



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 266**

January Session, 2015

Senate Bill No. 964

*Senate, March 26, 2015*

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-357b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to (1) rules,  
5 regulations and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal  
6 service agreements and the disposition of assets generally applicable to  
7 Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4, 4a and  
8 4b [J] and section 4e-19, and (2) audit by the Auditors of Public  
9 Accounts under section 2-90.

10 Sec. 2. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of  
11 section 10-264l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
12 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

13 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year

14 thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional  
15 educational service center that began operations for the school year  
16 commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the school year commencing  
17 July 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than  
18 eighty per cent of the school's students from a single town shall receive  
19 a per pupil grant [(1)] (i) for each enrolled student who is a resident of  
20 the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than  
21 eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the  
22 total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the  
23 data of record, in the amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty  
24 dollars, [(2)] (ii) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the  
25 district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty  
26 per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total  
27 number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data  
28 of record, in the amount of three thousand dollars, [(3)] (iii) for each  
29 enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least  
30 fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's  
31 students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such enrolled  
32 students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount  
33 of eight thousand one hundred eighty dollars, and [(4)] (iv) for each  
34 enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least  
35 fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's  
36 students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled  
37 students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount  
38 of seven thousand eighty-five dollars.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-222p of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
41 *passage*):

42 (b) The Department of Education shall make available on the  
43 department's Internet web site (1) each safe school climate plan that  
44 has been approved by the department, (2) a list of the school districts  
45 that have an approved safe school climate plan, and (3) a list of the  
46 school districts whose safe school climate [plan has] plans have been  
47 rejected and [is] that are in the process of resubmitting [its] their safe

48 school climate [plan] plans for approval by the department.

49 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-16r of the general statutes is  
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
51 *passage*):

52 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make  
53 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of  
54 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any  
55 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, 10-16u, 17b-749a  
56 and 17b-749c; (2) foster partnerships among providers of school  
57 readiness programs; (3) submit biennial reports to the [Department of  
58 Education] Office of Early Childhood on the number and location of  
59 school readiness spaces and estimates of the number of children not  
60 being served by school readiness programs and the estimated cost of  
61 providing spaces to all eligible children, as described in subparagraphs  
62 (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-  
63 16p, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness  
64 program seeking accreditation; (4) cooperate with the [department]  
65 office in any program evaluation; [and, on and after July 1, 2000, use  
66 measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of  
67 evaluating the effectiveness of school readiness programs;] (5) identify  
68 existing and prospective resources and services available to children  
69 and families; (6) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to  
70 children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before  
71 and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten  
72 programs; (7) exchange information with other councils, the  
73 community and organizations serving the needs of children and  
74 families; (8) make recommendations to school officials concerning  
75 transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and (9)  
76 encourage public participation.

77 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 19a-80 of the general statutes is  
78 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
79 *passage*):

80 (c) The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall require

81 each prospective employee of a child day care center or group day care  
82 home in a position requiring the provision of care to a child to submit  
83 to state and national criminal history records checks. The criminal  
84 history records checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be  
85 conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall  
86 also request a check of the state child abuse registry established  
87 pursuant to section 17a-101k. [Pursuant to the interagency agreement  
88 provided for in section 10-16s, the] The Department of Social Services  
89 may agree to transfer funds appropriated for criminal history records  
90 checks to the Office of Early Childhood. The [commissioner]  
91 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall notify each licensee of the  
92 provisions of this subsection.

93 Sec. 6. Subdivision (11) of subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the  
94 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
95 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

96 (11) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A)  
97 determining the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility  
98 licensed pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80, as amended by this act, or  
99 19a-87b; (B) determining the suitability of such person for licensure;  
100 (C) an investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (D)  
101 notifying the [Department of Public Health] office when the  
102 Department of Children and Families places an individual licensed or  
103 certified by the [Department of Public Health] office on the child abuse  
104 and neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (E) notifying the  
105 [Department of Public Health] office when the Department of Children  
106 and Families possesses information regarding [a Department of Public  
107 Health] an office regulatory violation committed by an individual  
108 licensed or certified by the [Department of Public Health] office;

109 Sec. 7. Section 17b-751b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
110 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

111 (a) The [executive director of the Office] Commissioner of Early  
112 Childhood shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a  
113 Nurturing Families Network, which demonstrates the benefits of

114 preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of  
115 infants and by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-  
116 based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their  
117 families within families identified as high risk.

