)
1493 of this section.

1494 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of the Office of Early
1495 Childhood shall succeed the Commissioner of Social Services for the
1496 purpose of making the eligibility determinations pursuant to
1497 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1498 (e) Within available appropriations, a recipient of program benefits
1499 who takes unpaid leave from such recipient's employment due to the
1500 birth or impending birth of a child shall be granted not more than six
1501 weeks of payment eligibility during the leave if: (1) The recipient
1502 intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave; (2) the
1503 recipient verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a slot
1504 in a school-based program or licensed child care setting; and (3) the
1505 child receiving child care services under the program continues to
1506 attend the program during the recipient's leave.

1507 (f) (1) Not later than October 15, 2011, the [commissioner]

1508 Commissioner of Social Services shall submit a report, in accordance
1509 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
1510 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
1511 services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
1512 concerning eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis.
1513 Such report shall include an analysis of overpayments of program
1514 benefits made by the [department] Department of Social Services and
1515 administrative costs incurred by the department as a result of
1516 eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and
1517 after October 15, 2011, and until June 30, 2014, the [commissioner]
1518 Commissioner of Social Services may make eligibility redeterminations
1519 on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the department's
1520 overpayments of program benefits have increased in comparison with
1521 the period between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010, as a result
1522 of having an eight-month eligibility redetermination period.

1523 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
1524 Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood shall submit a report,
1525 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
1526 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1527 relating to human services and appropriations concerning eligibility
1528 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall
1529 include an analysis of overpayments of program benefits made by the
1530 office and administrative costs incurred by the office as a result of
1531 eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and
1532 after July 1, 2014, the commissioner may make eligibility
1533 redeterminations on a six-month basis if the office's overpayments of
1534 program benefits have increased in comparison with the period
1535 between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010, as a result of having
1536 an eight-month eligibility redetermination period.

1537 (g) A provider under the child care subsidy program that qualifies
1538 for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child care
1539 services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for such
1540 services until informed by the [Department of Social Services] office of
1541 the recipient's ineligibility.

1542 (h) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt
1543 from licensing shall provide the [Department of Social Services] office
1544 with the following information in order to maintain eligibility for
1545 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
1546 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
1547 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
1548 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
1549 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
1550 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
1551 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
1552 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

1553 (i) On or after [January 1, 1998] July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall
1554 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1555 implement the provisions of this section.

1556 (j) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing committees
1557 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1558 human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a
1559 copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
1560 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
1561 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
1562 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
1563 the Administration for Children and Families.

1564 Sec. 30. Section 17b-749a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1565 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1566 (a) The Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood
1567 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to (1)
1568 purchase directly or provide subsidies to parents to purchase child day
1569 care services provided by any elementary or secondary school, nursery
1570 school, preschool, day care center, group day care home, family day
1571 care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or
1572 regional board of education, provided, if the commissioner purchases
1573 such services directly, he or she shall give preference to purchasing
1574 from providers of full-day and year-round programs; and (2) award

1575 grants to providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section
1576 10-16p, as amended by this act, to increase the hours of operation of
1577 their programs in order to provide child care for children attending
1578 such programs. The commissioner, for purposes of subdivision (1) of
1579 this subsection, may model the program on the program established
1580 pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this act.

1581 (b) No funds received by a provider pursuant to this section shall be
1582 used to supplant federal funding received for early childhood
1583 education on behalf of children in an early childhood education
1584 program.

1585 (c) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner shall: (1)
1586 Coordinate the development of a range of alternative programs to
1587 meet the needs of all children; (2) foster partnerships between school
1588 districts and private organizations; (3) provide information and
1589 assistance to parents in selecting an appropriate school readiness
1590 program; and (4) work to ensure, to the extent possible, that school
1591 readiness programs allow open enrollment for all children and allow
1592 families receiving benefits for such a program to choose a public or
1593 accredited private program.

1594 Sec. 31. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17b-749c of the general
1595 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1596 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1597 (a) The Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood
1598 shall establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide,
1599 on a competitive basis, supplemental quality enhancement grants to
1600 providers of child day care services or providers of school readiness
1601 programs pursuant to section 10-16p, as amended by this act, and
1602 section 10-16u, as amended by this act. Child day care providers and
1603 school readiness programs may apply for a supplemental quality
1604 enhancement grant at such time and on such form as the
1605 [Commissioner of Education] commissioner prescribes. Effective July
1606 1, [2011] 2014, the commissioner shall make funds payable to providers
1607 under such grants on a prospective basis.

1608 (b) Priority for such grants shall be given to programs that are: (1)
1609 Included in a local school readiness plan; (2) full-day, year-round
1610 programs; and (3) accredited, as defined in subdivision (4) of
1611 subsection (a) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

1612 Sec. 32. Section 17b-749d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1613 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1614 Each licensed child day care provider receiving funding directly
1615 from the [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood
1616 shall adopt a sliding fee scale based on family income. The
1617 Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood shall
1618 develop a minimum sliding fee scale which may be adjusted upward
1619 by each such licensed day care program. All income derived from such
1620 fees shall be used to support the child day care program.

1621 Sec. 33. Section 17b-749e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1622 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1623 The [Department of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood shall
1624 establish and fund five regional accreditation projects, within available
1625 appropriations. The [department] office shall select qualified
1626 applicants for each region through a request for proposal process. The
1627 [department] office shall give priority to child day care facilities where
1628 at least twenty per cent of the children live with families earning less
1629 than seventy-five per cent of the state median income level.

1630 Sec. 34. Section 17b-749f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1631 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1632 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services, in consultation with the
1633 Commissioner of Education,] the Office of Early Childhood shall
1634 develop and implement a performance-based evaluation system to
1635 evaluate licensed child day care centers, within available
1636 appropriations. Such a performance-based evaluation system shall be
1637 similar to the Head Start Performance Standards in 45 CFR 1304.

1638 (b) The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall

1639 conduct, within available appropriations, a longitudinal study that
1640 examines the developmental progress of children and their families
1641 both during and following participation in a child day care program.

1642 (c) The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall report
1643 to the General Assembly, in accordance with section 11-4a, on or
1644 before January 1, [1998] 2015, on the implementation of the
1645 performance-based evaluation system and on the longitudinal study,
1646 and annually thereafter on the cumulative results of the evaluations.

1647 Sec. 35. Section 17b-749g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1648 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1649 (a) There is established a child care facilities loan guarantee
1650 program for the purpose of guaranteeing loans for the expansion or
1651 development of child care and child development centers in the state.
1652 The program shall contain any moneys required by law to be
1653 deposited in the program, including, but not limited to, any moneys
1654 appropriated by the state, premiums and fees for guaranteeing loans,
1655 and proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease or rental of collateral
1656 relating to loan guarantees. Any balance remaining in the program at
1657 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the program for
1658 the fiscal year next succeeding. The program shall be used to guarantee
1659 loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and to pay reasonable
1660 and necessary expenses incurred for administration under this section.
1661 The Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood may
1662 enter into a contract with a quasi-public agency, banking institution or
1663 nonprofit corporation to provide for the administration of the
1664 program, provided no loan guarantee shall be made from the program
1665 without the authorization of the commissioner as provided in
1666 subsection (b) of this section. The total aggregate amount of guarantees
1667 from the program, with respect to the insured portions of the loan,
1668 may not exceed at any one time an amount equal to three times the
1669 balance in the guarantee program.

1670 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the [Commissioner of
1671 Education] commissioner, may guarantee the repayment of loans,

1672 including, but not limited to, principal and interest, to a lending
1673 institution that has provided funding for the construction,
1674 reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of child care and child
1675 development facilities. The total aggregate of any loan guarantee
1676 under this section shall be not less than twenty per cent and shall not
1677 exceed fifty per cent of the principal amount of the obligation, as
1678 determined by approved underwriting standards approved by the
1679 commissioner, and upon such terms and conditions as the
1680 commissioner may prescribe. The term of any loan guarantee shall be
1681 determined by the useful life of the improvement but in no event shall
1682 exceed thirty years. The commissioner shall arrange by contract with
1683 each lending institution or the borrower to safeguard the interests of
1684 the program in the event of a default by the borrower, including, at the
1685 discretion of the commissioner, provision for notice to the program of
1686 default by the borrower, for foreclosure or other realization upon any
1687 security for the loan, for the time and conditions for payment to the
1688 lending institution by the program of the amount of any loss to the
1689 lending institution guaranteed by the program and for the disposition
1690 of the proceeds realized from any security for the loan guaranteed.
1691 When it appears desirable for a temporary period upon default or
1692 threatened default by the borrower, the commissioner may authorize
1693 payments of installments of principal or interest, or both, from the
1694 program to the lending institution, and of taxes and insurance, which
1695 payments shall be repaid under such conditions as the program may
1696 prescribe and the program may also agree to revise terms of financing
1697 when such appears pertinent. Upon request of the lending institution,
1698 the commissioner may at any time, under such equitable terms and
1699 conditions as it may prescribe, consent to the release of the borrower
1700 from his liability under the loan or consent to the release of parts of
1701 any secured property from the lien of the lending institution.

1702 (c) Priority for loan guarantees shall be given to financing child care
1703 centers and child development centers that (1) have obtained
1704 accreditation from the National Association for the Education of
1705 Young Children or have an application pending for such accreditation,
1706 and (2) are included in a local school readiness plan, and (3) shall

1707 promote the colocation of programs endorsed by the [Commissioners
1708 of Education and Social Services] commissioner pursuant to section 4b-
1709 31. School readiness programs, licensed child care providers or
1710 nonprofit developers of a child care center operating under a legally
1711 enforceable agreement with child care providers are eligible for such
1712 guaranteed loans.

1713 (d) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may adopt
1714 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1715 establish procedures and qualifications for application for guarantees
1716 under this section.

