



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 620

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1101

Senate, April 13, 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 substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2015*):

4 (c) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to provide
5 spaces in accredited school readiness programs located in priority
6 school districts, as described in section 10-266p, or in former priority
7 school districts for eligible children. [who reside in priority school
8 districts pursuant to section 10-266p or in former priority school
9 districts as provided in this subsection.] Under the program, the grant
10 shall be provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which
11 such priority school district or former priority school district is located.
12 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an
13 applicant's designation as a priority school district for the initial year
14 of application, except that if a school district that receives a grant
15 pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school

16 district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school
17 district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this
18 subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
19 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
20 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
21 priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a
22 plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local
23 request for proposal process to the commissioner. The commissioner
24 shall review and approve such plans. The plan shall: (1) Be developed
25 in consultation with the local or regional school readiness council
26 established pursuant to section 10-16r, as amended by this act; (2) be
27 based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance
28 of requests for proposals for providers of accredited school readiness
29 programs, provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities
30 that have been approved to operate a child care program financed
31 through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority
32 and have received a commitment for debt service from the Department
33 of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-749i, on or before June 30,
34 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the office, are exempt from the
35 requirement for issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4)
36 identify the need for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to
37 extend the hours and days of operation of school readiness programs
38 in order to provide child [day] care services for children attending
39 such programs.

40 Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the
41 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
42 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

43 (d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant
44 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or
45 school readiness programs seeking accreditation [for eligible children
46 who reside] located in (A) [in] an area served by a priority school or a
47 former priority school, (B) [in] a town ranked one to fifty when all
48 towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as
49 defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is

50 not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) [in] a
51 town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
52 subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or
53 (D) [in] a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section
54 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant
55 to section 10-266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a
56 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
57 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town
58 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a
59 grant in an amount [not less than one hundred seven thousand dollars
60 per priority school or town] equal to the number of spaces in an
61 accredited school readiness program or a school readiness program
62 seeking accreditation multiplied by the per child cost set forth in
63 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q. Eligibility shall be
64 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
65 as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph
66 (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards
67 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
68 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
69 and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional
70 school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection
71 (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the
72 commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the
73 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
74 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
75 appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional school
76 readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible
77 children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A)
78 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness
79 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation. A town
80 or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this
81 subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children
82 from providers of accredited school readiness programs or school
83 readiness programs seeking accreditation.

84 Sec. 3. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of

85 section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
86 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

87 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year
88 thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
89 this section are not expended, an amount up to [five hundred
90 thousand] one million dollars of such unexpended funds may be
91 available for the provision of professional development for early
92 childhood care and education program providers, and staff employed
93 in such programs, provided such programs accept state funds for
94 infant, toddler and preschool slots. Such unexpended funds may be
95 available for use in accordance with the provisions of this
96 subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year. The commissioner may
97 use such unexpended funds on and after July 1, 2015, to support early
98 childhood education programs accepting state funds in satisfying the
99 staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of
100 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall
101 use any such funds to provide assistance to individual staff members,
102 giving priority to those staff members (i) attending an institution of
103 higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
104 Education or the Office of Higher Education, and approved by the
105 Office of Early Childhood, and regionally accredited, at a maximum of
106 [five] ten thousand dollars per staff member per year for the cost of
107 higher education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later
108 than December 31, 2015, an associate's degree, as such degrees are
109 described in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), or (ii) receiving noncredit
110 competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of
111 one thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff
112 members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships
113 and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members'
114 financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such
115 unexpended funds in a manner determined by the commissioner. The
116 commissioner shall determine how such unexpended funds shall be
117 distributed.

118 Sec. 4. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of

119 section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
120 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

121 (C) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
122 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
123 deposited pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or used
124 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the commissioner
125 may use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness
126 programs. The commissioner may use such funds for purposes
127 including, but not limited to, (i) assisting local school readiness
128 programs in meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements, (ii)
129 providing training in implementing the preschool assessment and
130 curriculum frameworks, including training to enhance literacy
131 teaching skills, (iii) developing a state-wide preschool curriculum, (iv)
132 developing student assessments for students in grades kindergarten to
133 two, inclusive, (v) developing and implementing best practices for
134 parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten student learning,
135 (vi) developing and implementing strategies for children to transition
136 from preschool to kindergarten, (vii) providing for professional
137 development, including assisting in career ladder advancement, for
138 school readiness staff, (viii) providing supplemental grants to other
139 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
140 section, and (ix) developing a plan to provide spaces in an accredited
141 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
142 accreditation to all eligible children who reside in an area or town
143 described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
144 subsection (d) of this section. [10-16p.]