118 (b) The [executive director of the Office of Early Childhood]  
119 commissioner shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to  
120 be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers; (2) develop  
121 the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs;  
122 and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure  
123 the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the  
124 [executive director] commissioner shall take into consideration the  
125 most effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the  
126 continuation of current public and private programs.

127 (c) The [executive director of the Office of Early Childhood]  
128 commissioner shall establish a data system to enable the programs to  
129 document the following information in a standard manner: (1) The  
130 level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family  
131 demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of  
132 child development; and (5) any other information the commissioner  
133 deems appropriate.

134 (d) The [executive director] commissioner shall report to the  
135 General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,  
136 on the establishment, implementation and progress of the Nurturing  
137 Families Network, on January first and July first, of each year.

138 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is  
139 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
140 *passage*):

141 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
142 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards  
143 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility  
144 system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary  
145 family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment

146 activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"  
147 program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was  
148 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application  
149 for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income  
150 working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted  
151 from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a  
152 waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
153 this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare  
154 dependency, and (G) any household with a child or children  
155 participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal  
156 grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early  
157 Head Start eligibility criteria; (2) health and safety standards for child  
158 care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system  
159 for child care services which account for differences in the age of the  
160 child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type  
161 of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and  
162 type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers,  
163 successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or  
164 credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program  
165 accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child  
166 and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process  
167 for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained  
168 at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings;  
169 (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an  
170 administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process  
171 to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions  
172 and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and  
173 payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care  
174 subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other  
175 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy  
176 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in  
177 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with  
178 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be  
179 issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General  
180 Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include,

181 but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and  
182 length of time on such waiting list.

183 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the general statutes is  
184 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
185 *passage*):

186 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: (1) Any  
187 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2)  
188 any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether  
189 or not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any licensed practical  
190 nurse, (5) any medical examiner, (6) any dentist, (7) any dental  
191 hygienist, (8) any psychologist, (9) any school employee, as defined in  
192 section 53a-65, (10) social worker, (11) any person who holds or is  
193 issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach of  
194 intramural or interscholastic athletics and is eighteen years of age or  
195 older, (12) any individual who is employed as a coach or director of  
196 youth athletics and is eighteen years of age or older, (13) any  
197 individual who is employed as a coach or director of a private youth  
198 sports organization, league or team and is eighteen years of age or  
199 older, (14) any paid administrator, faculty, staff, athletic director,  
200 athletic coach or athletic trainer employed by a public or private  
201 institution of higher education who is eighteen years of age or older,  
202 excluding student employees, (15) any police officer, (16) any juvenile  
203 or adult probation officer, (17) any juvenile or adult parole officer, (18)  
204 any member of the clergy, (19) any pharmacist, (20) any physical  
205 therapist, (21) any optometrist, (22) any chiropractor, (23) any  
206 podiatrist, (24) any mental health professional, (25) any physician  
207 assistant, (26) any person who is a licensed or certified emergency  
208 medical services provider, (27) any person who is a licensed or  
209 certified alcohol and drug counselor, (28) any person who is a licensed  
210 marital and family therapist, (29) any person who is a sexual assault  
211 counselor or a domestic violence counselor, as defined in section  
212 52-146k, (30) any person who is a licensed professional counselor, (31)  
213 any person who is a licensed foster parent, (32) any person paid to care  
214 for a child in any public or private facility, child day care center, group

215 day care home or family day care home licensed by the state, (33) any  
216 employee of the Department of Children and Families, (34) any  
217 employee of the Department of Public Health, (35) any employee of the  
218 Office of Early Childhood who is responsible for the licensing of child  
219 day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes or  
220 youth camps, [(35)] (36) any paid youth camp director or assistant  
221 director, [(36)] (37) the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office  
222 of the Child Advocate, and [(37)] (38) any family relations counselor,  
223 family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor  
224 employed by the Judicial Department.

