



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 662

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 26

Senate, April 23, 2014

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. BYE of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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

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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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

4 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16s, inclusive, 10-16u, 17b-749a
5 and 17b-749c:

6 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
7 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
8 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, as amended
9 by this act, and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning
10 experience of not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred
11 eighty days for eligible children, except as provided in subsection (d)
12 of section 10-16q, as amended by this act;

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

17 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
18 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
19 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
20 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
21 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
22 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
23 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a
24 grant pursuant to section 10-16u;

25 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
26 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
27 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to
28 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

29 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for
30 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review
31 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,
32 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the
33 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
34 Services, unless the context otherwise requires;

35 (6) "Seeking accreditation" means a school readiness program
36 seeking accreditation by the National Association for the Education of
37 Young Children or a Head Start on-site program review instrument or
38 a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or attempting
39 to meet criteria as may be established by the commissioner;

40 [(6)] (7) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as
41 provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act;

42 [(7)] (8) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; and

43 [(8)] (9) "Department" means the Department of Education.

44 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for
45 school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u,
46 school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the
47 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of
48 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers
49 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,
50 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that
51 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.
52 The department shall establish standards for school readiness
53 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
54 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
55 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff
56 qualifications and training, transition to school and administration.
57 The department shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills
58 and goals for children attending such programs. The commissioner, in
59 consultation with the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
60 Education, the Commissioner of Social Services and other appropriate
61 entities, shall develop a professional development program for the
62 staff of school readiness programs.

63 (2) For purposes of this section:

64 (A) Prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications" means there is in each
65 classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood
66 development associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by
67 an organization approved by the Commissioner of Education and
68 twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
69 development, as determined by the president of the Board of Regents
70 for Higher Education, after consultation with the Commissioners of
71 Education and Social Services, from an institution of higher education
72 (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State
73 Board of Education, and (II) regionally accredited; (ii) an associate's
74 degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood education or
75 child development, as determined by the president of the Board of
76 Regents for Higher Education, after consultation with the
77 Commissioners of Education and Social Services, from such an

78 institution; (iii) a four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early
79 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
80 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after
81 consultation with the Commissioners of Education and Social Services,
82 from such an institution; or (iv) certification pursuant to section 10-
83 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or special
84 education;

85 (B) From July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2020, "staff qualifications" means
86 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
87 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
88 program's child day care program or school readiness program, (i) at
89 least fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility
90 for a classroom of children hold (I) certification pursuant to section 10-
91 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early
92 childhood special education, or (II) a bachelor's degree with a
93 concentration in early childhood education, including, but not limited
94 to, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child study, child
95 development or human growth and development, from an institution
96 of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
97 Education or Office of Higher Education, and regionally accredited,
98 provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of
99 Regents for Higher Education and the Department of Education, and
100 (ii) such remaining individuals with the primary responsibility for a
101 classroom of children hold an associate degree with a concentration in
102 early childhood education, including, but not limited to, an associate's
103 degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or
104 human growth and development, from an institution of higher
105 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
106 or Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited, provided
107 such associate degree program is approved by the Board of Regents for
108 Higher Education and the Department of Education; and

109 (C) On and after July 1, 2020, "staff qualifications" means that for
110 each early childhood education program accepting state funds for
111 infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's

112 child day care program or school readiness program, one hundred per
113 cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a
114 classroom of children hold (i) certification pursuant to section 10-145b
115 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood
116 special education, or (ii) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in
117 early childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's
118 degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or
119 human growth and development, from an institution of higher
120 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
121 or State Board of Education, and (II) regionally accredited, provided
122 such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of Regents
123 for Higher Education and the Department of Education.

124 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree who, on or before June
125 30, 2015, is employed as a teacher by an early childhood education
126 program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and preschool
127 spaces associated with such program's child day care program or
128 school readiness program and meets the staff qualifications required
129 under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be
130 considered to meet the staff qualifications required under
131 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection. No
132 such early childhood education program shall terminate any such
133 individual from employment for purposes of meeting the staff
134 qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) or (C) of
135 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Any such individual who terminates
136 his or her employment with such early childhood education program
137 and accepts a teacher position at another early childhood education
138 program accepting state funds for spaces associated with such
139 program's child day care program or school readiness program shall
140 submit documentation of such individual's progress toward meeting
141 the staff qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) or (C)
142 of subdivision (2) of this subsection in a manner determined by the
143 Department of Education.

144 (4) Any individual with a bachelor's degree other than those
145 bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of

146 subdivision (2) of this subsection may submit documentation
147 concerning such degree for review and assessment by the Department
148 of Education as to whether such degree has a sufficient concentration
149 in early childhood education so as to satisfy the requirements set forth
150 in said subparagraphs (A) and (B).

151 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
152 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
153 provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible
154 children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-
155 266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
156 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
157 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
158 district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be
159 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
160 as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except
161 that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection
162 is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such
163 five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to
164 be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards
165 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
166 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
167 and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or
168 former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure
169 of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process
170 to the Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments
171 shall jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
172 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
173 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
174 council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as amended by this act;
175 (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide for the
176 issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited school
177 readiness programs, provided, after the initial requests for proposals,
178 facilities that have been approved to operate a child care program
179 financed through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities
180 Authority and have received a commitment for debt service from the

181 Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-749i, are exempt
182 from the requirement for issuance of annual requests for proposals;
183 and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in
184 order to extend the hours and days of operation of school readiness
185 programs in order to provide child day care services for children
186 attending such programs.