1717 Sec. 36. Section 17b-749h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1718 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1719 (a) There is established a program to be known as the "child care
1720 facilities direct revolving loan program". The program shall contain
1721 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the program,
1722 including, but not limited to, any moneys appropriated by the state,
1723 premiums, fees, interest payments and principal payments on direct
1724 loans and proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease or rental of
1725 collateral relating to direct loans. Any balance remaining in the
1726 program at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the
1727 program for the next succeeding fiscal year. The program shall be used
1728 to make loans pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, to make loan
1729 guarantees and to pay reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in
1730 administering loans and loan guarantees under this section. The
1731 Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood may enter
1732 into a contract with a quasi-public agency, banking institution or
1733 nonprofit corporation to provide for the administration of the loan
1734 program, provided no loan or loan guarantee shall be made from the
1735 fund without the authorization of the commissioner as provided in
1736 subsection (b) of this section.

1737 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the [Commissioner of
1738 Education] commissioner, may enter into a contract to provide
1739 financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans, deferred loans or

1740 guaranteed loans to child care providers or to nonprofit developers of
1741 a child care facility operating under a legally enforceable agreement
1742 with a child care provider, for costs or expenses incurred and directly
1743 connected with the expansion, improvement or development of child
1744 care facilities. Such costs and expenses may include: (1) Advances of
1745 loan proceeds for direct loans; (2) expenses incurred in project
1746 planning and design, including architectural expenses; (3) legal and
1747 financial expenses; (4) expenses incurred in obtaining required permits
1748 and approvals; (5) options to purchase land; (6) expenses incurred in
1749 obtaining required insurance; (7) expenses incurred in meeting state
1750 and local child care standards; (8) minor renovations and upgrading
1751 child care facilities to meet such standards and loans for the purpose of
1752 obtaining licensure under section 19a-77, as amended by this act; (9)
1753 purchase and installation of equipment, machinery and furniture,
1754 including equipment needed to accommodate children with special
1755 needs; and (10) other preliminary expenses authorized by the
1756 commissioner. Loan proceeds shall not be used for the refinancing of
1757 existing loans, working capital, supplies or inventory.

1758 (c) The amount of a direct loan under this section may be up to
1759 eighty per cent of the total amount of investment but shall not exceed
1760 twenty-five thousand dollars for such facility as determined by the
1761 commissioner except [that] if an applicant for a loan under this section
1762 has an existing loan that is guaranteed by the child care facilities loan
1763 guarantee program, established under section 17b-749g, as amended
1764 by this act, the direct loan provided under this section shall not exceed
1765 twenty per cent of the investment. The amount of any guarantee and a
1766 direct loan under this section shall not exceed eighty per cent.

1767 (d) Each provider applying for a loan under this section shall submit
1768 an application, on a form provided by the commissioner that shall
1769 include, but is not limited to, the following information: (1) A detailed
1770 description of the proposed or existing child care facility; (2) an
1771 itemization of known and estimated costs; (3) the total amount of
1772 investment required to expand or develop the child care facility; (4) the
1773 funds available to the applicant without financial assistance from the

1774 [department] office; (5) the amount of financial assistance sought from
1775 the [department] office; (6) information relating to the financial status
1776 of the applicant, including, if available, a current balance sheet, a profit
1777 and loss statement and credit references; and (7) evidence that the loan
1778 applicant shall, as of the loan closing, own, have an option to purchase
1779 or have a lease for the term of the loan. Security for the loan may
1780 include an assignment of the lease or other subordination of any
1781 mortgage and the borrower shall be in default if the loan is not used
1782 for the intended purpose.

1783 (e) Payments of principal and interest on such loans shall be paid to
1784 the State Treasurer for deposit in the child care facilities direct
1785 revolving loan program established in subsection (a) of this section.

1786 (f) The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may adopt
1787 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the provisions
1788 of this section. Such regulations may clarify loan procedures,
1789 repayment terms, security requirements, default and remedy
1790 provisions, and such other terms and conditions as [said] the
1791 commissioner shall deem appropriate.

1792 Sec. 37. Section 17b-749i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1793 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1794 Within appropriations available to the State Treasurer for child care
1795 facilities, not already allocated toward debt service for specific child
1796 care facilities, the Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early
1797 Childhood may, upon submission of a request by a facility operating a
1798 child care program that is financed with tax-exempt or taxable bonds
1799 issued through the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities
1800 Authority, allow actual debt service, comprised of principal, interest
1801 and premium, if any, on the loan or loans, a debt service reserve fund
1802 and a reasonable repair and replacement reserve to be paid, provided
1803 such debt service terms and amounts are determined by the
1804 commissioner, at the time the loan is entered into, to be reasonable in
1805 relation to the useful life and base value of the property.

1806 Sec. 38. Section 17b-749j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1807 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1808 The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early Childhood
1809 shall establish health and safety standards, within available
1810 appropriations, for the child care subsidy program. The commissioner
1811 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, which shall
1812 include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A requirement for the
1813 provider or relative to apply for reimbursement from the [Department
1814 of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood; (2) a requirement for the
1815 provider or relative to provide reasonable confirmation of physical
1816 premises safety pursuant to 45 CFR Part 98.41; and (3) minimum
1817 health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting and the
1818 prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunization.
1819 The commissioner shall, within available appropriations, distribute
1820 information on the availability of health and safety training and
1821 assistance.

1822 Sec. 39. Section 17b-749k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1823 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1824 (a) The Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office of Early
1825 Childhood shall, within available appropriations, require any person,
1826 other than a relative, providing child care services to a child in the
1827 child's home who receives a child care subsidy from the [Department
1828 of Social Services] Office of Early Childhood to submit to state and
1829 national criminal history records checks. The criminal history records
1830 checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in
1831 accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a
1832 check of the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section
1833 17a-101k.

1834 (b) The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall have
1835 the discretion to refuse payments for child care under any financial
1836 assistance program administered by him or her if the person providing
1837 such child care has been convicted in this state or any other state of a
1838 felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted use

1839 or threatened use of physical force against another person, of cruelty to
1840 persons under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing
1841 morals of children under section 53-21, abandonment of children
1842 under the age of six years under section 53-23 or any felony where the
1843 victim of the felony is a child under eighteen years of age, or of a
1844 violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
1845 53a-73a, or has a criminal record or was the subject of a substantiated
1846 report of child abuse in this state or any other state that the
1847 commissioner reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to
1848 provide child care.

1849 Sec. 40. Section 17b-750 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1850 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1851 No child care subsidy shall be paid to an unlicensed child care
1852 provider if such provider has been convicted of any crime involving
1853 sexual assault of a minor or serious physical injury to a minor or any
1854 crime committed in any other state or jurisdiction the essential
1855 elements of which are substantially the same as such crimes. If the
1856 [commissioner] Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood has
1857 reason to believe that a provider of child care services has been so
1858 convicted, the commissioner may demand that such provider be
1859 subject to state and national criminal history records checks. If criminal
1860 history records checks are required pursuant to this section, such
1861 checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.

1862 Sec. 41. Section 17b-751 of the 2014 supplement to the general
1863 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1864 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1865 (a) There is established a Children's Trust Fund, the resources of
1866 which shall be used by the Commissioner of [Social Services] the Office
1867 of Early Childhood to fund programs aimed at preventing child abuse
1868 and neglect and family resource programs. Said fund is intended to be
1869 in addition to those resources that would otherwise be appropriated
1870 by the state for programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect
1871 and family resource programs. The commissioner may apply for and

1872 accept any federal funds which are available for a Children's Trust
1873 Fund and shall administer such funds in the manner required by
1874 federal law. The fund shall receive money from grants and gifts made
1875 pursuant to section 17a-18. The commissioner may solicit and accept
1876 funds, on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the
1877 prevention of child abuse and neglect and family resource programs.
1878 The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner shall adopt
1879 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1880 administer the fund and to set eligibility requirements for programs
1881 seeking funding. Youth service bureaus may receive funds from the
1882 Children's Trust Fund.

1883 (b) On or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
1884 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
1885 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
1886 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
1887 services, public health and education concerning the source and
1888 amount of funds received by the Children's Trust Fund, and the
1889 manner in which such funds were administered and disbursed.

1890 Sec. 42. Section 17b-751d of the 2014 supplement to the general
1891 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1892 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1893 [(a) The Department of Social Services] The Office of Early
1894 Childhood shall be the lead state agency for community-based,
1895 prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen
1896 and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect. The
1897 responsibilities of the [department] office shall include, but not be
1898 limited to, collaborating with state agencies, hospitals, clinics, schools
1899 and community service organizations, to: (1) Initiate programs to
1900 support families at risk for child abuse or neglect; (2) assist
1901 organizations to recognize child abuse and neglect; (3) encourage
1902 community safety; (4) increase broad-based efforts to prevent child
1903 abuse and neglect; (5) create a network of agencies to advance child
1904 abuse and neglect prevention; and (6) increase public awareness of

1905 child abuse and neglect issues. The [department] office, subject to
1906 available state, federal and private funding, shall be responsible for
1907 implementing and maintaining programs and services, including, but
1908 not limited to: (A) The Nurturing Families Network, established
1909 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17b-751b; (B) Family
1910 Empowerment Initiative programs; (C) Help Me Grow; (D) [the
1911 Kinship Fund and Grandparent's Respite Fund; (E)] Family School
1912 Connection; [(F)] (E) support services for residents of a respite group
1913 home for girls; [(G)] legal services on behalf of indigent children; (H)]
1914 (E) volunteer services; [(I)] (G) family development training; [(J)] (H)
1915 shaken baby syndrome prevention; and [(K)] (I) child sexual abuse
1916 prevention.

1917 [(b) Not later than sixty days after October 5, 2009, the
1918 Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance with
1919 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
1920 Assembly, having cognizance of matters relating to human services
1921 and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on the
1922 integration of the duties described in subsection (a) of this section into
1923 the department.]

1924 Sec. 43. Section 17b-751e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1925 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1926 Any order, regulation or contract of the Children's Trust Fund
1927 Council agency or the Department of Social Services that is in force on
1928 [September 1, 2009] July 1, 2014, shall continue in force and effect as an
1929 order, regulation or contract of the [Department of Social Services]
1930 Office of Early Childhood until amended, repealed or superseded
1931 pursuant to law.