145 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-16r of the general statutes is
146 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
147 *1, 2015*):

148 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
149 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
150 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
151 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this

152 act, 10-16u, 17b-749a and 17b-749c; (2) foster partnerships among
153 providers of school readiness programs; (3) [submit biennial reports to
154 the Department of Education on the number and location of school
155 readiness spaces and estimates of the number of children not being
156 served by school readiness programs and the estimated cost of
157 providing spaces to all eligible children, as described in subparagraphs
158 (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-
159 16p, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness
160 program seeking accreditation; (4)] cooperate with the department in
161 any program evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures
162 developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of evaluating the
163 effectiveness of school readiness programs; [(5)] (4) identify existing
164 and prospective resources and services available to children and
165 families; [(6)] (5) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services
166 to children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B)
167 before and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
168 programs; [(7)] (6) exchange information with other councils, the
169 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
170 families; [(8)] (7) make recommendations to school officials concerning
171 transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and [(9)]
172 (8) encourage public participation.

173 Sec. 6. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

175 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and
176 operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability,
177 affordability and quality of child care services for families with a
178 parent or caretaker who (1) is working or attending high school, or
179 [who] (2) receives cash assistance under the temporary family
180 assistance program from the Department of Social Services and is
181 participating in an approved education, training or other job
182 preparation activity. Services available under the child care program
183 shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children under
184 the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special
185 needs. The Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain

186 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
187 such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The
188 office shall issue a notice on the office's Internet web site [and shall
189 provide written notice to recipients of program benefits and to service
190 providers] any time the office closes the program to new applications,
191 changes eligibility requirements, changes program benefits or makes
192 any other change to the program's status or terms, provided the office
193 shall not be required to issue such notice when the office expands
194 program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance of new
195 applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any other
196 change to the program's status or terms for which the office is required
197 to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until
198 thirty days after the office issues such notice.

199 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
200 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
201 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
202 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
203 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
204 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
205 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
206 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
207 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
208 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
209 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
210 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
211 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
212 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
213 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

214 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
215 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards
216 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility
217 system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary
218 family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment
219 activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"

220 program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was
221 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application
222 for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income
223 working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted
224 from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a
225 waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
226 this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare
227 dependency, and (G) any household with a child or children
228 participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal
229 grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early
230 Head Start eligibility criteria; (2) health and safety standards for child
231 care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system
232 for child care services which account for differences in the age of the
233 child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type
234 of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and
235 type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers,
236 successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or
237 credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program
238 accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child
239 and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process
240 for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained
241 at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings;
242 (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an
243 administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process
244 to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions
245 and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and
246 payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care
247 subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
248 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
249 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
250 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
251 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
252 issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General
253 Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include,
254 but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and

255 length of time on such waiting list.

256 [(d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2011, an applicant determined to be
257 eligible for program benefits shall remain eligible for such benefits for
258 a period of not less than eight months from the date that such
259 applicant is determined to be eligible, provided the Commissioner of
260 Social Services has not determined, during such eight-month period,
261 that the applicant's circumstances have changed so as to render the
262 applicant ineligible for program benefits. The Commissioner of Social
263 Services shall not make an eligibility determination for a recipient of
264 program benefits more than one time per eight-month period, except
265 as provided in subsection (f) of this section.

266 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Early Childhood
267 shall succeed the Commissioner of Social Services for the purpose of
268 making the eligibility determinations pursuant to subdivision (1) of
269 this subsection.]

270 [(e)] (d) Within available appropriations, a recipient of program
271 benefits who takes unpaid leave from such recipient's employment
272 due to the birth or impending birth of a child shall be granted not more
273 than six weeks of payment eligibility during the leave if: (1) The
274 recipient intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave; (2)
275 the recipient verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a
276 slot in a school-based program or licensed child care setting; and (3)
277 the child receiving child care services under the program continues to
278 attend the program during the recipient's leave.

279 [(f) (1) Not later than October 15, 2011, the Commissioner of Social
280 Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
281 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
282 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
283 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies concerning eligibility
284 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall
285 include an analysis of overpayments of program benefits made by the
286 Department of Social Services and administrative costs incurred by the
287 department as a result of eligibility redeterminations made on an

288 eight-month basis. On and after October 15, 2011, and until June 30,
289 2014, the Commissioner of Social Services may make eligibility
290 redeterminations on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the
291 department's overpayments of program benefits have increased in
292 comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and December
293 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
294 redetermination period.

295 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
296 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall submit a report, in accordance
297 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
298 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
299 services and appropriations concerning eligibility redeterminations
300 made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall include an analysis of
301 overpayments of program benefits made by the office and
302 administrative costs incurred by the office as a result of eligibility
303 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and after July 1,
304 2014, the commissioner may make eligibility redeterminations on a six-
305 month basis if the office's overpayments of program benefits have
306 increased in comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and
307 December 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
308 redetermination period.]

309 [(g)] (e) A provider under the child care subsidy program that
310 qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child
311 care services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for
312 such services until informed by the office of the recipient's ineligibility.