187 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
188 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
189 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or
190 school readiness programs seeking accreditation for eligible children
191 who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school or a former
192 priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, (B)
193 in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending
194 order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of
195 section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district
196 pursuant to section 10-266p, [or] (C) in a town formerly a town
197 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in
198 subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) in a town designated as an
199 alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose school district is
200 not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p. A town in
201 which a priority school is located, a regional school readiness council,
202 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, as amended by this act, for
203 a region in which such a school is located or a town described in
204 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an
205 amount not [to exceed] less than one hundred seven thousand dollars
206 per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-
207 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority
208 school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
209 subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
210 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
211 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
212 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school
213 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
214 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department
215 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the

216 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
217 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
218 appropriations, provide a grant [in excess of one hundred seven
219 thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such
220 district] to such town or regional school readiness council that
221 increases the number of spaces for eligible children who reside in an
222 area or town described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this
223 subdivision, in an accredited school readiness program or a school
224 readiness program seeking accreditation. A town or regional school
225 readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use
226 the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of
227 accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs
228 seeking accreditation.

229 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
230 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town
231 received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is
232 no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a
233 phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
234 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
235 this subsection.

236 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
237 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
238 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
239 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
240 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
241 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
242 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
243 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
244 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
245 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
246 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year
247 following the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
248 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
249 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the

250 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
251 this subsection.

252 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
253 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph
254 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June
255 30, 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if
256 the town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
257 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

258 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
259 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
260 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
261 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
262 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
263 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of subsection (b)
264 of section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except that such per child
265 cost shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round, and (B)
266 multiplying the number of additional or decreased slots the districts
267 have requested for the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid by
268 the per child cost pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of subsection (b) of
269 section 10-16q, as amended by this act, except such per child cost shall
270 be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If said sum exceeds
271 the available appropriation, such number of requested additional slots
272 shall be reduced, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, to
273 stay within the available appropriation.

274 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
275 this section are not expended, the Commissioner of Education may
276 deposit such unexpended funds in the account established under
277 section 10-16aa and use such unexpended funds in accordance with
278 the provisions of section 10-16aa.

279 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and each fiscal year
280 thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
281 this section are not expended, an amount up to five hundred thousand
282 dollars of such unexpended funds may be available for the provision

283 of professional development for early childhood education program
284 providers offered by a professional development and program
285 improvement system within the Connecticut State University System
286 and available for use in accordance with the provisions of this
287 subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year. The Commissioner of
288 Education may use such unexpended funds on and after July 1, 2012,
289 in consultation with the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
290 Education, to support early childhood education programs accepting
291 state funds in satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of
292 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
293 section. The Department of Education shall use any such funds to
294 provide assistance to individual staff members, giving priority to those
295 staff members attending an institution of higher education (i)
296 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State
297 Board of Education, and (ii) regionally accredited, at a maximum of
298 five thousand dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher
299 education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than
300 December 31, 2013, an associate's degree, as such degrees are described
301 in said subparagraphs (B) and (C) at an in-state public institution of
302 higher education or a Connecticut-based for-profit or nonprofit
303 institution of higher education, provided such staff members have
304 applied for all available federal and state scholarships and grants, and
305 such assistance does not exceed such staff members' financial need.
306 Individual staff members shall apply for such unexpended funds in a
307 manner determined by the Department of Education. The
308 Commissioner of Education shall determine, in consultation with the
309 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, how such
310 unexpended funds shall be distributed.

311 (C) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
312 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
313 deposited pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or used
314 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the Commissioner of
315 Education may use such unexpended funds to support local school
316 readiness programs. The commissioner may use such funds for
317 purposes including, but not limited to, (i) assisting local school

318 readiness programs in meeting and maintaining accreditation
319 requirements, (ii) providing training in implementing the preschool
320 assessment and curriculum frameworks, including training to enhance
321 literacy teaching skills, (iii) developing a state-wide preschool
322 curriculum, (iv) developing student assessments for students in grades
323 kindergarten to two, inclusive, (v) developing and implementing best
324 practices for parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten student
325 learning, (vi) developing and implementing strategies for children to
326 transition from preschool to kindergarten, (vii) providing for
327 professional development, including assisting in career ladder
328 advancement, for school readiness staff, [and] (viii) providing
329 supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for grants
330 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (ix) developing a plan to
331 provide spaces in an accredited school readiness program or a school
332 readiness program seeking accreditation to all eligible children who
333 reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A) to (D),
334 inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as
335 amended by this act.

336 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal
337 years ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, 2013, inclusive, the Department
338 of Education may retain up to one hundred ninety-eight thousand two
339 hundred dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this
340 section for coordination, program evaluation and administration.

341 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
342 this section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race,
343 color, national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of
344 this section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private
345 school readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment
346 Clause of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the
347 Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States of
348 America.

349 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
350 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-

351 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
352 such town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
353 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for
354 coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount
355 shall be at least twenty-five thousand dollars but not more than
356 seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be determined by the
357 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of
358 Social Services, based on the school readiness grant award allocated to
359 the town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
360 16u and the number of operating sites for coordination, program
361 evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be increased by an
362 amount equal to local funding provided for early childhood education
363 coordination, program evaluation and administration, not to exceed
364 twenty-five thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant
365 to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u shall designate
366 a person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation
367 and administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
368 Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school readiness
369 program that receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u
370 shall provide information to the department or the school readiness
371 council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of any school
372 readiness program evaluation.