1932 Sec. 44. Subdivision (11) of subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the
1933 2014 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
1934 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1935 (11) The [Department of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood
1936 for the purpose of (A) determining the suitability of a person to care

1937 for children in a facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-77, as
1938 amended by this act, 19a-80, as amended by this act, or 19a-87b, as
1939 amended by this act; (B) determining the suitability of such person for
1940 licensure; or (C) an investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-
1941 80f, as amended by this act;

1942 Sec. 45. Section 19a-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1943 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1944 (a) As used in sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by
1945 this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this
1946 act, "child day care services" shall include:

1947 (1) A "child day care center" which offers or provides a program of
1948 supplementary care to more than twelve related or unrelated children
1949 outside their own homes on a regular basis;

1950 (2) A "group day care home" which offers or provides a program of
1951 supplementary care (A) to not less than seven or more than twelve
1952 related or unrelated children on a regular basis, or (B) that meets the
1953 definition of a family day care home except that it operates in a facility
1954 other than a private family home;

1955 (3) A "family day care home" which consists of a private family
1956 home caring for not more than six children, including the provider's
1957 own children not in school full time, where the children are cared for
1958 not less than three or more than twelve hours during a twenty-four-
1959 hour period and where care is given on a regularly recurring basis
1960 except that care may be provided in excess of twelve hours but not
1961 more than seventy-two consecutive hours to accommodate a need for
1962 extended care or intermittent short-term overnight care. During the
1963 regular school year, a maximum of three additional children who are
1964 in school full time, including the provider's own children, shall be
1965 permitted, except that if the provider has more than three children
1966 who are in school full time, all of the provider's children shall be
1967 permitted;

1968 (4) "Night care" means the care provided for one or more hours
1969 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.;

1970 (5) "Year-round" program means a program open at least fifty
1971 weeks per year.

1972 (b) For licensing requirement purposes, child day care services shall
1973 not include such services which are:

1974 (1) (A) Administered by a public school system, or (B) administered
1975 by a municipal agency or department and located in a public school
1976 building;

1977 (2) Administered by a private school which is in compliance with
1978 section 10-188 and is approved by the State Board of Education or is
1979 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of
1980 Education;

1981 (3) Classes in music, dance, drama and art that are no longer than
1982 two hours in length; classes that teach a single skill that are no longer
1983 than two hours in length; library programs that are no longer than two
1984 hours in length; scouting; programs that offer exclusively sports
1985 activities; rehearsals; academic tutoring programs; or programs
1986 exclusively for children thirteen years of age or older;

1987 (4) Informal arrangements among neighbors and formal or informal
1988 arrangements among relatives in their own homes, provided the
1989 relative is limited to any of the following degrees of kinship by blood
1990 or marriage to the child being cared for or to the child's parent: Child,
1991 grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle or child of one's aunt or
1992 uncle;

1993 (5) Drop-in supplementary child care operations for educational or
1994 recreational purposes and the child receives such care infrequently
1995 where the parents are on the premises;

1996 (6) Drop-in supplementary child care operations in retail
1997 establishments where the parents remain in the same store as the child

1998 for retail shopping, provided the drop-in supplementary child-care
1999 operation does not charge a fee and does not refer to itself as a child
2000 day care center;

2001 (7) Drop-in programs administered by a nationally chartered boys'
2002 and girls' club;

2003 (8) Religious educational activities administered by a religious
2004 institution exclusively for children whose parents or legal guardians
2005 are members of such religious institution;

2006 (9) Administered by Solar Youth, Inc., a New Haven-based
2007 nonprofit youth development and environmental education
2008 organization, provided Solar Youth, Inc. informs the parents and legal
2009 guardians of any children enrolled in its programs that such programs
2010 are not licensed by the [Department of Public Health] Office of Early
2011 Childhood to provide child day care services;

2012 (10) Programs administered by organizations under contract with
2013 the Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-851a that
2014 promote the reduction of teenage pregnancy through the provision of
2015 services to persons who are ten to nineteen years of age, inclusive; or

2016 (11) Administered by the Cardinal Shehan Center, a Bridgeport-
2017 based nonprofit organization that is exclusively for school age
2018 children, provided the Cardinal Shehan Center informs the parents
2019 and legal guardians of any children enrolled in its programs that such
2020 programs are not licensed by the [Department of Public Health] Office
2021 of Early Childhood to provide child day care services.

2022 (c) No registrant or licensee of any child day care services as defined
2023 in subsection (a) of this section shall be issued an additional
2024 registration or license to provide any such services at the same facility.

2025 (d) When a licensee has vacated premises approved by the
2026 [department] office for the provision of child day care services and the
2027 landlord of such licensee establishes to the satisfaction of the
2028 [department] office that such licensee has no legal right or interest to

2029 such approved premises, the [department] office may make a
2030 determination with respect to an application for a new license for the
2031 provision of child day care services at such premises.

2032 Sec. 46. Section 19a-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2033 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2034 (a) The Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2035 Childhood shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions
2036 of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of sections 19a-77 to 19a-80,
2037 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as
2038 amended by this act, and to assure that child day care centers and
2039 group day care homes shall meet the health, educational and social
2040 needs of children utilizing such child day care centers and group day
2041 care homes. Such regulations shall (1) specify that before being
2042 permitted to attend any child day care center or group day care home,
2043 each child shall be protected as age-appropriate by adequate
2044 immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis,
2045 measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenzae type B and any other
2046 vaccine required by the schedule of active immunization adopted
2047 pursuant to section 19a-7f, including appropriate exemptions for
2048 children for whom such immunization is medically contraindicated
2049 and for children whose parents object to such immunization on
2050 religious grounds, (2) specify conditions under which child day care
2051 center directors and teachers and group day care home providers may
2052 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed
2053 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including
2054 controlled drugs specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a
2055 child receiving child day care services at such child day care center or
2056 group day care home pursuant to the written order of a physician
2057 licensed to practice medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dental
2058 medicine in this or another state, or an advanced practice registered
2059 nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a
2060 physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-
2061 12d, and the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such
2062 child, (3) specify that an operator of a child day care center or group

2063 day care home, licensed before January 1, 1986, or an operator who
2064 receives a license after January 1, 1986, for a facility licensed prior to
2065 January 1, 1986, shall provide a minimum of thirty square feet per
2066 child of total indoor usable space, free of furniture except that needed
2067 for the children's purposes, exclusive of toilet rooms, bathrooms,
2068 coatrooms, kitchens, halls, isolation room or other rooms used for
2069 purposes other than the activities of the children, (4) specify that a
2070 child day care center or group day care home licensed after January 1,
2071 1986, shall provide thirty-five square feet per child of total indoor
2072 usable space, (5) establish appropriate child day care center staffing
2073 requirements for employees certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
2074 by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the
2075 National Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute or
2076 Medic First Aid International, Inc., (6) specify that on and after January
2077 1, 2003, a child day care center or group day care home (A) shall not
2078 deny services to a child on the basis of a child's known or suspected
2079 allergy or because a child has a prescription for an automatic prefilled
2080 cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to
2081 treat an allergic reaction, or for injectable equipment used to
2082 administer glucagon, (B) shall, not later than three weeks after such
2083 child's enrollment in such a center or home, have staff trained in the
2084 use of such equipment on-site during all hours when such a child is
2085 on-site, (C) shall require such child's parent or guardian to provide the
2086 injector or injectable equipment and a copy of the prescription for such
2087 medication and injector or injectable equipment upon enrollment of
2088 such child, and (D) shall require a parent or guardian enrolling such a
2089 child to replace such medication and equipment prior to its expiration
2090 date, and (7) specify that on and after January 1, 2005, a child day care
2091 center or group day care home (A) shall not deny services to a child on
2092 the basis of a child's diagnosis of asthma or because a child has a
2093 prescription for an inhalant medication to treat asthma, and (B) shall,
2094 not later than three weeks after such child's enrollment in such a center
2095 or home, have staff trained in the administration of such medication
2096 on-site during all hours when such a child is on-site, and (8) establish
2097 physical plant requirements for licensed child day care centers and

2098 licensed group day care homes that exclusively serve school-age
2099 children. When establishing such requirements, the [department]
2100 Office of Early Childhood shall give consideration to child day care
2101 centers and group day care homes that are located in private or public
2102 school buildings. With respect to this subdivision only, the
2103 commissioner shall implement policies and procedures necessary to
2104 implement the physical plant requirements established pursuant to
2105 this subdivision while in the process of adopting such policies and
2106 procedures in regulation form. Until replaced by policies and
2107 procedures implemented pursuant to this subdivision, any physical
2108 plant requirement specified in the [department's] office's regulations
2109 that is generally applicable to child day care centers and group day
2110 care homes shall continue to be applicable to such centers and group
2111 day care homes that exclusively serve school-age children. The
2112 commissioner shall print notice of the intent to adopt regulations
2113 pursuant to this subdivision in the Connecticut Law Journal not later
2114 than twenty days after the date of implementation of such policies and
2115 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
2116 subdivision shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

2117 (b) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner may adopt
2118 regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, to establish civil penalties of not
2119 more than one hundred dollars per day for each day of violation and
2120 other disciplinary remedies that may be imposed, following a
2121 contested-case hearing, upon the holder of a license issued under
2122 section 19a-80, as amended by this act, to operate a child day care
2123 center or group day care home or upon the holder of a license issued
2124 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, to operate a family day
2125 care home.

2126 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall exempt
2127 Montessori schools accredited by the American Montessori Society or
2128 the Association Montessori Internationale from any provision in
2129 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section which
2130 sets requirements on group size or child to staff ratios or the provision
2131 of cots.

2132 Sec. 47. Section 19a-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2133 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2134 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
2135 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
2136 child day care center or group day care home without a license issued
2137 in accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by
2138 this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act.
2139 Applications for such license shall be made to the Commissioner of
2140 [Public Health] the Office of Early Childhood on forms provided by
2141 the commissioner and shall contain the information required by
2142 regulations adopted under said sections. The forms shall contain a
2143 notice that false statements made therein are punishable in accordance
2144 with section 53a-157b.