225 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 17a-22dd of the general statutes is  
226 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
227 *passage*):

228 (b) The Office of Early Childhood, [as established in section 1 of  
229 substitute house bill 6359 of the January 2013, regular session,] in  
230 collaboration with the Departments of Children and Families,  
231 Education and Public Health, to the extent that private funding is  
232 available, shall design and implement a public information and  
233 education campaign on children's mental, emotional and behavioral  
234 health issues. Such campaign shall provide:

235 (1) Information on access to support and intervention programs  
236 providing mental, emotional and behavioral health care services to  
237 children;

238 (2) A list of emotional landmarks and the typical ages at which such  
239 landmarks are attained;

240 (3) Information on the importance of a relationship with and  
241 connection to an adult in the early years of childhood;

242 (4) Strategies that parents and families can employ to improve their  
243 child's mental, emotional and behavioral health, including executive  
244 functioning and self-regulation;

245 (5) Information to parents regarding methods to address and cope

246 with mental, emotional and behavioral health stressors at various ages  
247 of a child's development and at various stages of a parent's work and  
248 family life;

249 (6) Information on existing public and private reimbursement for  
250 services rendered; and

251 (7) Strategies to address the stigma associated with mental illness.

252 Sec. 11. Section 17a-22cc of the general statutes is repealed and the  
253 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

254 The Office of Early Childhood, [as established in section 1 of  
255 substitute house bill 6359 of the January 2013, regular session,] in  
256 collaboration with the Department of Children and Families, shall  
257 provide, to the extent that private, federal or philanthropic funding is  
258 available, professional development training to pediatricians and child  
259 care providers to help prevent and identify mental, emotional and  
260 behavioral health issues in children by utilizing the Infant and Early  
261 Childhood Mental Health Competencies, or a similar model, with a  
262 focus on maternal depression and its impact on child development.

263 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is  
264 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
265 *passage*):

266 (a) There is established an Office of Early Childhood. The office  
267 shall be under the direction of the Commissioner of Early Childhood,  
268 whose appointment shall be made by the Governor. Such appointment  
269 shall be in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8,  
270 inclusive. The commissioner shall be responsible for implementing the  
271 policies and directives of the office. The commissioner shall have the  
272 authority to designate any employee as his or her agent to exercise all  
273 or part of the authority, powers and duties of the commissioner in his  
274 or her absence. Said office shall be within the Department of Education  
275 for administrative purposes only.

276 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10-501 of the general statutes is

277 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
 278 *passage*):

279 (a) The Office of Early Childhood shall develop and implement an  
 280 early childhood information system. Such early childhood information  
 281 system shall facilitate and encourage the sharing of data between and  
 282 among early childhood service providers by tracking (1) the health,  
 283 safety and school readiness of all young children receiving early care  
 284 and education services from (A) any local or regional board of  
 285 education, including children enrolled in a preschool program under  
 286 the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program, pursuant to  
 287 section 10-506, (B) any school readiness program, as defined in section  
 288 10-16p, or (C) any program receiving public funding, in a manner  
 289 similar to the system described in section 10-10a, (2) the characteristics  
 290 of the existing and potential workforce serving such children, (3) the  
 291 characteristics of such programs serving such children, and (4) data  
 292 collected, if any, from the preschool experience survey, described in  
 293 section 10-515.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-357b(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-264l(c)(3)(C)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-222p(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-16r(b)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	19a-80(c)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	17a-28(g)(11)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	17b-751b
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	17b-749(c)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	17a-101(b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	17a-22dd(b)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	17a-22cc
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	10-500(a)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-501(a)

**ED**            *Joint Favorable*

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.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill results in no fiscal impact as it makes various technical changes to the education statutes.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 964*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes numerous technical and grammatical changes to (1) education statutes governing the State Education Resource Center, magnet school operation grants, and safe school climate plans and (2) early childhood statutes governing local school readiness councils, child care providers, the Office of Early Childhood, child abuse protection, and the early childhood information system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32    Nay 0    (03/11/2015)