373 (h) [For the first three years a town receives grants] Any town
374 receiving a grant pursuant to this section [, such grants may be used]
375 may use such grant, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare
376 a facility or staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be
377 adjusted based on the number of days of operation of a school
378 readiness program if a shorter term of operation is approved by the
379 commissioner.

380 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
381 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
382 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
383 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who
384 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school

385 readiness program located outside such region.

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

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

395 Sec. 2. Section 10-16q of the general statutes is repealed and the
396 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

397 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
398 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
399 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
400 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
401 children of working parents and parents in education or training
402 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
403 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
404 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
405 insurance company and information on whether the child is
406 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
407 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
408 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
409 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
410 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
411 training in such practices; (5) nutrition services; (6) referrals to family
412 literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide
413 for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
414 (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of children from
415 different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other
416 communities; (8) a plan of transition for participating children from the
417 school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer

418 of records from the program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan
419 for professional development for staff, including, but not limited to,
420 training (A) in preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to
421 assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for
422 families participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d;
423 and (11) an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On
424 and after July 1, 2000, school readiness programs shall use the
425 assessment measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s in
426 conducting their annual evaluations.

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

431 [(2)] (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2009] 2015, and each
432 fiscal year thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education
433 school readiness program offered by a school readiness provider shall
434 [not exceed] be within available appropriations and shall not be less
435 than eight thousand [three] six hundred [forty-six] seventy dollars.

436 [(3)] (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section
437 10-16p, as amended by this act, the Department of Education shall not
438 provide funding to any school readiness provider that (A) on or before
439 January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a town to provide
440 school readiness services pursuant to this section and is not accredited
441 on January 1, 2007, or (B) after January 1, 2004, first entered into a
442 contract with a town to provide school readiness services pursuant to
443 this section and does not become accredited by the date three years
444 after the date on which the provider first entered into such a contract,
445 except that the Commissioner of Education may grant an extension of
446 time for a school readiness program to become accredited or
447 reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such extension, the Department of
448 Education conducts an on-site assessment of any such program and
449 maintains a report of such assessment completed in a uniform manner,
450 as prescribed by the commissioner, that includes a list of conditions

451 such program must fulfill to become accredited or reaccredited, (ii) the
452 program is licensed by the Department of Public Health if required to
453 be licensed by chapter 368a, (iii) the program has a corrective action
454 plan that shall be prescribed by and monitored by the Commissioner
455 of Education, and (iv) the program meets such other conditions as may
456 be prescribed by the commissioner. During the period of such
457 extension, such program shall be eligible for funding pursuant to said
458 section 10-16p.

459 [(4)] (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care
460 services and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject
461 to such per child cost limitation.

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

465 (d) A town or school readiness council may file a waiver application
466 to the Department of Education on forms provided by the department
467 for the purpose of seeking approval of a school readiness schedule that
468 varies from the minimum hours and number of days provided for in
469 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-16p, as amended by this
470 act, or from the definition of a year-round program pursuant to
471 subdivision (7) of said subsection (a). The Department of Education
472 may, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, approve
473 any such waiver if the departments find that the proposed schedule
474 meets the purposes set forth in the provisions of section 10-16o
475 concerning the development of school readiness programs and
476 maximizes available dollars to serve more children or address
477 community needs.

478 Sec. 3. Section 10-16r of the general statutes is repealed and the
479 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

480 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
481 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u shall convene
482 a local school readiness council or shall establish a regional school

483 readiness council pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any other
484 town may convene such a council. The chief elected official of the town
485 or, in the case of a regional school district, the chief elected officials of
486 the towns in the school district and the superintendent of schools for
487 the school district shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each
488 school readiness council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected
489 official, or the official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a
490 management level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3)
491 parents; (4) representatives from local programs such as Head Start,
492 family resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers,
493 group day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and
494 family day care home providers; (5) a representative from a health care
495 provider in the community; and (6) other representatives from the
496 community who provide services to children. The chief elected official
497 shall designate the chairperson of the school readiness council.

498 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
499 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
500 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
501 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
502 act, 10-16u, 17b-749a and 17b-749c; (2) foster partnerships among
503 providers of school readiness programs; [(3) assist in the identification
504 of (A) the need for school readiness programs and the number of
505 children not being served by such a program, and (B) for priority
506 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, the number of children not
507 being served by such a program and the estimated operating cost of
508 providing universal school readiness to eligible children in such
509 districts who are not being served; (4)] (3) submit biennial reports to
510 the Department of Education on the number and location of school
511 readiness spaces and estimates of [future needs; (5) submit biennial
512 reports on factors identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
513 subsection; (6)] the number of children not being served by school
514 readiness programs and the estimated cost of providing spaces to all
515 eligible children, as described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of
516 subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this
517 act, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness

518 program seeking accreditation; (4) cooperate with the department in
519 any program evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures
520 developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of evaluating the
521 effectiveness of school readiness programs; [(7)] (5) identify existing
522 and prospective resources and services available to children and
523 families; [(8)] (6) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services
524 to children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B)
525 before and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
526 programs; [(9)] (7) exchange information with other councils, the
527 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
528 families; [(10)] (8) make recommendations to school officials
529 concerning transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten;
530 and [(11)] (9) encourage public participation.

531 (c) Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate
532 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood
533 education in a region may establish a regional school readiness
534 council. If a priority school is located in at least one of such school
535 districts, the regional school readiness council may apply for a grant
536 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act.
537 The regional school readiness council may perform the duties outlined
538 in subdivisions (2) to [(10)] (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this
539 section.