313 [(h)] (f) All licensed child care providers and those providers
314 exempt from licensing shall provide the office with the following
315 information in order to maintain eligibility for reimbursement: (1) The
316 name, address, appropriate identification, Social Security number and
317 telephone number of the provider and all adults who work for or
318 reside at the location where care is provided; (2) the name and address
319 of the child's doctor, primary care provider and health insurance
320 company; (3) whether the child is immunized and has had health

321 screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic Screening,
322 Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC 1396d; and
323 (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

324 [(i)] (g) On or after July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall adopt
325 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
326 implement the provisions of this section.

327 [(j)] (h) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing
328 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
329 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
330 agencies a copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
331 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
332 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
333 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
334 the Administration for Children and Families.

335 Sec. 7. Section 19a-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the
336 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

337 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall adopt regulations,
338 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the
339 purposes of sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this
340 act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, and to assure that child [day] care
341 centers and group [day] child care homes shall meet the health,
342 educational and social needs of children utilizing such child [day] care
343 centers and group [day] child care homes. Such regulations shall (1)
344 specify that before being permitted to attend any child [day] care
345 center or group [day] child care home, each child shall be protected as
346 age-appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria,
347 pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus
348 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of
349 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f, including
350 appropriate exemptions for children for whom such immunization is
351 medically contraindicated and for children whose parents object to
352 such immunization on religious grounds, (2) specify conditions under
353 which child [day] care center directors and teachers and group [day]

354 child care home providers may administer tests to monitor glucose
355 levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and administer
356 medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the
357 regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving child [day] care
358 services at such child [day] care center or group [day] child care home
359 pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice
360 medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or
361 another state, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to
362 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant
363 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written
364 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child, (3) specify that an
365 operator of a child [day] care center or group [day] child care home,
366 licensed before January 1, 1986, or an operator who receives a license
367 after January 1, 1986, for a facility licensed prior to January 1, 1986,
368 shall provide a minimum of thirty square feet per child of total indoor
369 usable space, free of furniture except that needed for the children's
370 purposes, exclusive of toilet rooms, bathrooms, coatrooms, kitchens,
371 halls, isolation room or other rooms used for purposes other than the
372 activities of the children, (4) specify that a child [day] care center or
373 group [day] child care home licensed after January 1, 1986, shall
374 provide thirty-five square feet per child of total indoor usable space,
375 (5) establish appropriate child [day] care center staffing requirements
376 for employees certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation by the
377 American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National
378 Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute or Medic First
379 Aid International, Inc., (6) specify that on and after January 1, 2003, a
380 child [day] care center or group [day] child care home (A) shall not
381 deny services to a child on the basis of a child's known or suspected
382 allergy or because a child has a prescription for an automatic prefilled
383 cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to
384 treat an allergic reaction, or for injectable equipment used to
385 administer glucagon, (B) shall, not later than three weeks after such
386 child's enrollment in such a center or home, have staff trained in the
387 use of such equipment on-site during all hours when such a child is
388 on-site, (C) shall require such child's parent or guardian to provide the

389 injector or injectable equipment and a copy of the prescription for such
390 medication and injector or injectable equipment upon enrollment of
391 such child, and (D) shall require a parent or guardian enrolling such a
392 child to replace such medication and equipment prior to its expiration
393 date, (7) specify that on and after January 1, 2005, a child [day] care
394 center or group [day] child care home (A) shall not deny services to a
395 child on the basis of a child's diagnosis of asthma or because a child
396 has a prescription for an inhalant medication to treat asthma, and (B)
397 shall, not later than three weeks after such child's enrollment in such a
398 center or home, have staff trained in the administration of such
399 medication on-site during all hours when such a child is on-site, and
400 (8) establish physical plant requirements for licensed child [day] care
401 centers and licensed group [day] child care homes that exclusively
402 serve school-age children. When establishing such requirements, the
403 Office of Early Childhood shall give consideration to child [day] care
404 centers and group [day] child care homes that are located in private or
405 public school buildings. With respect to this subdivision only, the
406 commissioner shall implement policies and procedures necessary to
407 implement the physical plant requirements established pursuant to
408 this subdivision while in the process of adopting such policies and
409 procedures in regulation form. Until replaced by policies and
410 procedures implemented pursuant to this subdivision, any physical
411 plant requirement specified in the office's regulations that is generally
412 applicable to child [day] care centers and group [day] child care homes
413 shall continue to be applicable to such centers and [group day care]
414 homes that exclusively serve school-age children. The commissioner
415 shall print notice of the intent to adopt regulations pursuant to this
416 subdivision in the Connecticut Law Journal not later than twenty days
417 after the date of implementation of such policies and procedures.
418 Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subdivision
419 shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

420 (b) The commissioner may adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter
421 54, to establish civil penalties of not more than one hundred dollars per
422 day for each day of violation and other disciplinary remedies that may
423 be imposed, following a contested-case hearing, upon the holder of a

424 license issued under section 19a-80, as amended by this act, to operate
425 a child [day] care center or group [day] child care home or upon the
426 holder of a license issued under section 19a-87b, as amended by this
427 act, to operate a family [day] child care home.