2145 (b) (1) Upon receipt of an application for a license, the
2146 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall issue such license
2147 if, upon inspection and investigation, said commissioner finds that the
2148 applicant, the facilities and the program meet the health, educational
2149 and social needs of children likely to attend the child day care center or
2150 group day care home and comply with requirements established by
2151 regulations adopted under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as
2152 amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as
2153 amended by this act. The commissioner shall offer an expedited
2154 application review process for an application submitted by a municipal
2155 agency or department. The commissioner shall have discretion to
2156 determine whether a change of operator, ownership or location request
2157 from a currently licensed person or entity, as described in subsection
2158 (a) of this section, shall require the filing of a new license application
2159 from such person or entity. Each license shall be for a term of four
2160 years, shall be nontransferable, and may be renewed upon receipt by
2161 the commissioner of a renewal application and accompanying
2162 licensure fee. The commissioner may suspend or revoke such license
2163 after notice and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in section
2164 19a-84, as amended by this act, for violation of the regulations adopted
2165 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and

2166 sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act.

2167 (2) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall collect
2168 from the licensee of a day care center a fee of five hundred dollars
2169 prior to issuing or renewing a license for a term of four years. The
2170 commissioner shall collect from the licensee of a group day care home
2171 a fee of two hundred fifty dollars prior to issuing or renewing a license
2172 for a term of four years. The commissioner shall require only one
2173 license for a child day care center operated in two or more buildings,
2174 provided the same licensee provides child day care services in each
2175 building and the buildings are joined together by a contiguous
2176 playground that is part of the licensed space.

2177 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, within
2178 available appropriations, shall require each prospective employee of a
2179 child day care center or group day care home in a position requiring
2180 the provision of care to a child to submit to state and national criminal
2181 history records checks. The criminal history records checks required
2182 pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
2183 section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state
2184 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. Pursuant
2185 to the interagency agreement provided for in section 10-16s, the
2186 Department of Social Services may agree to transfer funds
2187 appropriated for criminal history records checks to the [Department of
2188 Public Health] Office of Early Childhood. The commissioner shall
2189 notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection.

2190 (d) The commissioner shall inform each licensee, by way of a plain
2191 language summary provided not later than sixty days after the
2192 regulation's effective date, of new or changed regulations adopted
2193 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, or
2194 sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act, with
2195 which a licensee must comply.

2196 Sec. 48. Section 19a-80f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2197 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2198 (a) As used in this section, "facility" means a child day care center, a
2199 group day care home and a family day care home, as defined in section
2200 19a-77, as amended by this act, and a youth camp, as defined in section
2201 19a-420.

2202 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
2203 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
2204 designee, shall provide to the [Department of Public Health] Office of
2205 Early Childhood all records concerning reports and investigations of
2206 child abuse or neglect that have been reported to, or are being
2207 investigated by, the Department of Children and Families pursuant to
2208 section 17a-101g, including records of any administrative hearing held
2209 pursuant to section 17a-101k: (1) Occurring at any facility, and (2) by
2210 any staff member or licensee of any facility and by any household
2211 member of any family day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as
2212 amended by this act, irrespective of where the abuse or neglect
2213 occurred.

2214 (c) The Department of Children and Families and the [Department
2215 of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood shall jointly investigate
2216 reports of abuse or neglect occurring at any facility. All information,
2217 records and reports concerning such investigation shall be shared
2218 between agencies as part of the investigative process.

2219 (d) The Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2220 Childhood shall compile a listing of allegations of violations that have
2221 been substantiated by the [Department of Public Health] Office of
2222 Early Childhood concerning a facility during the prior three-year
2223 period. The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall
2224 disclose information contained in the listing to any person who
2225 requests it, provided the information may be disclosed pursuant to
2226 sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k and does not identify children or
2227 family members of those children.

2228 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
2229 Commissioner of Children and Families has made a finding
2230 substantiating abuse or neglect: (1) That occurred at a facility, or (2) by

2231 any staff member or licensee of any facility, or by any household
2232 member of any family day care home and such finding is included on
2233 the state child abuse or neglect registry, maintained by the Department
2234 of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101k, such finding
2235 may be included in the listing compiled by the [Department of Public
2236 Health] Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (d) of this
2237 section and may be disclosed to the public by the [Department of
2238 Public Health] Office of Early Childhood.

2239 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, when the
2240 Commissioner of Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-101j,
2241 has notified the [Department of Public Health] Office of Early
2242 Childhood of a recommended finding of child abuse or neglect at a
2243 facility and if such child abuse or neglect resulted in or involves (1) the
2244 death of a child; (2) the risk of serious physical injury or emotional
2245 harm of a child; (3) the serious physical harm of a child; (4) the arrest
2246 of a person due to abuse or neglect of a child; (5) a petition filed by the
2247 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-112 or
2248 46b-129; or (6) sexual abuse of a child, the Commissioner of [Public
2249 Health] the Office of Early Childhood may include such finding of
2250 child abuse or neglect in the listing under subsection (d) of this section
2251 and may disclose such finding to the public. The Commissioner of
2252 Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, shall
2253 immediately notify the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of
2254 Early Childhood when such child abuse or neglect is not substantiated
2255 after an investigation has been completed pursuant to subsection (b) of
2256 section 17a-101g or a recommended finding of child abuse or neglect is
2257 reversed after a hearing or appeal conducted in accordance with the
2258 provisions of section 17a-101k. The Commissioner of [Public Health]
2259 the Office of Early Childhood shall immediately remove such
2260 information from the listing and shall not further disclose any such
2261 information to the public.

2262 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, all
2263 records provided by the Commissioner of Children and Families, or
2264 the commissioner's designee, to the [Department of Public Health]

2265 Office of Early Childhood regarding child abuse or neglect occurring at
2266 any facility, may be utilized in an administrative proceeding or court
2267 proceeding relative to facility licensing. In any such proceeding, such
2268 records shall be confidential, except as provided [by the provisions of]
2269 under section 4-177c, and such records shall not be subject to
2270 disclosure pursuant to section 1-210.

2271 Sec. 49. Section 19a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2272 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2273 The Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early Childhood
2274 shall utilize consultative services and assistance from the Departments
2275 of Education, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social
2276 Services and from municipal building, fire and health departments.
2277 The commissioner shall make periodic inspections of licensed day care
2278 centers, group day care homes and family day care homes and shall
2279 provide technical assistance to licensees and applicants for licenses to
2280 assist them to attain and maintain the standards established in
2281 regulations adopted under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as
2282 amended by this act, 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this
2283 act, and 19a-87b, as amended by this act.

2284 Sec. 50. Section 19a-86 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2285 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2286 The [commissioner] Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood
2287 may request the Attorney General to bring an action in the superior
2288 court for the judicial district of Hartford to enjoin any person, group of
2289 persons, association, organization, corporation, institution, or agency,
2290 public or private, from maintaining a child day care center or group
2291 day care home without a license or operating a child day care center or
2292 group day care home in violation of regulations adopted under
2293 sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82
2294 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this act.

2295 Sec. 51. Section 19a-87 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2296 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2297 (a) Any person or officer of an association, organization or
2298 corporation who [shall establish, conduct, maintain or operate]
2299 establishes, conducts, maintains or operates a day care center or group
2300 day care home without a current and valid license shall be subject to a
2301 civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars a day for each day
2302 that such center or home is operated without a license.

2303 (b) If the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2304 Childhood has reason to believe that a violation has occurred for
2305 which a civil penalty is authorized by subsection (a) of this section, he
2306 or she may send to such person or officer by certified mail, return
2307 receipt requested, or personally serve upon such person or officer, a
2308 notice which shall include: (1) A reference to the section or sections of
2309 the general statutes or regulations involved; (2) a short and plain
2310 statement of the matters asserted or charged; (3) a statement of the
2311 maximum civil penalty which may be imposed for such violation; and
2312 (4) a statement of the party's right to request a hearing, such request to
2313 be submitted in writing to the commissioner not later than thirty days
2314 after the notice is mailed or served.

2315 (c) If such person or officer so requests, the commissioner shall
2316 [hold a hearing on the violation asserted] cause a hearing to be held.
2317 The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter
2318 54. If such person or officer fails to request a hearing or fails to appear
2319 at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the
2320 person or officer has committed such violation, the commissioner may,
2321 in his or her discretion, order that a civil penalty be imposed that is not
2322 greater than the penalty stated in the notice. The commissioner shall
2323 send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified
2324 mail, return receipt requested, to the person or officer named in such
2325 order.

2326 Sec. 52. Section 19a-87a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2327 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2328 (a) The Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2329 Childhood shall have the discretion to refuse to license under sections

2330 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-
2331 87, inclusive, as amended by this act, a person to conduct, operate or
2332 maintain a day care center or a group day care home, as defined in
2333 section 19a-77, as amended by this act, or to suspend or revoke the
2334 license or take any other action set forth in regulation that may be
2335 adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as amended by this act, if, the
2336 person who owns, conducts, maintains or operates such center or
2337 home or a person employed therein in a position connected with the
2338 provision of care to a child receiving child day care services, has been
2339 convicted in this state or any other state of a felony as defined in
2340 section 53a-25 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of
2341 physical force against another person, of cruelty to persons under
2342 section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of children
2343 under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age of six
2344 years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the felony
2345 is a child under eighteen years of age, or of a violation of section 53a-
2346 70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or has a
2347 criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner
2348 reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct,
2349 operate or maintain or be employed by a child day care center or
2350 group day care home. However, no refusal of a license shall be
2351 rendered except in accordance with the provisions of sections 46a-79 to
2352 46a-81, inclusive.

2353 (b) Any person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a
2354 child day care center or group day care home shall notify the
2355 commissioner of any criminal conviction of the owner, conductor,
2356 operator or maintainer of the center or home or of any person
2357 employed therein in a position connected with the provision of care to
2358 a child receiving child day care services, immediately upon obtaining
2359 knowledge of the conviction. Failure to comply with the notification
2360 requirement may result in the suspension or revocation of the license
2361 or the imposition of any action set forth in regulation, and shall subject
2362 the licensed person to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred
2363 dollars per day for each day after the person obtained knowledge of
2364 the conviction.