540 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Commissioner of the Office of Early
541 Childhood established pursuant to section 1 of substitute senate bill 25
542 of the current session, shall develop a plan to provide spaces to all
543 eligible children, as defined in section 5 of this act, in an accredited
544 school readiness program, as defined in section 5 of this act, or a school
545 readiness program seeking accreditation, as defined in section 5 of this
546 act. The commissioner shall submit such plan to the Governor on or
547 before January 1, 2015.

548 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this section:

549 (1) "Eligible town" means a town in which a priority school, as
550 defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this

551 act, is located or a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked
552 in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
553 (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, whose school district is
554 not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p of the general
555 statutes;

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

560 (3) "Eligible children" means children (A) three and four years of age
561 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
562 pursuant to section 10-15c of the general statutes, or who are eligible to
563 enroll in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant
564 to section 10-16t of the general statutes, and (B) who reside (i) in an
565 area served by a priority school or a former priority school, as
566 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the
567 general statutes, as amended by this act, (ii) in a town ranked one to
568 fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
569 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general
570 statutes, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant
571 to section 10-266p of the general statutes, (iii) in a town formerly a
572 town described in clause (ii) of this subparagraph, as provided for in
573 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the general
574 statutes, as amended by this act, or (iv) in a town designated as an
575 alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes,
576 whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to
577 section 10-266p of the general statutes;

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

580 (5) "Priority school" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
581 16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

582 (6) "Accredited" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-16p

583 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

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

586 (b) The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, established
587 pursuant to section 1 of substitute senate bill 25 of the current session,
588 shall establish a grant program for eligible towns and eligible regional
589 school readiness councils for (1) start-up of school readiness
590 classrooms, and (2) providing spaces to all eligible children in
591 accredited school readiness programs and school readiness programs
592 seeking accreditation. An eligible town or eligible regional school
593 readiness council may apply for such grant to the commissioner, at
594 such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes.

595 Sec. 6. Section 19a-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
596 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

597 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
598 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
599 child day care center or group day care home without a license issued
600 in accordance with sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to
601 19a-87a, inclusive. Applications for such license shall be made to the
602 Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early Childhood,
603 established pursuant to section 1 of substitute senate bill 25 of the
604 current session, on forms provided by the commissioner and shall
605 contain the information required by regulations adopted under said
606 sections. The forms shall contain a notice that false statements made
607 therein are punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b.

608 (b) (1) Upon receipt of an application for a license, the
609 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall issue such license
610 if, upon inspection and investigation, said commissioner finds that the
611 applicant, the facilities and the program meet the health, educational
612 and social needs of children likely to attend the child day care center or
613 group day care home and comply with requirements established by
614 regulations adopted under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and

615 sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive. The commissioner shall offer an
616 expedited application review process for an application submitted by a
617 municipal agency or department. The commissioner shall have
618 discretion to determine whether a change of operator, ownership or
619 location request from a currently licensed person or entity, as
620 described in subsection (a) of this section, shall require the filing of a
621 new license application from such person or entity. Each license shall
622 be for a term of four years, shall be nontransferable, and may be
623 renewed upon receipt by the commissioner of a renewal application
624 and accompanying licensure fee. The commissioner may suspend or
625 revoke such license after notice and an opportunity for a hearing as
626 provided in section 19a-84 for violation of the regulations adopted
627 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-
628 87a, inclusive.

629 (2) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall collect
630 from the licensee of a day care center a fee of five hundred dollars
631 prior to issuing or renewing a license for a term of four years. The
632 commissioner shall collect from the licensee of a group day care home
633 a fee of two hundred fifty dollars prior to issuing or renewing a license
634 for a term of four years. The commissioner shall require only one
635 license for a child day care center operated in two or more buildings,
636 provided the same licensee provides child day care services in each
637 building and the buildings are joined together by a contiguous
638 playground that is part of the licensed space.

639 (3) The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall make
640 an unannounced visit, inspection or investigation of each licensed
641 child day care center and group day care home at least once each year.
642 At least once every two years, the local health director, or the local
643 health director's designee, shall make an inspection of each licensed
644 child day care center and group day care home.

645 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, within
646 available appropriations, shall require each prospective employee of a
647 child day care center or group day care home in a position requiring

648 the provision of care to a child to submit to state and national criminal
649 history records checks. The criminal history records checks required
650 pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
651 section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state
652 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. Pursuant
653 to the interagency agreement provided for in section 10-16s, the
654 Department of Social Services may agree to transfer funds
655 appropriated for criminal history records checks to the [Department of
656 Public Health] Office of Early Childhood. The commissioner shall
657 notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection.

658 (d) The commissioner shall inform each licensee, by way of a plain
659 language summary provided not later than sixty days after the
660 regulation's effective date, of new or changed regulations adopted
661 under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, or sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a,
662 inclusive, with which a licensee must comply.