428 (c) The commissioner shall exempt Montessori schools accredited by
429 the American Montessori Society or the Association Montessori
430 Internationale from any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to
431 subsection (a) of this section which sets requirements on group size or
432 child to staff ratios or the provision of cots.

433 (d) Upon the declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness
434 emergency pursuant to section 28-9 or a public health emergency
435 pursuant to section 19a-131a, the commissioner may waive the
436 provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section if the
437 commissioner determines that such waiver would not endanger the
438 life, safety or health of any child. The commissioner shall prescribe the
439 duration of such waiver, provided such waiver shall not extend
440 beyond the duration of the declared emergency. The commissioner
441 shall establish the criteria by which a waiver request shall be made and
442 the conditions for which a waiver will be granted or denied. The
443 provisions of section 19a-84, as amended by this act, shall not apply to
444 a denial of a waiver request under this subsection.

445 Sec. 8. Section 19a-87b of the general statutes is repealed and the
446 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

447 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
448 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
449 family [day] child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended
450 by this act, without a license issued by the Commissioner of Early
451 Childhood. Licensure forms shall be obtained from the Office of Early
452 Childhood. Applications for licensure shall be made to the
453 commissioner on forms provided by the office and shall contain the
454 information required by regulations adopted under this section. The
455 licensure and application forms shall contain a notice that false
456 statements made therein are punishable in accordance with section

457 53a-157b. Applicants shall state, in writing, that they are in compliance
458 with the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to
459 subsection (f) of this section. Before a family [day] child care home
460 license is granted, the office shall make an inquiry and investigation
461 which shall include a visit and inspection of the premises for which the
462 license is requested. Any inspection conducted by the office shall
463 include an inspection for evident sources of lead poisoning. The office
464 shall provide for a chemical analysis of any paint chips found on such
465 premises. Neither the commissioner nor the commissioner's designee
466 shall require an annual inspection for homes seeking license renewal
467 or for licensed homes, except that the commissioner or the
468 commissioner's designee shall make an unannounced visit, inspection
469 or investigation of each licensed family [day] child care home at least
470 once every year. A licensed family [day] child care home shall not be
471 subject to any conditions on the operation of such home by local
472 officials, other than those imposed by the office pursuant to this
473 subsection, if the home complies with all local codes and ordinances
474 applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

475 (b) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member to a
476 person or entity maintaining a family [day] child care home, as defined
477 in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, without an approval issued
478 by the commissioner. Any person seeking to act as an assistant or
479 substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home shall submit
480 an application for such approval to the office. Applications for
481 approval shall: (1) Be made to the commissioner on forms provided by
482 the office, (2) contain the information required by regulations adopted
483 under this section, and (3) be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars.
484 The approval application forms shall contain a notice that false
485 statements made in such form are punishable in accordance with
486 section 53a-157b.

487 (c) The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall require
488 each initial applicant or prospective employee of a family [day] child
489 care home in a position requiring the provision of care to a child,
490 including an assistant or substitute staff member, to submit to state

491 and national criminal history records checks. The criminal history
492 records checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted
493 in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request
494 a check of the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section
495 17a-101k. The commissioner shall notify each licensee of the provisions
496 of this subsection.

497 (d) An application for initial licensure pursuant to this section shall
498 be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars and such license shall be
499 issued for a term of four years. An application for renewal of a license
500 issued pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fee of forty
501 dollars and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in
502 the family [day] child care home has received age-appropriate
503 immunizations in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to
504 subsection (f) of this section. A license issued pursuant to this section
505 shall be renewed for a term of four years. In the case of an applicant
506 submitting an application for renewal of a license that has expired, and
507 who has ceased operations of a family child care home due to such
508 expired license, the commissioner may renew such expired license
509 within thirty days of the date of such expiration upon receipt of an
510 application for renewal that is accompanied by such fee and such
511 certification.

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

515 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
516 provisions of chapter 54, to assure that family [day] child care homes,
517 as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, shall meet the
518 health, educational and social needs of children utilizing such homes.
519 Such regulations shall ensure that the family [day] child care home is
520 treated as a residence, and not an institutional facility. Such
521 regulations shall specify that each child be protected as age-
522 appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis,
523 tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus

524 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of
525 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f. Such
526 regulations shall provide appropriate exemptions for children for
527 whom such immunization is medically contraindicated and for
528 children whose parents object to such immunization on religious
529 grounds. Such regulations shall also specify conditions under which
530 family [day] child care home providers may administer tests to
531 monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and
532 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs
533 specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving
534 [day] child care services at a family [day] child care home pursuant to
535 a written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or
536 another state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to
537 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant
538 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written
539 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. Such regulations
540 shall specify appropriate standards for extended care and intermittent
541 short-term overnight care. The commissioner shall inform each
542 licensee, by way of a plain language summary provided not later than
543 sixty days after the regulation's effective date, of any new or changed
544 regulations adopted under this subsection with which a licensee must
545 comply.