2365 (c) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking
2366 employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a
2367 child receiving child day care services to make a false written
2368 statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a form
2369 bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are punishable,
2370 which statement he does not believe to be true and is intended to
2371 mislead the prospective employer.

2372 (d) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child day
2373 care center or a group day care home is operating without a current
2374 and valid license or in violation of regulations adopted under section
2375 19a-79, as amended by this act, or in a manner which may pose a
2376 potential danger to the health, welfare and safety of a child receiving
2377 child day care services, may report such information to the
2378 [Department of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood. The
2379 [department] office shall investigate any report or complaint received
2380 pursuant to this subsection. The name of the person making the report
2381 or complaint shall not be disclosed unless (1) such person consents to
2382 such disclosure, (2) a judicial or administrative proceeding results
2383 therefrom or (3) a license action pursuant to subsection (a) of this
2384 section results therefrom. All records obtained by the [department]
2385 office in connection with any such investigation shall not be subject to
2386 the provisions of section 1-210 for a period of thirty days from the date
2387 of the petition or other event initiating such investigation, or until such
2388 time as the investigation is terminated pursuant to a withdrawal or
2389 other informal disposition or until a hearing is convened pursuant to
2390 chapter 54, whichever is earlier. A formal statement of charges issued
2391 by the [department] office shall be subject to the provisions of section
2392 1-210 from the time that it is served or mailed to the respondent.
2393 Records which are otherwise public records shall not be deemed
2394 confidential merely because they have been obtained in connection
2395 with an investigation under this section.

2396 (e) In addition to any powers the [Department of Public Health]
2397 office may have, in any investigation (1) concerning an application,
2398 reinstatement or renewal of a license for a child day care center, a

2399 group day care home or a family day care home, as such terms are
2400 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, (2) of a complaint
2401 concerning child day care services, as described in section 19a-77, as
2402 amended by this act, or (3) concerning the possible provision of
2403 unlicensed child day care services, the [Department of Public Health]
2404 office may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel testimony and
2405 order the production of books, records and documents. If any person
2406 refuses to appear, testify or produce any book, record or document
2407 when so ordered, a judge of the Superior Court may make such order
2408 as may be appropriate to aid in the enforcement of this section.

2409 Sec. 53. Section 19a-87b of the 2014 supplement to the general
2410 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
2411 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2412 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
2413 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
2414 family day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this
2415 act, without a license issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health]
2416 the Office of Early Childhood. Licensure forms shall be obtained from
2417 the [Department of Public Health] Office of Early Childhood.
2418 Applications for licensure shall be made to the commissioner on forms
2419 provided by the [department] office and shall contain the information
2420 required by regulations adopted under this section. The licensure and
2421 application forms shall contain a notice that false statements made
2422 therein are punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b. Applicants
2423 shall state, in writing, that they are in compliance with the regulations
2424 adopted by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.
2425 Before a family day care home license is granted, the [department]
2426 office shall make an inquiry and investigation which shall include a
2427 visit and inspection of the premises for which the license is requested.
2428 Any inspection conducted by the [department] office shall include an
2429 inspection for evident sources of lead poisoning. The [department]
2430 office shall provide for a chemical analysis of any paint chips found on
2431 such premises. Neither the commissioner nor the commissioner's
2432 designee shall require an annual inspection for homes seeking license

2433 renewal or for licensed homes, except that the commissioner or the
2434 commissioner's designee shall make unannounced visits, during
2435 customary business hours, to at least thirty-three and one-third per
2436 cent of the licensed family day care homes each year. A licensed family
2437 day care home shall not be subject to any conditions on the operation
2438 of such home by local officials, other than those imposed by the
2439 [department] office pursuant to this subsection, if the home complies
2440 with all local codes and ordinances applicable to single and
2441 multifamily dwellings.

2442 (b) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member to a
2443 person or entity maintaining a family day care home, as defined in
2444 section 19a-77, as amended by this act, without an approval issued by
2445 the [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner. Any person
2446 seeking to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family day
2447 care home shall submit an application for such approval to the
2448 [department] office. Applications for approval shall: (1) Be made to the
2449 commissioner on forms provided by the [department] office, (2)
2450 contain the information required by regulations adopted under this
2451 section, and (3) be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. The
2452 approval application forms shall contain a notice that false statements
2453 made in such form are punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b.

2454 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, within
2455 available appropriations, shall require each initial applicant or
2456 prospective employee of a family day care home in a position
2457 requiring the provision of care to a child, including an assistant or
2458 substitute staff member, to submit to state and national criminal
2459 history records checks. The criminal history records checks required
2460 pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
2461 section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state
2462 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The
2463 commissioner shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this
2464 subsection.

2465 (d) An application for initial licensure pursuant to this section shall

2466 be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars and such license shall be
2467 issued for a term of four years. An application for renewal of a license
2468 issued pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fee of forty
2469 dollars and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in
2470 the family day care home has received age-appropriate immunizations
2471 in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of
2472 this section. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed
2473 for a term of four years.

2474 (e) An application for initial staff approval or renewal of staff
2475 approval shall be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. Such
2476 approvals shall be issued or renewed for a term of two years.

2477 (f) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
2478 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to assure
2479 that family day care homes, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended
2480 by this act, shall meet the health, educational and social needs of
2481 children utilizing such homes. Such regulations shall ensure that the
2482 family day care home is treated as a residence, and not an institutional
2483 facility. Such regulations shall specify that each child be protected as
2484 age-appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria,
2485 pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus
2486 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of
2487 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f. Such
2488 regulations shall provide appropriate exemptions for children for
2489 whom such immunization is medically contraindicated and for
2490 children whose parents object to such immunization on religious
2491 grounds. Such regulations shall also specify conditions under which
2492 family day care home providers may administer tests to monitor
2493 glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and
2494 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs
2495 specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving
2496 day care services at a family day care home pursuant to a written order
2497 of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, an
2498 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
2499 with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in

2500 accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a
2501 parent or guardian of such child. Such regulations shall specify
2502 appropriate standards for extended care and intermittent short-term
2503 overnight care. The commissioner shall inform each licensee, by way of
2504 a plain language summary provided not later than sixty days after the
2505 regulation's effective date, of any new or changed regulations adopted
2506 under this subsection with which a licensee must comply.

2507 Sec. 54. Section 19a-87c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2508 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2509 (a) Any person or officer of an association, organization or
2510 corporation who shall establish, conduct, maintain or operate a family
2511 day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act,
2512 without a current and valid license shall be subject to a civil penalty of
2513 not more than one hundred dollars a day for each day that such home
2514 is operated without a license.

2515 (b) If the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2516 Childhood has reason to believe that a violation has occurred for
2517 which a civil penalty is authorized by subsection (a) of this section,
2518 [he] the commissioner may send to such person or officer by certified
2519 mail, return receipt requested, or personally serve upon such person or
2520 officer, a notice which shall include: (1) A reference to the section or
2521 sections of the general statutes or regulations involved; (2) a short and
2522 plain statement of the matters asserted or charged; (3) a statement of
2523 the maximum civil penalty which may be imposed for such violation;
2524 and (4) a statement of the party's right to request a hearing. Such
2525 request shall be submitted in writing to the commissioner not later
2526 than thirty days after the notice is mailed or served.

2527 (c) If such person or officer so requests, the commissioner shall
2528 [hold a hearing on the violation asserted] cause a hearing to be held.
2529 The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter
2530 54. If such person or officer fails to request a hearing or fails to appear
2531 at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the
2532 person or officer has committed such violation, the commissioner may,

2533 in his or her discretion, order that a civil penalty be imposed that is not
2534 greater than the penalty stated in the notice. The commissioner shall
2535 send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified
2536 mail, return receipt requested, to the person or officer named in such
2537 order.

2538 Sec. 55. Section 19a-87d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2539 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2540 The Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early Childhood
2541 may request the Attorney General to bring an action, in the superior
2542 court for the judicial district in which such home is located, to enjoin
2543 any person, group of persons, association, organization, corporation,
2544 institution or agency, public or private, from maintaining a family day
2545 care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act,
2546 without a license or in violation of regulations adopted under section
2547 19a-87b, as amended by this act, and satisfactory proof of the lack of a
2548 license or the violation of the regulations without more shall entitle the
2549 commissioner to injunctive relief.

2550 Sec. 56. Section 19a-87e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2551 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2552 (a) The Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2553 Childhood may (1) refuse to license under section 19a-87b, as amended
2554 by this act, a person to own, conduct, operate or maintain a family day
2555 care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, (2)
2556 refuse to approve under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a
2557 person to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family day
2558 care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, or (3)
2559 suspend or revoke the license or approval or take any other action that
2560 may be set forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to section
2561 19a-79, as amended by this act, if the person who owns, conducts,
2562 maintains or operates the family day care home, the person who acts
2563 as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family day care home or
2564 a person employed in such family day care home in a position
2565 connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child day care

2566 services, has been convicted, in this state or any other state of a felony,
2567 as defined in section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted use or
2568 threatened use of physical force against another person, or has a
2569 criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner
2570 reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct,
2571 operate or maintain or be employed by a family day care home, or act
2572 as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family day care home, or
2573 if such persons or a person residing in the household has been
2574 convicted in this state or any other state of cruelty to persons under
2575 section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of children
2576 under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age of six
2577 years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the felony
2578 is a child under eighteen years of age, a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-
2579 70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, illegal manufacture,
2580 distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing or administration under
2581 section 21a-277 or 21a-278, or illegal possession under section 21a-279,
2582 or if such person, a person who acts as assistant or substitute staff
2583 member in a family day care home or a person employed in such
2584 family day care home in a position connected with the provision of
2585 care to a child receiving child day care services, either fails to
2586 substantially comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to section
2587 19a-87b, as amended by this act, or conducts, operates or maintains the
2588 home in a manner which endangers the health, safety and welfare of
2589 the children receiving child day care services. Any refusal of a license
2590 or approval pursuant to this section shall be rendered in accordance
2591 with the provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive. Any person
2592 whose license or approval has been revoked pursuant to this section
2593 shall be ineligible to apply for a license or approval for a period of one
2594 year from the effective date of revocation.