663 Sec. 7. Section 19a-87b of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
664 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
665 *1, 2014*):

666 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
667 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
668 family day care home, as defined in section 19a-77, without a license
669 issued by the Commissioner of [Public Health] the Office of Early
670 Childhood, established pursuant to section 1 of substitute senate bill 25
671 of the current session. Licensure forms shall be obtained from the
672 [Department of Public Health] office. Applications for licensure shall
673 be made to the commissioner on forms provided by the [department]
674 office and shall contain the information required by regulations
675 adopted under this section. The licensure and application forms shall
676 contain a notice that false statements made therein are punishable in
677 accordance with section 53a-157b. Applicants shall state, in writing,
678 that they are in compliance with the regulations adopted by the
679 commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. Before a family
680 day care home license is granted, the [department] office shall make an

681 inquiry and investigation which shall include a visit and inspection of
682 the premises for which the license is requested. Any inspection
683 conducted by the [department] office shall include an inspection for
684 evident sources of lead poisoning. The [department] office shall
685 provide for a chemical analysis of any paint chips found on such
686 premises. Neither the commissioner nor the commissioner's designee
687 shall require an annual inspection for homes seeking license renewal
688 or for licensed homes, except that the commissioner or the
689 commissioner's designee shall make [unannounced visits, during
690 customary business hours, to at least thirty-three and one-third per
691 cent of the licensed family day care homes each year] an unannounced
692 visit, inspection or investigation of each licensed family day care home
693 at least once every year. A licensed family day care home shall not be
694 subject to any conditions on the operation of such home by local
695 officials, other than those imposed by the [department] office pursuant
696 to this subsection, if the home complies with all local codes and
697 ordinances applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

698 (b) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member to a
699 person or entity maintaining a family day care home, as defined in
700 section 19a-77, without an approval issued by the [Commissioner of
701 Public Health] commissioner. Any person seeking to act as an assistant
702 or substitute staff member in a family day care home shall submit an
703 application for such approval to the [department] office. Applications
704 for approval shall: (1) Be made to the commissioner on forms provided
705 by the [department] office, (2) contain the information required by
706 regulations adopted under this section, and (3) be accompanied by a
707 fee of fifteen dollars. The approval application forms shall contain a
708 notice that false statements made in such form are punishable in
709 accordance with section 53a-157b.

710 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner, within
711 available appropriations, shall require each initial applicant or
712 prospective employee of a family day care home in a position
713 requiring the provision of care to a child, including an assistant or
714 substitute staff member, to submit to state and national criminal

715 history records checks. The criminal history records checks required
716 pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
717 section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state
718 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The
719 commissioner shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this
720 subsection.

721 (d) An application for initial licensure pursuant to this section shall
722 be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars and such license shall be
723 issued for a term of four years. An application for renewal of a license
724 issued pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fee of forty
725 dollars and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in
726 the family day care home has received age-appropriate immunizations
727 in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of
728 this section. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed
729 for a term of four years.

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

733 (f) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
734 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to assure
735 that family day care homes, as defined in section 19a-77, shall meet the
736 health, educational and social needs of children utilizing such homes.
737 Such regulations shall ensure that the family day care home is treated
738 as a residence, and not an institutional facility. Such regulations shall
739 specify that each child be protected as age-appropriate by adequate
740 immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis,
741 measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenzae type B and any other
742 vaccine required by the schedule of active immunization adopted
743 pursuant to section 19a-7f. Such regulations shall provide appropriate
744 exemptions for children for whom such immunization is medically
745 contraindicated and for children whose parents object to such
746 immunization on religious grounds. Such regulations shall also specify
747 conditions under which family day care home providers may

748 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed
749 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including
750 controlled drugs specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a
751 child receiving day care services at a family day care home pursuant to
752 a written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or
753 another state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to
754 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant
755 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written
756 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. Such regulations
757 shall specify appropriate standards for extended care and intermittent
758 short-term overnight care. The commissioner shall inform each
759 licensee, by way of a plain language summary provided not later than
760 sixty days after the regulation's effective date, of any new or changed
761 regulations adopted under this subsection with which a licensee must
762 comply.

763 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Office of Early Childhood,
764 established pursuant to section 1 of substitute senate bill 25 of the
765 current session, shall constitute a successor department, in accordance
766 with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39 of the general
767 statutes, to the Department of Public Health for the purpose of the
768 conduct of regulation of youth camps pursuant to sections 19a-420 to
769 19a-434, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

770 Sec. 9. Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the
771 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

772 As used in this chapter:

773 (1) "Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or
774 organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during
775 school vacations or on weekends by a person, partnership,
776 corporation, association, the state or a municipal agency for
777 recreational or educational purposes and accommodating for profit or
778 under philanthropic or charitable auspices five or more children, who
779 are at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age, who are
780 (A) not bona fide personal guests in the private home of an individual,

781 and (B) living apart from their relatives, parents or legal guardian, for
782 a period of three days or more per week or portions of three or more
783 days per week, provided any such relative, parent or guardian who is
784 an employee of such camp shall not be considered to be in the position
785 of loco parentis to such employee's child for the purposes of this
786 chapter, but does not include (i) classroom-based summer instructional
787 programs operated by any person, provided no activities that may
788 pose a health risk or hazard to participating children are conducted at
789 such programs, (ii) public schools, or private schools in compliance
790 with section 10-188 and approved by the State Board of Education or
791 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of
792 Education, which operate a summer educational program, (iii) licensed
793 day care centers, or (iv) drop-in programs for children who are at least
794 six years of age administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls'
795 club;

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

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

810 (4) "Person" means the state or any municipal agency, individual,
811 partnership, association, organization, limited liability company or
812 corporation;

813 (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Public Health] the

814 Office of Early Childhood; and

815 (6) ["Department" means the Department of Public Health.] "Office"
816 means the Office of Early Childhood established pursuant to section 1
817 of substitute senate bill 25 of the current session.

818 Sec. 10. Section 19a-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the
819 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

820 No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
821 without a license issued by the [department] office. Applications for
822 such license shall be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the
823 opening of the youth camp on forms provided and in accordance with
824 procedures established by the commissioner and shall be accompanied
825 by a fee of eight hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a
826 nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a fee of three hundred
827 fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a
828 nonprofit organization, for no more than five days duration and for
829 which labor and materials are donated, no fee. All such licenses shall
830 be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance unless
831 surrendered for cancellation or suspended or revoked by the
832 commissioner for violation of this chapter or any regulations adopted
833 under section 19a-428, as amended by this act, and shall be renewable
834 upon payment of a eight-hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the
835 licensee is a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a three-
836 hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp
837 affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for no more than five days
838 duration and for which labor and materials are donated, no fee.