546 (g) Upon the declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness
547 emergency pursuant to section 28-9 or a public health emergency
548 pursuant to section 19a-131a, the commissioner may waive the
549 provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section if the
550 commissioner determines that such waiver would not endanger the
551 life, safety or health of any child. The commissioner shall prescribe the
552 duration of such waiver, provided such waiver shall not extend
553 beyond the duration of the declared emergency. The commissioner
554 shall establish the criteria by which a waiver request shall be made and
555 the conditions for which a waiver will be granted or denied. The
556 provisions of section 19a-84, as amended by this act, shall not apply to
557 a denial of a waiver request under this subsection.

558 Sec. 9. Section 10-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
559 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

560 (a) Said board shall have general supervision and control of the
561 educational interests of the state, which interests shall include
562 preschool, elementary and secondary education, special education,
563 vocational education and adult education; shall provide leadership
564 and otherwise promote the improvement of education in the state,
565 including research, planning and evaluation and services relating to
566 the provision and use of educational technology, including
567 telecommunications, by school districts; shall prepare such courses of
568 study and publish such curriculum guides including recommendations
569 for textbooks, materials, instructional technological resources and
570 other teaching aids as it determines are necessary to assist school
571 districts to carry out the duties prescribed by law; shall conduct
572 workshops and related activities, including programs of intergroup
573 relations training, to assist teachers in making effective use of such
574 curriculum materials and in improving their proficiency in meeting the
575 diverse needs and interests of pupils; shall keep informed as to the
576 condition, progress and needs of the schools in the state; and shall
577 develop or cause to be developed evaluation and assessment programs
578 designed to measure objectively the adequacy and efficacy of the
579 educational programs offered by public schools and shall selectively
580 conduct such assessment programs annually and report, pursuant to
581 subsection (b) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the
582 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
583 on an annual basis.

584 (b) Said board shall submit to the Governor and to the joint standing
585 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
586 relating to education an account of the condition of the public schools
587 and of the amount and quality of instruction therein and such other
588 information as will assess the true condition, progress and needs of
589 public education.

590 (c) Said board shall prepare every five years a five-year

591 comprehensive plan for elementary, secondary, vocational, career and
592 adult education. Said comprehensive plan shall include, but not be
593 limited to, a policy statement of the State Board of Education's long-
594 term goals and short-term objectives, an analysis of cost implications
595 and measurement criteria and how said board's programs and
596 operations relate to such goals and objectives and specific action plans,
597 target dates and strategies and methods of implementation for
598 achieving such goals and objectives. The State Board of Education shall
599 establish every five years an advisory committee to assist the board in
600 the preparation of the comprehensive plan. Members of the advisory
601 committee shall be appointed by the State Board of Education with
602 representation on the committee to include, but not be limited to,
603 representatives of the Connecticut Advisory Council on Vocational
604 and Career Education, education organizations, parent organizations,
605 student organizations, business and industry, organized labor and
606 appropriate state agencies. Notwithstanding any requirement for
607 submission of a plan for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984, pursuant
608 to section 10-96a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
609 January 1, 1983, the State Board of Education shall not be required to
610 submit the master plan for vocational and career education but shall
611 submit, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the comprehensive
612 plan for elementary and secondary, vocational, career and adult
613 education to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
614 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
615 on or before September 1, 1996, and every five years thereafter
616 provided, the master plan currently in effect shall remain in effect until
617 the comprehensive plan is submitted. The State Board of Education
618 shall be responsible for annually updating the progress in
619 implementing the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan and
620 shall report on such progress to the Governor and to said standing
621 committee annually. The State Board of Education shall provide
622 opportunity for public comment prior to its adoption of a plan.

623 [(d) Not later than December 15, 2012, and biennially thereafter,
624 within available appropriations, the board shall make reasonable
625 efforts to ensure that summaries of reports required pursuant to

626 subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection (b) of section 10-16r are
627 submitted. The board shall summarize the reports and submit such
628 summaries, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
629 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
630 relating to education.]

631 Sec. 10. Subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of section 4-28e of the
632 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
633 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

634 (4) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2025,
635 inclusive, the sum of ten million dollars shall be disbursed from the
636 Tobacco Settlement Fund to the smart start competitive operating
637 grant account established by section 10-507, as amended by this act, for
638 grants-in-aid to towns for the purpose of establishing or expanding a
639 preschool program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for
640 the town.

641 Sec. 11. Section 10-507 of the general statutes is repealed and the
642 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

643 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start
644 competitive capital grant account" which shall be a separate,
645 nonlapsing account. [within the General Fund.] The account shall
646 contain the amounts authorized by the State Bond Commission in
647 accordance with section 10-508 and any other moneys required by law
648 to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be
649 expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the
650 Smart Start competitive grant program established [by subsection (a)
651 of section 10-501,] pursuant to section 10-506, as amended by this act.
652 [and section 3 of public act 14-41.]