2595 (b) When the commissioner intends to suspend or revoke a license
2596 or approval or take any other action against a license or approval set
2597 forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as amended by
2598 this act, the commissioner shall notify the licensee or approved staff
2599 member in writing of the commissioner's intended action. The licensee
2600 or approved staff member may, if aggrieved by such intended action,

2601 make application for a hearing in writing over the licensee's or
2602 approved staff member's signature to the commissioner. The licensee
2603 or approved staff member shall state in the application in plain
2604 language the reasons why the licensee or approved staff member
2605 claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the
2606 commissioner within thirty days of the licensee's or approved staff
2607 member's receipt of notification of the intended action. The
2608 commissioner shall thereupon hold a hearing within sixty days from
2609 receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the date
2610 of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the hearing,
2611 to the licensee or approved staff member. The provisions of this
2612 subsection shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a
2613 license or approval under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act,
2614 provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such
2615 denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the
2616 applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license or approval
2617 application.

2618 (c) Any person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a
2619 family day care home or approved to act as an assistant or substitute
2620 staff member in a family day care home shall notify the commissioner
2621 of any conviction of the owner, conductor, operator or maintainer of
2622 the family day care home or of any person residing in the household or
2623 any person employed in such family day care home in a position
2624 connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child day care
2625 services, of a crime which affects the commissioner's discretion under
2626 subsection (a) of this section, immediately upon obtaining knowledge
2627 of such conviction. Failure to comply with the notification requirement
2628 of this subsection may result in the suspension or revocation of the
2629 license or approval or the taking of any other action against a license or
2630 approval set forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as
2631 amended by this act, and shall subject the licensee or approved staff
2632 member to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars per
2633 day for each day after the person obtained knowledge of the
2634 conviction.

2635 (d) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking
2636 employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a
2637 child receiving family day care home services to make a false written
2638 statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a form
2639 bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are punishable,
2640 which statement such person does not believe to be true and is
2641 intended to mislead the prospective employer.

2642 (e) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a family day
2643 care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, is
2644 operating without a current and valid license or in violation of the
2645 regulations adopted under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, or
2646 in a manner which may pose a potential danger to the health, welfare
2647 and safety of a child receiving child day care services, may report such
2648 information to [any office of the Department of Public Health] the
2649 Office of Early Childhood. The [department] office shall investigate
2650 any report or complaint received pursuant to this subsection. The
2651 name of the person making the report or complaint shall not be
2652 disclosed unless (1) such person consents to such disclosure, (2) a
2653 judicial or administrative proceeding results from such report or
2654 complaint, or (3) a license action pursuant to subsection (a) of this
2655 section results from such report or complaint. All records obtained by
2656 the [department] office in connection with any such investigation shall
2657 not be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 for a period of thirty
2658 days from the date of the petition or other event initiating such
2659 investigation, or until such time as the investigation is terminated
2660 pursuant to a withdrawal or other informal disposition or until a
2661 hearing is convened pursuant to chapter 54, whichever is earlier. A
2662 formal statement of charges issued by the [department] office shall be
2663 subject to the provisions of section 1-210 from the time that it is served
2664 or mailed to the respondent. Records which are otherwise public
2665 records shall not be deemed confidential merely because they have
2666 been obtained in connection with an investigation under this section.

2667 Sec. 57. Section 8-210 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
2668 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

2669 1, 2014):

2670 (a) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
2671 Social Services or the Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early
2672 Childhood, as appropriate, may enter into a contract with a
2673 municipality or a qualified private, nonprofit corporation for state
2674 financial assistance for the planning, construction, renovation, site
2675 preparation and purchase of improved or unimproved property as
2676 part of a capital development project for neighborhood facilities. Such
2677 facilities may include, but are not limited to, child day care facilities,
2678 elderly centers, multipurpose human resource centers, emergency
2679 shelters for the homeless and shelters for victims of domestic violence.
2680 The financial assistance shall be in the form of state grants-in-aid equal
2681 to (1) all or any portion of the cost of such capital development project
2682 if the grantee is a qualified private nonprofit corporation, or (2) up to
2683 two-thirds of the cost of such capital development project if the
2684 grantee is a municipality, as determined by the Commissioner of Social
2685 Services or the Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early
2686 Childhood, as appropriate.

2687 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
2688 [Education] the Office of Early Childhood, may enter into a contract
2689 with a municipality, a human resource development agency or a
2690 nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance in developing and
2691 operating child day care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons
2692 of economic, social or environmental conditions, provided no such
2693 financial assistance shall be available for the operating costs of any
2694 such day care center unless it has been licensed by the Commissioner
2695 of [Public Health] the Office of Early Childhood pursuant to section
2696 19a-80, as amended by this act. Such financial assistance shall be
2697 available for a program of a municipality, of a human resource
2698 development agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide
2699 for personnel, equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and
2700 renovation and remodeling of physical facilities of such day care
2701 centers. Such contract shall provide for state financial assistance,
2702 within available appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1)

2703 for a portion of the cost of such program as determined by the
2704 Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood, if not
2705 federally assisted, or (2) equal to one-half of the amount by which the
2706 net cost of such program as approved by the Commissioner of
2707 [Education] the Office of Early Childhood exceeds the federal grant-in-
2708 aid thereof. The Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early
2709 Childhood may authorize child day care centers provided financial
2710 assistance pursuant to this subsection to apply a program surplus to
2711 the next program year. The Commissioner of [Education] the Office of
2712 Early Childhood shall consult with directors of child day care centers
2713 in establishing fees for the operation of such centers.

2714 (c) The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood, in
2715 consultation with representatives from child care centers, within
2716 available appropriations, shall develop guidelines for state-contracted
2717 child care center programs. The guidelines shall include standards for
2718 program quality and design and identify short and long-term
2719 outcomes for families participating in such programs. The
2720 [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood, within available
2721 appropriations, shall provide a copy of such guidelines to each state-
2722 contracted child care center. Each state-contracted child care center
2723 shall use the guidelines to develop a program improvement plan for
2724 the next twelve-month period and shall submit the plan to the
2725 [department] Office of Early Childhood. The plan shall include goals to
2726 be used for measuring such improvement. The [department] Office of
2727 Early Childhood shall use the plan to monitor the progress of the
2728 center.

2729 (d) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
2730 [Education] the Office of Early Childhood, may enter into a contract
2731 with a municipality, a human resource development agency or a
2732 nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance for a project of
2733 renovation of any child day care facility receiving assistance pursuant
2734 to the provisions of this section, to make such facility accessible to the
2735 physically disabled, in the form of a state grant-in-aid equal to (1) the
2736 total net cost of the project as approved by the Commissioner of

2737 [Education] the Office of Early Childhood, or (2) the total amount by
2738 which the net cost of the project as approved by the Commissioner of
2739 [Education] the Office of Early Childhood exceeds the federal grant-in-
2740 aid thereof.

2741 (e) Any municipality, human resource development agency or
2742 nonprofit corporation which enters into a contract pursuant to this
2743 section for state financial assistance for a day care facility shall have
2744 sole responsibility for the development of the budget of the day care
2745 program, including, but not limited to, personnel costs, purchases of
2746 equipment, supplies, activities and program materials, within the
2747 resources provided by the state under said contract. Upon local
2748 determination of a change in the type of day care service required in
2749 the area, a municipality, human resource development agency or
2750 nonprofit corporation may, within the limits of its annual budget and
2751 subject to the provisions of this subsection and sections 19a-77 to 19a-
2752 80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive,
2753 as amended by this act, change its day care service. An application to
2754 change the type of child day care service provided shall be submitted
2755 to the Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood. Not
2756 later than forty-five days after the Commissioner of [Education] the
2757 Office of Early Childhood receives the application, the Commissioner
2758 of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood shall advise the
2759 municipality, human resource development agency or nonprofit
2760 corporation of the Commissioner of [Education's] the Office of Early
2761 Childhood's approval, denial or approval with modifications of the
2762 application. If the Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early
2763 Childhood fails to act on the application not later than forty-five days
2764 after the application's submittal, the application shall be deemed
2765 approved.

2766 (f) The Commissioner of [Education] the Office of Early Childhood
2767 may, in his discretion, with the approval of the Secretary of the Office
2768 of Policy and Management authorize the expenditure of such funds for
2769 the purposes of this section as shall enable the Commissioner of
2770 [Education] the Office of Early Childhood to apply for, qualify for and

2771 provide the state's share of a federally assisted day care program.

2772 Sec. 58. Subsection (a) of section 10a-194c of the general statutes is
2773 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
2774 *1, 2014*):

2775 (a) The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority
2776 shall establish a program to finance low interest loans for child care
2777 and child development centers, family resource centers and Head Start
2778 programs that shall be known as the Connecticut Child Care Facilities
2779 Program. Loans shall be made for the purpose of new construction or
2780 renovation of existing centers or complying with federal, state and
2781 local child care requirements, including health and safety standards.
2782 For purposes of this section, "child development center" means a
2783 building used by a nonprofit school readiness program, as defined in
2784 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, and "child care center" means a
2785 nonprofit facility that is licensed by the [Department of Public Health]
2786 Office of Early Childhood as a child day care center or a group day
2787 care home, both as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act.

2788 Sec. 59. Section 12-634 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2789 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2790 The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit against
2791 any tax due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or
2792 212 in an amount not to exceed sixty per cent of the total cash amount
2793 invested during the taxable year by the business firm in programs
2794 operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant to
2795 section 12-632 for planning, site preparation, construction, renovation
2796 or acquisition of facilities for purposes of establishing a child day care
2797 facility to be used primarily by the children of such business firm's
2798 employees and equipment installed for such facility, including kitchen
2799 appliances, to the extent that such equipment or appliances are
2800 necessary in the use of such facility for purposes of child day care,
2801 provided: (1) Such facility is operated under the authority of a license
2802 issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
2803 Childhood in accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-87, inclusive, as

2804 amended by this act, (2) such facility is operated without profit by such
2805 business firm related to any charges imposed for the use of such
2806 facility for purposes of child day care, and (3) the amount of tax credit
2807 allowed any business firm under the provisions of this section for any
2808 income year may not exceed fifty thousand dollars. If two or more
2809 business firms share in the cost of establishing such a facility for the
2810 children of their employees, each such taxpayer shall be allowed such
2811 credit in relation to the respective share, paid or incurred by such
2812 taxpayer, of the total expenditures for the facility in such income year.
2813 The commissioner shall not grant a credit pursuant to this section to
2814 any taxpayer claiming a credit for the same year pursuant to section
2815 12-217x.