839 Sec. 11. Section 19a-422 of the general statutes is repealed and the
840 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

841 To be eligible for the issuance or renewal of a youth camp license
842 pursuant to this chapter, the camp shall satisfy the following
843 requirements: (1) The location of the camp shall be such as to provide
844 adequate surface drainage and afford facilities for obtaining a good
845 water supply; (2) each dwelling unit, building and structure shall be

846 maintained in good condition, suitable for the use to which it is put,
847 and shall present no health or fire hazard as so certified by the
848 [department] office and the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal, as
849 indicated by a current fire marshal certificate dated within the past
850 year and available on site when the youth camp is in operation; (3)
851 there shall be an adequate and competent staff, which includes the
852 camp director or assistant director, one of whom shall be on site at all
853 times the camp is in operation, activities specialists, counselors and
854 maintenance personnel, of good character and reputation; (4) prior to
855 assuming responsibility for campers, staff shall be trained, at a
856 minimum, on the camp's policies and procedures pertaining to
857 behavioral management and supervision, emergency health and safety
858 procedures and recognizing, preventing and reporting child abuse and
859 neglect; (5) all hazardous activities, including, but not limited to,
860 archery, aquatics, horseback riding and firearms instruction, shall be
861 supervised by a qualified activities specialist who has adequate
862 experience and training in such specialist's area of specialty; (6) the
863 staff of a resident and nonresident camp shall at all times include an
864 adult trained in the administration of first aid as required by the
865 commissioner; (7) records of personal data for each camper shall be
866 kept in any reasonable form the camp director may choose, and shall
867 include (A) the camper's name, age and address, (B) the name, address
868 and telephone number of the parents or guardian, (C) the dates of
869 admission and discharge, and (D) such other information as the
870 commissioner shall require. Any youth camp licensed under this
871 chapter shall operate only as the type of camp authorized by such
872 license. Such camps shall not advertise any service they are not
873 equipped or licensed to offer. The license shall be posted in a
874 conspicuous place at camp headquarters and failure to so post the
875 license shall result in the presumption that the camp is being operated
876 in violation of this chapter.

877 Sec. 12. Section 19a-423 of the general statutes is repealed and the
878 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

879 (a) The commissioner may take any of the actions authorized under

880 subsection (b) of this section if the youth camp licensee: (1) Is convicted
881 of any offense involving moral turpitude, the record of conviction
882 being conclusive evidence thereof; (2) is legally adjudicated insane or
883 mentally incompetent, the record of such adjudication being
884 conclusive evidence thereof; (3) uses any narcotic or any controlled
885 drug, as defined in section 21a-240, to an extent or in a manner that
886 such use impairs the licensee's ability to properly care for children; (4)
887 fails to comply with the statutes and regulations for licensing youth
888 camps; (5) furnishes or makes any misleading or any false statement or
889 report to the [department] office; (6) refuses to submit to the
890 [department] office any reports or refuses to make available to the
891 [department] office any records required by it in investigating the
892 facility for licensing purposes; (7) fails or refuses to submit to an
893 investigation or inspection by the [department] office or to admit
894 authorized representatives of the [department] office at any reasonable
895 time for the purpose of investigation, inspection or licensing; (8) fails
896 to provide, maintain, equip and keep in safe and sanitary condition
897 premises established for or used by the campers pursuant to minimum
898 standards prescribed by the [department] office or by ordinances or
899 regulations applicable to the location of such facility; or (9) wilfully or
900 deliberately violates any of the provisions of this chapter.

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

915 (c) The commissioner shall notify the licensee, in writing, of the
916 commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose
917 a licensure action. The licensee may, if aggrieved by such intended
918 action, make application for a hearing, in writing, over the licensee's
919 signature to the commissioner. The licensee shall state in the
920 application in plain language the reasons why the licensee claims to be
921 aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner not
922 later than thirty days after the licensee's receipt of notification of the
923 intended action.

924 (d) The commissioner shall hold a hearing not later than sixty days
925 after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the
926 date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the
927 hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by the
928 commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner,
929 in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or hearing officer may
930 issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses. The licensee
931 shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and a transcript of the
932 hearing shall be made. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer,
933 the hearing officer shall state the hearing officer's findings and make a
934 recommendation to the commissioner on the issue of revocation or
935 suspension or the intended licensure action.

936 (e) The commissioner, based upon the findings and
937 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
938 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision, in writing,
939 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
940 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
941 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
942 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
943 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
944 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
945 appeal in the same manner as provided in section 19a-85.

946 (f) The provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section
947 shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a license under

948 section 19a-421, as amended by this act, provided the commissioner
949 notifies the applicant of any such denial and the reasons for such
950 denial by mailing written notice to the applicant at the applicant's
951 address shown on the license application.

952 (g) If the [department] office determines that the health, safety or
953 welfare of a child or staff person at a youth camp requires imperative
954 emergency action by the [department] office to halt an activity being
955 provided at the camp, the [department] office may issue a cease and
956 desist order limiting the license and requiring the immediate cessation
957 of the activity. The [department] office shall provide the licensee with
958 an opportunity for a hearing regarding the issuance of a cease and
959 desist order. Such hearing shall be held not later than ten business
960 days after the date of issuance of the order. Upon receipt of such order,
961 the licensee shall cease providing the activity and provide immediate
962 notification to staff and the parents of all children attending the camp
963 that such activity has ceased at the camp until such time as the cease
964 and desist order is dissolved by the [department] office.