653 (b) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start
654 competitive operating grant account" which shall be a separate,
655 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall
656 contain moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, in
657 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of

658 section 4-28e, as amended by this act. Moneys in the account shall be
659 expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the
660 Smart Start competitive grant program established pursuant to section
661 10-506, as amended by this act.

662 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-506 of the general statutes is
663 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
664 *1, 2015*):

665 (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2024,
666 inclusive, the Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with the
667 Department of Education, shall design and administer the Connecticut
668 Smart Start competitive grant program to [reimburse] provide grants
669 to local and regional boards of education for capital and operating
670 expenses related to establishing or expanding a preschool program
671 under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town. A local or
672 regional board of education may submit an application to the office, in
673 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and
674 may receive (1) a grant for capital expenses in an amount not to exceed
675 seventy-five thousand dollars per classroom for costs related to the
676 renovation of an existing public school to accommodate the
677 establishment or expansion of a preschool program, and (2) an annual
678 grant for operating expenses (A) in an amount not to exceed five
679 thousand dollars per child served by such grant, or (B) in an amount
680 not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars for each preschool
681 classroom, provided no town shall receive a total annual grant for
682 operating expenses greater than three hundred thousand dollars. Each
683 local or regional board of education that establishes or expands a
684 preschool program under this section shall be eligible to receive an
685 annual grant for operating expenses for a period of five years,
686 provided such preschool program meets standards established by the
687 Commissioner of Early Childhood. Such local or regional board of
688 education may submit an application for renewal of such grant to the
689 office.

690 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10-16z of the general statutes is

691 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
692 *1, 2015*):

693 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet
694 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the
695 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the
696 commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or
697 the commissioner's designee, (4) the president of the Board of Regents
698 for Higher Education, or the president's designee, (5) the
699 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the
700 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's
701 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
702 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission
703 on Children, or the executive director's designee, (9) the project
704 director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a
705 parent or guardian of a child who attends or attended a school
706 readiness program appointed by the minority leader of the House of
707 Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early
708 childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
709 (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family Resource Center
710 Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House of
711 Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care
712 center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two
713 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of
714 whom is a member of a board of education for a town designated as an
715 alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a
716 parent who has a child attending a school in an educational reform
717 district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the
718 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative
719 of an association of early education and child care providers and one
720 of whom is a representative of a public elementary school with a
721 prekindergarten program, (16) ~~four~~ eight appointed by the Governor,
722 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Head Start
723 Association, one of whom is a representative of the business
724 community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the
725 philanthropic community in this state, ~~and~~ one of whom is a

726 representative of the Connecticut State Employees Association, [and]
727 one of whom is an administrator of the child care development block
728 grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of
729 1990, one of whom is responsible for administering grants received
730 under section 1419 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
731 Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended from time to time, one of
732 whom is responsible for administering the provisions of Title I of the
733 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., and
734 one of whom is responsible for coordinating education services to
735 children and youth who are homeless, (17) the Secretary of the Office
736 of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (18) the
737 Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, (19) the
738 Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, and (20)
739 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the
740 commissioner's designee.

741 Sec. 14. Section 17b-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the
742 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

743 The Commissioner of Early Childhood may accept and receive, on
744 behalf of the Office of Early Childhood, [or on behalf of the Children's
745 Trust Fund, established pursuant to section 17b-751,] any bequest or
746 gift of personal property for services for a person who is, or members
747 of whose immediate family are, receiving assistance or services from
748 the office or for services for a former recipient of assistance from the
749 Department of Social Services or a potential recipient of assistance
750 from the office. [or for programs or services described in section 17b-
751 751.] Any federal funds generated by virtue of any such bequest or gift
752 may be used for the extension of services to such person or family
753 members.

754 Sec. 15. Section 17b-751b of the general statutes is repealed and the
755 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

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

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

763 (b) The [executive director of the Office of Early Childhood]
764 commissioner shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to
765 be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers; (2) develop
766 the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs;
767 and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure
768 the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the
769 executive director shall take into consideration the most effective and
770 consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of
771 current public and private programs.

772 (c) The [executive director of the Office of Early Childhood]
773 commissioner shall establish a data system to enable the programs to
774 document the following information in a standard manner: (1) The
775 level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family
776 demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of
777 child development; and (5) any other information the commissioner
778 deems appropriate.