2816 Sec. 60. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the 2014 supplement to
2817 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2818 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2819 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: Any
2820 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, any
2821 resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not
2822 so licensed, any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, medical
2823 examiner, dentist, dental hygienist or psychologist, a school employee,
2824 as defined in section 53a-65, social worker, police officer, juvenile or
2825 adult probation officer, juvenile or adult parole officer, member of the
2826 clergy, pharmacist, physical therapist, optometrist, chiropractor,
2827 podiatrist, mental health professional or physician assistant, any
2828 person who is a licensed or certified emergency medical services
2829 provider, any person who is a licensed or certified alcohol and drug
2830 counselor, any person who is a licensed marital and family therapist,
2831 any person who is a sexual assault counselor or a domestic violence
2832 counselor, as defined in section 52-146k, any person who is a licensed
2833 professional counselor, any person who is a licensed foster parent, any
2834 person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child
2835 day care center, group day care home or family day care home licensed
2836 by the state, any employee of the Department of Children and
2837 Families, any employee of the [Department of Public Health] Office of

2838 Early Childhood who is responsible for the licensing of child day care
2839 centers, group day care homes, family day care homes or youth camps,
2840 the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of the Child
2841 Advocate and any family relations counselor, family relations
2842 counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the
2843 Judicial Department.

2844 Sec. 61. Subsection (b) of section 17b-90 of the 2014 supplement to
2845 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2846 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2847 (b) No person shall, except for purposes directly connected with the
2848 administration of programs of the Department of Social Services and in
2849 accordance with the regulations of the commissioner, solicit, disclose,
2850 receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in
2851 or acquiesce in the use of, any list of the names of, or any information
2852 concerning, persons applying for or receiving assistance from the
2853 Department of Social Services or persons participating in a program
2854 administered by said department, directly or indirectly derived from
2855 the records, papers, files or communications of the state or its
2856 subdivisions or agencies, or acquired in the course of the performance
2857 of official duties. The Commissioner of Social Services shall disclose (1)
2858 to any authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner such
2859 information directly related to unemployment compensation,
2860 administered pursuant to chapter 567 or information necessary for
2861 implementation of sections 17b-688b, 17b-688c and 17b-688h and
2862 section 122 of public act 97-2 of the June 18 special session, (2) to any
2863 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and
2864 Addiction Services any information necessary for the implementation
2865 and operation of the basic needs supplement program, (3) to any
2866 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Administrative
2867 Services or the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
2868 Protection such information as the Commissioner of Social Services
2869 determines is directly related to and necessary for the Department of
2870 Administrative Services or the Department of Emergency Services and
2871 Public Protection for purposes of performing their functions of

2872 collecting social services recoveries and overpayments or amounts due
2873 as support in social services cases, investigating social services fraud or
2874 locating absent parents of public assistance recipients, (4) to any
2875 authorized representative of the Commissioner of Children and
2876 Families necessary information concerning a child or the immediate
2877 family of a child receiving services from the Department of Social
2878 Services, including safety net services, if the Commissioner of Children
2879 and Families or the Commissioner of Social Services has determined
2880 that imminent danger to such child's health, safety or welfare exists to
2881 target the services of the family services programs administered by the
2882 Department of Children and Families, (5) to a town official or other
2883 contractor or authorized representative of the Labor Commissioner
2884 such information concerning an applicant for or a recipient of
2885 assistance under state-administered general assistance deemed
2886 necessary by the Commissioner of Social Services and the Labor
2887 Commissioner to carry out their respective responsibilities to serve
2888 such persons under the programs administered by the Labor
2889 Department that are designed to serve applicants for or recipients of
2890 state-administered general assistance, (6) to any authorized
2891 representative of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
2892 Services for the purposes of the behavioral health managed care
2893 program established by section 17a-453, (7) to any authorized
2894 representative of the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of
2895 Early Childhood to carry out his or her respective responsibilities
2896 under programs that regulate child day care services or youth camps,
2897 (8) to a health insurance provider, in IV-D support cases, as defined in
2898 subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, information
2899 concerning a child and the custodial parent of such child that is
2900 necessary to enroll such child in a health insurance plan available
2901 through such provider when the noncustodial parent of such child is
2902 under court order to provide health insurance coverage but is unable
2903 to provide such information, provided the Commissioner of Social
2904 Services determines, after providing prior notice of the disclosure to
2905 such custodial parent and an opportunity for such parent to object,
2906 that such disclosure is in the best interests of the child, (9) to any

2907 authorized representative of the Department of Correction, in IV-D
2908 support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of
2909 section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is
2910 necessary to identify inmates or parolees with IV-D support cases who
2911 may benefit from Department of Correction educational, training, skill
2912 building, work or rehabilitation programming that will significantly
2913 increase an inmate's or parolee's ability to fulfill such inmate's support
2914 obligation, (10) to any authorized representative of the Judicial Branch,
2915 in IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b)
2916 of section 46b-231, information concerning noncustodial parents that is
2917 necessary to: (A) Identify noncustodial parents with IV-D support
2918 cases who may benefit from educational, training, skill building, work
2919 or rehabilitation programming that will significantly increase such
2920 parent's ability to fulfill such parent's support obligation, (B) assist in
2921 the administration of the Title IV-D child support program, or (C)
2922 assist in the identification of cases involving family violence, (11) to
2923 any authorized representative of the State Treasurer, in IV-D support
2924 cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 46b-
2925 231, information that is necessary to identify child support obligors
2926 who owe overdue child support prior to the Treasurer's payment of
2927 such obligors' claim for any property unclaimed or presumed
2928 abandoned under part III of chapter 32, or (12) to any authorized
2929 representative of the Commissioner of Housing for the purpose of
2930 verifying whether an applicant for the renters rebate program
2931 established by section 12-170d is a recipient of cash assistance from the
2932 Department of Social Services and the amount of such assistance. No
2933 such representative shall disclose any information obtained pursuant
2934 to this section, except as specified in this section. Any applicant for
2935 assistance provided through said department shall be notified that, if
2936 and when such applicant receives benefits, the department will be
2937 providing law enforcement officials with the address of such applicant
2938 upon the request of any such official pursuant to section 17b-16a.

2939 Sec. 62. Subsection (a) of section 10-16mm of the general statutes is
2940 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
2941 *1, 2014*):

2942 (a) There is established a task force to address the academic
2943 achievement gaps in Connecticut by considering effective approaches
2944 to closing the achievement gaps in elementary, middle and high
2945 schools. The task force shall develop, in consultation with the
2946 Department of Education, the Connecticut State University System, the
2947 Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap established
2948 pursuant to section 10-16nn, and the joint standing committee of the
2949 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
2950 a master plan to eliminate the academic achievement gaps by January
2951 1, 2020. Such master plan shall: (1) Identify the achievement gaps that
2952 exist among and between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C)
2953 socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and (E) English language learners
2954 and students whose primary language is English; (2) focus efforts on
2955 closing the achievement gaps identified in subdivision (1) of this
2956 subsection; (3) establish annual benchmarks for implementation of the
2957 master plan and closing the achievement gaps; and (4) make
2958 recommendations regarding the creation of a Secretary of Education.];
2959 and (5) develop a plan for (A) changing the requirement for when a
2960 child five years of age may enroll in kindergarten pursuant to section
2961 10-15c from January first of the school year to October first of the
2962 school year, and (B) the creation of spaces in school readiness
2963 programs for those children who reach the age of five after October
2964 first of any school year and are no longer eligible to enroll in
2965 kindergarten for such school year.] The task force may amend such
2966 master plan at any time. For purposes of this section, "achievement
2967 gaps" means the existence of a significant disparity in the academic
2968 performance of students among and between (A) racial groups, (B)
2969 ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and (E) English
2970 language learners and students whose primary language is English.

2971 Sec. 63. Section 17b-7a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2972 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

2973 The Commissioner of Social Services shall develop a state-wide
2974 fraud early detection system. The purpose of such system shall be to
2975 identify, investigate and determine if an application for assistance

2976 under (1) programs administered by the department, including, but
2977 not limited to, ~~[(1)] (A)~~ the temporary family assistance program, ~~[(2)]~~
2978 ~~(B)~~ the supplemental nutrition assistance program, ~~[(3)] (C)~~ the child
2979 care subsidy program, or ~~[(4)] (D)~~ the Medicaid program pursuant to
2980 Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and (2) the child care subsidy
2981 program administered by the Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to
2982 section 17b-749, as amended by this act, is fraudulent prior to granting
2983 assistance. The Commissioner of Social Services shall consult with the
2984 Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood regarding the
2985 development of such state-wide fraud early detection system for such
2986 child care subsidy program. The ~~[commissioner]~~ Commissioner of
2987 Social Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
2988 for the purpose of developing and implementing said system. The
2989 ~~[commissioner]~~ Commissioner of Social Services shall submit quarterly
2990 reports concerning savings realized through the implementation of the
2991 state-wide fraud early detection system to the joint standing
2992 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2993 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
2994 agencies.

2995 Sec. 64. Subsection (d) of section 31-286a of the general statutes is
2996 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
2997 *1, 2014*):

2998 (d) For purposes of this section, "sufficient evidence" means (1) a
2999 certificate of self-insurance issued by a workers' compensation
3000 commissioner pursuant to section 31-284, (2) a certificate of compliance
3001 issued by the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to section 31-286, (3) a
3002 certificate of insurance issued by any stock or mutual insurance
3003 company or mutual association authorized to write workers'
3004 compensation insurance in this state or its agent, or (4) in lieu of a
3005 physical certificate of insurance being presented for the issuance or
3006 renewal of licenses and permits issued by the Department of
3007 Consumer Protection, ~~[or]~~ the Department of Public Health or the
3008 Office of Early Childhood, the entrance by the applicant on the
3009 renewal form of the name of the insurer, insurance policy number,

3010 effective dates of coverage, and a certification that the same is truthful
3011 and accurate.