965 Sec. 13. Section 19a-425 of the general statutes is repealed and the
966 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

967 Any person who establishes, conducts or maintains a youth camp
968 without a license as required by this chapter for a first offense shall be
969 subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars, and
970 for a second or subsequent offense shall be subject to a civil penalty of
971 not more than one thousand five hundred dollars, and each day
972 during which a youth camp is conducted or maintained without a
973 license, after notification to such person by the commissioner, shall
974 constitute a separate offense. The [Commissioner of Public Health]
975 commissioner may apply to the superior court for the judicial district
976 of Hartford, or for the judicial district where the defendant named in
977 such application resides, for an injunction to restrain the operation or
978 maintenance of a youth camp by any person other than a licensed
979 operator. The application for such injunction or the issuance of the
980 same shall be in addition to and shall not relieve any such person from

981 the imposition of a civil penalty under this section. In connection with
982 any such application for an injunction, it shall not be necessary to
983 prove that an adequate remedy at law does not exist.

984 Sec. 14. Section 19a-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the
985 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

986 The [Department of Public Health] office shall inspect or cause to be
987 inspected the facilities to be operated by an applicant for an original
988 license before the license shall be granted, and shall annually thereafter
989 inspect or cause to be inspected the facilities of all licensees. No annual
990 inspection shall be required under this section in the case of facilities of
991 a licensee located in any dormitory, classroom or other building or any
992 athletic facility owned and maintained by any college or university,
993 provided a timely safety inspection of such building or facility,
994 satisfactory to the [department] office, is conducted by or on behalf of
995 such college or university.

996 Sec. 15. Section 19a-427 of the general statutes is repealed and the
997 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

998 The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner is authorized to
999 accept, on behalf of the state, any grants of federal or private funds
1000 made available for any purposes consistent with the provisions of this
1001 chapter. The commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary of the
1002 Office of Policy and Management, may direct the disposition of any
1003 such grants so accepted in conformity with the terms and conditions
1004 under which given.

1005 Sec. 16. Section 19a-428 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1006 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1007 (a) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
1008 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, relating to
1009 the safe operation of youth camps, including, but not limited to,
1010 personnel qualifications for director and staff; ratio of staff to campers;
1011 sanitation and public health; personal health, first aid and medical

1012 services; food handling, mass feeding and cleanliness; water supply
1013 and waste disposal; water safety, including use of lakes and rivers,
1014 swimming and boating equipment and practices, vehicle condition and
1015 operation; building and site design; equipment; and condition and
1016 density of use, as the commissioner may deem necessary or desirable.
1017 Such regulations shall be construed to be minimum standards subject
1018 to the imposition and enforcement of higher standards by any town,
1019 city or borough.

1020 (b) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
1021 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, allowing
1022 physical examinations or health status certifications required by youth
1023 camps prior to the date of arrival at youth camps to be made by a
1024 physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse
1025 licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or a physician assistant licensed
1026 pursuant to chapter 370. Such regulations shall permit a physical
1027 examination that is required for school purposes to also be used to
1028 satisfy any such required youth camp examination or certification,
1029 subject to such conditions regarding the timeliness of such
1030 examination as the commissioner deems appropriate.

1031 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt
1032 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that
1033 specify conditions under which youth camp directors and staff may
1034 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed
1035 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including
1036 controlled drugs specified in the regulations adopted by the
1037 commissioner, to a child enrolled in a youth camp at such camp. The
1038 regulations shall require authorization pursuant to: (1) The written
1039 order of a physician licensed to practice medicine or a dentist licensed
1040 to practice dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced
1041 practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician
1042 assistant licensed under chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under
1043 chapter 375 or an optometrist licensed under chapter 380; and (2) the
1044 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

1045 Sec. 17. Section 19a-429 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1046 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

1047 Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a youth camp,
1048 as defined in section 19a-420, as amended by this act, is operating
1049 without a current and valid license or in violation of regulations
1050 adopted under section 19a-428, as amended by this act, or in a manner
1051 which may pose a potential danger to the health, welfare and safety of
1052 a child receiving youth camp services, may report such information to
1053 the [Department of Public Health] office. The [department] office shall
1054 investigate any report or complaint received pursuant to this section.
1055 In connection with any investigation of a youth camp, the
1056 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner or [said] the
1057 commissioner's authorized agent may administer oaths, issue
1058 subpoenas, compel testimony and order the production of books,
1059 records and documents. If any person refuses to appear, to testify or to
1060 produce any book, record or document when so ordered, a judge of
1061 the Superior Court may make such order as may be appropriate to aid
1062 in the enforcement of this section. The name of the person making the
1063 report or complaint shall not be disclosed unless (1) such person
1064 consents to such disclosure, (2) a judicial or administrative proceeding
1065 results therefrom, or (3) a license action pursuant to section 19a-423, as
1066 amended by this act, results from such report or complaint. All records
1067 obtained by the [department] office in connection with any such
1068 investigation shall not be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 for a
1069 period of thirty days from the date of the petition or other event
1070 initiating such investigation, or until such time as the investigation is
1071 terminated pursuant to a withdrawal or other informal disposition or
1072 until a hearing is convened pursuant to chapter 54, whichever is
1073 earlier. A formal statement of charges issued by the [department] office
1074 shall be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 from the time that it is
1075 served or mailed to the respondent. Records which are otherwise
1076 public records shall not be deemed confidential merely because they
1077 have been obtained in connection with an investigation under this
1078 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16p
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16q
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-16r
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-80
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-87b
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-420
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-421
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-422
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-423
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-425
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-426
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-427
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-428
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	19a-429