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

783 Sec. 16. Section 19a-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the
784 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

785 (a) When the Commissioner of Early Childhood has reason to
786 believe any person licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive,
787 as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, has
788 failed substantially to comply with the regulations adopted under said
789 sections, the commissioner may notify the licensee in writing of the
790 commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose

791 a licensure action. Such notice shall be served by certified mail stating
792 the particular reasons for the proposed action. The licensee may, if
793 aggrieved by such intended action, make application for a hearing in
794 writing over the licensee's signature to the commissioner. The licensee
795 shall state in the application in plain language the reasons why the
796 licensee claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to
797 the commissioner not later than thirty days after the licensee's receipt
798 of notification of the intended action. The commissioner shall
799 thereupon hold a hearing or cause a hearing to be held not later than
800 sixty days after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days
801 prior to the date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and
802 place of the hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by
803 the commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the
804 commissioner in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or
805 hearing officer may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of
806 witnesses. The licensee shall be entitled to be represented by counsel
807 and a transcript of the hearing shall be made. If the hearing is
808 conducted by a hearing officer, the hearing officer shall state the
809 hearing officer's findings and make a recommendation to the
810 commissioner on the issue of revocation or suspension or the intended
811 licensure action. The commissioner, based upon the findings and
812 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
813 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision in writing
814 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
815 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
816 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
817 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
818 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
819 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
820 appeal as provided in section 19a-85. Any licensee whose license has
821 been revoked pursuant to this subsection shall be ineligible to apply
822 for a license for a period of one year from the effective date of
823 revocation.

824 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the denial of an
825 initial application for a license under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80,

826 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive,
827 provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such
828 denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the
829 applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license application.

830 (c) In addition to the authority provided to the commissioner in
831 subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner may resolve any
832 disciplinary action with respect to the voluntary surrender of a license.

833 Sec. 17. Section 19a-87e of the general statutes is repealed and the
834 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

835 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood may (1) refuse to license
836 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a person to own,
837 conduct, operate or maintain a family [day] child care home, as
838 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, (2) refuse to approve
839 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a person to act as an
840 assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home,
841 as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, or (3) suspend or
842 revoke the license or approval or take any other action that may be set
843 forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as
844 amended by this act, if the person who owns, conducts, maintains or
845 operates the family [day] child care home, the person who acts as an
846 assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home
847 or a person employed in such family [day] child care home in a
848 position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child
849 [day] care services, has been convicted, in this state or any other state
850 of a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted
851 use or threatened use of physical force against another person, or has a
852 criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner
853 reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct,
854 operate or maintain or be employed by a family [day] child care home,
855 or act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child
856 care home, or if such persons or a person residing in the household has
857 been convicted in this state or any other state of cruelty to persons
858 under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of

859 children under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age
860 of six years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the
861 felony is a child under eighteen years of age, a violation of section 53a-
862 70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, illegal
863 manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing or
864 administration under section 21a-277 or 21a-278, or illegal possession
865 under section 21a-279, or if such person, a person who acts as assistant
866 or substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home or a
867 person employed in such family [day] child care home in a position
868 connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child [day]
869 care services, either fails to substantially comply with the regulations
870 adopted pursuant to section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, or
871 conducts, operates or maintains the home in a manner which
872 endangers the health, safety and welfare of the children receiving child
873 [day] care services. Any refusal of a license or approval pursuant to
874 this section shall be rendered in accordance with the provisions of
875 sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive. Any person whose license or
876 approval has been revoked pursuant to this section shall be ineligible
877 to apply for a license or approval for a period of one year from the
878 effective date of revocation.

879 (b) When the commissioner intends to suspend or revoke a license
880 or approval or take any other action against a license or approval set
881 forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as amended by
882 this act, the commissioner shall notify the licensee or approved staff
883 member in writing of the commissioner's intended action. The licensee
884 or approved staff member may, if aggrieved by such intended action,
885 make application for a hearing in writing over the licensee's or
886 approved staff member's signature to the commissioner. The licensee
887 or approved staff member shall state in the application in plain
888 language the reasons why the licensee or approved staff member
889 claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the
890 commissioner within thirty days of the licensee's or approved staff
891 member's receipt of notification of the intended action. The
892 commissioner shall thereupon hold a hearing within sixty days from
893 receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the date

894 of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the hearing,
895 to the licensee or approved staff member. The provisions of this
896 subsection shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a
897 license or approval under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act,
898 provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such
899 denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the
900 applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license or approval
901 application.

902 (c) Any person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a
903 family [day] child care home or approved to act as an assistant or
904 substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home shall notify
905 the commissioner of any conviction of the owner, conductor, operator
906 or maintainer of the family [day] child care home or of any person
907 residing in the household or any person employed in such family [day]
908 child care home in a position connected with the provision of care to a
909 child receiving child [day] care services, of a crime which affects the
910 commissioner's discretion under subsection (a) of this section,
911 immediately upon obtaining knowledge of such conviction. Failure to
912 comply with the notification requirement of this subsection may result
913 in the suspension or revocation of the license or approval or the taking
914 of any other action against a license or approval set forth in regulation
915 adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as amended by this act, and shall
916 subject the licensee or approved staff member to a civil penalty of not
917 more than one hundred dollars per day for each day after the person
918 obtained knowledge of the conviction.