3012 Sec. 65. Special act 13-16 is amended to read as follows (*Effective from*
3013 *passage*):

3014 Any child day care facility or child day care center that received a
3015 loan pursuant to section 10a-194c of the general statutes, as amended
3016 by this act, prior to July 1, 2012, and that (1) entered into a contract
3017 with the Commissioner of Social Services pursuant to section 8-210 of
3018 the general statutes, as amended by this act, on or before July 1, 2012,
3019 for state financial assistance in operating a child day care facility or
3020 child day care center, or (2) received a grant pursuant to subsection (c)
3021 of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall
3022 continue to receive state financial assistance from the [Department of
3023 Education] Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to section 8-210 of the
3024 general statutes, as amended by this act, and subsection (c) of section
3025 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, until the loan
3026 received pursuant to section 10a-194c of the general statutes, as
3027 amended by this act, is fully paid off by such child day care facility or
3028 child day care center.

3029 Sec. 66. Section 19a-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3030 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3031 (a) When the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
3032 Childhood has reason to believe any person licensed under sections
3033 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82
3034 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this act, has failed substantially to
3035 comply with the regulations adopted under said sections, the
3036 commissioner may notify the licensee in writing of the commissioner's
3037 intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose a licensure
3038 action. Such notice shall be served by certified mail stating the
3039 particular reasons for the proposed action. The licensee may, if
3040 aggrieved by such intended action, make application for a hearing in
3041 writing over the licensee's signature to the commissioner. The licensee
3042 shall state in the application in plain language the reasons why the

3043 licensee claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to
3044 the commissioner [within] not later than thirty days of the licensee's
3045 receipt of notification of the intended action. The commissioner shall
3046 thereupon hold a hearing [within] or cause a hearing to be held not
3047 later than sixty days from receipt of such application and shall, at least
3048 ten days prior to the date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the
3049 time and place of the hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be
3050 conducted by the commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by
3051 the commissioner in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or
3052 hearing officer may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of
3053 witnesses. The licensee shall be entitled to be represented by counsel
3054 and a transcript of the hearing shall be made. If the hearing is
3055 conducted by a hearing officer, the hearing officer shall state the
3056 hearing officer's findings and make a recommendation to the
3057 commissioner on the issue of revocation or suspension or the intended
3058 licensure action. The commissioner, based upon the findings and
3059 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
3060 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision in writing
3061 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
3062 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
3063 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
3064 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
3065 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
3066 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
3067 appeal as provided in section 19a-85. Any licensee whose license has
3068 been revoked pursuant to this subsection shall be ineligible to apply
3069 for a license for a period of one year from the effective date of
3070 revocation.

3071 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the denial of an
3072 initial application for a license under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80,
3073 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as
3074 amended by this act, provided the commissioner shall notify the
3075 applicant of any such denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing
3076 written notice to the applicant at the applicant's address shown on the
3077 license application.

3078 Sec. 67. Sections 10-16s, 10-16cc, 10-16dd and 17b-23 of the general
3079 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>from passage</i>	4-5
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-16bb
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	10-14n
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-266p(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16n
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16p
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16q
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16r(b)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16u
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16w
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16z
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16aa
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-2
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-705a(c) to (e)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-12
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-730
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-733
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-734
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-735(a)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-736
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-737
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-738
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-739
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749a
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749c(a) and (b)
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749d
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749e
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749f
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-749g

Sec. 36	July 1, 2014	17b-749h
Sec. 37	July 1, 2014	17b-749i
Sec. 38	July 1, 2014	17b-749j
Sec. 39	July 1, 2014	17b-749k
Sec. 40	July 1, 2014	17b-750
Sec. 41	July 1, 2014	17b-751
Sec. 42	July 1, 2014	17b-751d
Sec. 43	July 1, 2014	17b-751e
Sec. 44	July 1, 2014	17a-28(g)(11)
Sec. 45	July 1, 2014	19a-77
Sec. 46	July 1, 2014	19a-79
Sec. 47	July 1, 2014	19a-80
Sec. 48	July 1, 2014	19a-80f
Sec. 49	July 1, 2014	19a-82
Sec. 50	July 1, 2014	19a-86
Sec. 51	July 1, 2014	19a-87
Sec. 52	July 1, 2014	19a-87a
Sec. 53	July 1, 2014	19a-87b
Sec. 54	July 1, 2014	19a-87c
Sec. 55	July 1, 2014	19a-87d
Sec. 56	July 1, 2014	19a-87e
Sec. 57	July 1, 2014	8-210
Sec. 58	July 1, 2014	10a-194c(a)
Sec. 59	July 1, 2014	12-634
Sec. 60	July 1, 2014	17a-101(b)
Sec. 61	July 1, 2014	17b-90(b)
Sec. 62	July 1, 2014	10-16mm(a)
Sec. 63	July 1, 2014	17b-7a
Sec. 64	July 1, 2014	31-286a(d)
Sec. 65	from passage	SA 13-16
Sec. 66	July 1, 2014	19a-84
Sec. 67	July 1, 2014	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(d), made technical changes for accuracy; and in section 17b-749(c)(10), made a technical change for accuracy.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

The bill conforms 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 1 - 7 establish the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and outline various responsibilities. **Section 1** also makes OEC the successor agency to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for the Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funding.

Sections 8, 10 - 14 and 16 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. Additionally, **Section 10** specifies the use of certain carry forward funding for professional development, which changes the distribution of such funds.

Section 9 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.

Sections 17 - 19, 21 - 22, 29, 32 - 34, and 38 - 40 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 41 - 43 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 23 - 28 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 30 and 35 - 37 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 31 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 44 - 56 and 66 implement the transfer of child care regulatory functions from the DPH to OEC. Funding of \$2.3 million and 40 positions were transferred from DPH to OEC in FY 15 in the budget.

Sections 15, 20, 57 - 65 and 67 make additional conforming and technical changes to reflect the transfers and do 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**sSB 25*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.*****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 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, OEC assumes a lead agency role, entirely replacing the existing administering agency; for others, the existing administering agency maintains a consultative role. For example, for school readiness programming, OEC assumes a lead agency role, with SDE and DSS acting as consultants 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; and
6. child day care facilities licensing and inspection.

The bill also reassigns various funds, grants, and loans to OEC oversight (see BACKGROUND, Table 3). It also 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for provisions relating to OEC organization, leadership, and responsibilities (§§ 1-2), the early childhood information system (§ 4), the early childhood accountability plan (§ 5), the kindergarten readiness assessment tool (§ 7), and OEC financial support for day care center CHEFA loan recipients (§ 65); July 1, 2014 for the remaining provisions.

§§ 1-2 — 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 a 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 by 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and consultation to providers of programs and services in obtaining required licensure and certification* • 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*
<i>Systems and Plans</i>
<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* • Integrating early childhood care and education and special education services* • Developing early learning and development standards for early care and education providers to use*
<i>Evaluation</i>
<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 assessment tool to measure kindergarten preparedness, but not to measure program accountability • 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
<i>Data Collection</i>
<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*
<i>Communication</i>
<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
• Developing, coordinating, and supporting public and private partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives* • Developing, in consultation with the Early Childhood Cabinet and the Head Start Advisory Committee, policy and program goals for the system (unclear whether “the system” refers to the early childhood information system, PSIS, the quality rating and improvement system, or the coordinated system)* • 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 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.

§ 3 — 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.

§ 4 — 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 public school board, school readiness program, or publicly funded program, in a manner similar to PSIS and
2. characteristics of (a) the existing and potential workforce serving

such children and (b) such programs.

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.

§ 5 — 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 on the plan results and report cards to these committees.

§ 6 — KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE AGE

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

1. allowing five-year-old children to enroll in kindergarten on

October 1 of any school year rather than January 1 of any school year and

2. creating school readiness programs and public and private pre-kindergarten spaces for those children who do not turn 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

§§ 10-11, 14 — 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 age three to five who are ineligible 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

§§ 22-28, 32-40 — *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.

§ 22 — 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.

§§ 29, 38-40 — 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 of 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.

§§ 41-43 — 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

§§ 44-56, 66 — 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.

§§ 8-10, 13, 16, 24, 27, 30-31, 35-37 — TRANSFER OF GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAMS

The bill consolidates grant and loan programs administered by two

different agencies into the OEC (see BACKGROUND, Table 3). The majority of these programs' substance and content remain the same, unless noted below.

SUBSTANTIVE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

§§ 17-19 — 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.

§ 26 — 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.

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND CABINETS

§ 9 — 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.

§ 12 — 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 OEC, rather than SDE. These councils advise their district's chief elected official and superintendent on issues relating to school readiness.

§ 15 — 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 2.

Table 2: 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 required under the federal IDEA	SDE commissioner
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
<i>Retained Members</i>	
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

§ 10 — 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 which organizations 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.

§ 20 — 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.

§ 21 — 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.

§ 57 — 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.

§ 60 — 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.

§ 61 — 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.

§ 63 — 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.

§ 64 — 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.

§ 65 — 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.

§ 67 — 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.

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)).

Grant and Loan Programs Transferred to OEC

Table 3 describes the substance of the grant and loan programs.

Table 3: Grant and Loan Programs for Transfer to OEC

Bill Section	Grants / Loan programs	Description
State Department of Education		
§ 8	Priority school district grants for school readiness seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-funded grant program that provides spaces in school readiness programs for eligible children in priority school districts and competitive grant municipalities
§ 9	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 SDE establishes a competitive grant program for applicants and allocates funds
§ 10	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
§ 13	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
§ 16	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
§ 30	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
§ 31	Supplemental quality enhancement grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded on a competitive basis to child day care and school readiness providers
§ 35	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
§ 36	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 non-profits to administer the program; requires agency to authorize all loan guarantees
§ 37	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		
§ 24	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
§ 27	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

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).

Related Bill

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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/21/2014)