APP *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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Cost	at least \$3.3 million	at least \$3.7 million
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Transfer to	373,196	373,196
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Transfer from	(373,196)	(373,196)
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	406,623	542,164

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	at least \$2.2 million	at least \$2.2 million

Explanation

The bill will result in a cost of at least \$3.7 million in FY 15 and \$4.2 million in FY 16 associated with the expansion of school readiness seats, child day care licensing and inspections, and youth camp regulation duties. It should be noted that school readiness and related funding was transferred from the State Department of Education (SDE) to Office of Early Childhood (OEC) in PA 13-184, the FY 14 - FY 15 Biennial Budget, as amended by PA 13-247.

Sections 1 - 5 will result in a cost to OEC of at least \$2.2 million in FY 15 and FY 16 associated with allowing for the expansion of school readiness seats and who is eligible for them, and increasing the cost

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16.

per seat from a maximum of \$8,346 to not less than \$8,670. Assuming the \$324 increase per-child is for full-day, full-year spaces, this change would result in additional costs of at least \$2,191,391 for current spaces. Any new seats would be funded at the \$8,670 rate as well.

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

Sections 1 - 5 will also result in a revenue gain to municipalities of at least \$2.2 million associated with increasing the school readiness reimbursement rate, expanding eligibility for competitive grants, and increasing the competitive grant amount.

Sections 6 and 7 will result in a cost of \$1.1 million in FY 15 and \$1.5 million in FY 16 related to increasing the frequency of child day care licensing inspections.² State Comptroller - Fringe Benefit costs associated with these positions are \$406,623 in FY 15 and \$542,164 in FY 16. sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee includes funding of approximately \$1.1 million and related fringes to support 19 licensing inspection positions and 9 licensing positions related to background checks.

Sections 8 - 17 will result in a transfer of costs from DPH to OEC associated with youth camp regulation. sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee transfers three positions and associated funding of \$373,196 from DPH to support the licensing of youth camps.

² PA 13-184, the FY 14 - FY 15 Biennial Budget, as amended by PA 13-247 transferred 40 positions and related funding of \$2.3 million from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) in FY 15 for the licensure and regulation of child day care centers.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 26*****AN ACT EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

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

1. expands the competitive grant program for the purchase of school readiness seats from program providers;
2. allows the education commissioner to (a) give preference to towns that increase the number of school readiness seats when awarding competitive grants and (b) use unexpended school readiness funds to develop a plan for providing universal access to school readiness spaces; and
3. increases the state's per-pupil cost reimbursement for school readiness programs from a maximum of \$8,346 to a minimum of \$8,670, within available appropriations, beginning in FY 15 (which presumably would apply to all programs regardless of full, half, or extended day length).

The bill expands local school readiness councils' biennial reporting requirements to the State Department of Education (SDE). Under the bill, councils' reports must include the estimated cost of providing school readiness seats to all eligible children, not just children in priority school districts, including the cost for school readiness programs that are in the process of seeking accreditation.

It also requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to:

1. create a new plan and grant program designed to achieve universal school readiness access and
2. assume the Department of Public Health's (DPH) duties regarding (a) day care licensing and inspection and (b) youth camp regulation.

The bill also makes various technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING

§ 1 — *Competitive Grant Program Expansion*

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

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

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

The bill also changes the competitive grant amount for which a town or regional school readiness council may apply. Under current law, the grant may not exceed \$107,000 unless an applicant town has

two or more priority schools (see BACKGROUND) in one district. The bill makes this amount a floor, rather than a ceiling, for all towns and councils that apply, including those towns with more than one priority school. It also requires the education commissioner to give preference when awarding competitive grants to towns that increase the number of school readiness spaces.

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

OEC DUTIES

§ 4 — School Readiness Universal Access Plan

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

§ 5 — New School Readiness Grant

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

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

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

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

Towns and children benefitting from this grant are also eligible competitive school readiness grant recipients (see BACKGROUND). The bill does not specify whether a recipient may be awarded both grants, or if receipt of one grant eliminates eligibility for the other.

§§ 6 & 7 — Day Care Licensing

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

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

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

1. make yearly unannounced visits to all licensed day care centers and group day care homes, rather than biennial visits as required by state regulations;
2. make yearly unannounced visits to all, rather than to one-third,

of licensed family day care homes; and

3. require local health directors to inspect all licensed day care centers and group day care homes biennially, as currently required by state regulations.

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

§§ 8 - 17 — Youth Camp Regulation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BACKGROUND

School Readiness Program

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

SDE allocates school readiness funds using two different methods: a school readiness grant program and a competitive grant program. School readiness program grants are given to priority and former priority school districts. Competitive grants are given to (1) areas

served by a priority or former priority school and (2) the 50 poorest or formerly poorest towns whose school district is not a priority district (CGS § 10-16p(c)-(d)).

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

Priority School

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

Legislative History

The Senate referred the bill (File 478) to the Appropriations Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that raises the state's per-pupil cost reimbursement for school readiness programs from a maximum of \$8,346 to a minimum of \$8,670.

Related Bills

sSB 25 and sHB 5043, favorably reported by the Education Committee, also adjust the state's per-pupil cost reimbursement for school readiness programs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/24/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/22/2014)