919 (d) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking
920 employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a
921 child receiving family [day] child care home services to make a false
922 written statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a
923 form bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are
924 punishable, which statement such person does not believe to be true
925 and is intended to mislead the prospective employer.

926 (e) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a family

927 [day] child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this
928 act, is operating without a current and valid license or in violation of
929 the regulations adopted under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act,
930 or in a manner which may pose a potential danger to the health,
931 welfare and safety of a child receiving child [day] care services, may
932 report such information to the Office of Early Childhood. The office
933 shall investigate any report or complaint received pursuant to this
934 subsection. The name of the person making the report or complaint
935 shall not be disclosed unless (1) such person consents to such
936 disclosure, (2) a judicial or administrative proceeding results from such
937 report or complaint, or (3) a license action pursuant to subsection (a) of
938 this section results from such report or complaint. All records obtained
939 by the office in connection with any such investigation shall not be
940 subject to the provisions of section 1-210 for a period of thirty days
941 from the date of the petition or other event initiating such
942 investigation, or until such time as the investigation is terminated
943 pursuant to a withdrawal or other informal disposition or until a
944 hearing is convened pursuant to chapter 54, whichever is earlier. A
945 formal statement of charges issued by the office shall be subject to the
946 provisions of section 1-210 from the time that it is served or mailed to
947 the respondent. Records which are otherwise public records shall not
948 be deemed confidential merely because they have been obtained in
949 connection with an investigation under this section.

950 (f) In addition to the authority provided to the commissioner in
951 subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner may resolve any
952 disciplinary action with respect to the voluntary surrender of a license.

953 Sec. 18. Section 19a-423 of the general statutes is repealed and the
954 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

955 (a) The commissioner may take any of the actions authorized under
956 subsection (b) of this section if the youth camp licensee: (1) Is convicted
957 of any offense involving moral turpitude, the record of conviction
958 being conclusive evidence thereof; (2) is legally adjudicated insane or
959 mentally incompetent, the record of such adjudication being

960 conclusive evidence thereof; (3) uses any narcotic or any controlled
961 drug, as defined in section 21a-240, to an extent or in a manner that
962 such use impairs the licensee's ability to properly care for children; (4)
963 fails to comply with the statutes and regulations for licensing youth
964 camps; (5) furnishes or makes any misleading or any false statement or
965 report to the office; (6) refuses to submit to the office any reports or
966 refuses to make available to the office any records required by it in
967 investigating the facility for licensing purposes; (7) fails or refuses to
968 submit to an investigation or inspection by the office or to admit
969 authorized representatives of the office at any reasonable time for the
970 purpose of investigation, inspection or licensing; (8) fails to provide,
971 maintain, equip and keep in safe and sanitary condition premises
972 established for or used by the campers pursuant to minimum
973 standards prescribed by the office or by ordinances or regulations
974 applicable to the location of such facility; or (9) wilfully or deliberately
975 violates any of the provisions of this chapter.

976 (b) The commissioner, after a contested case hearing held in
977 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, may take any of the
978 following actions, singly or in combination, in any case in which the
979 commissioner finds that there has been a substantial failure to comply
980 with the requirements established under sections 19a-420 to 19a-428,
981 inclusive, the Public Health Code or regulations adopted pursuant to
982 section 19a-428: (1) Revoke a license; (2) suspend a license; (3) impose a
983 civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars per violation for
984 each day of occurrence; (4) place a licensee on probationary status and
985 require such licensee to report regularly to the office on the matters
986 that are the basis of the probation; (5) restrict the acquisition of other
987 facilities for a period of time set by the commissioner; or (6) impose
988 limitations on a license.

989 (c) The commissioner shall notify the licensee, in writing, of the
990 commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose
991 a licensure action. The licensee may, if aggrieved by such intended
992 action, make application for a hearing, in writing, over the licensee's
993 signature to the commissioner. The licensee shall state in the

994 application in plain language the reasons why the licensee claims to be
995 aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner not
996 later than thirty days after the licensee's receipt of notification of the
997 intended action.

998 (d) The commissioner shall hold a hearing not later than sixty days
999 after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the
1000 date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the
1001 hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by the
1002 commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner,
1003 in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or hearing officer may
1004 issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses. The licensee
1005 shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and a transcript of the
1006 hearing shall be made. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer,
1007 the hearing officer shall state the hearing officer's findings and make a
1008 recommendation to the commissioner on the issue of revocation or
1009 suspension or the intended licensure action.

1010 (e) The commissioner, based upon the findings and
1011 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
1012 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision, in writing,
1013 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
1014 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
1015 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
1016 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
1017 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
1018 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
1019 appeal in the same manner as provided in section 19a-85.

1020 (f) The provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section
1021 shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a license under
1022 section 19a-421, provided the commissioner notifies the applicant of
1023 any such denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written
1024 notice to the applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license
1025 application.

1026 (g) If the office determines that the health, safety or welfare of a

1027 child or staff person at a youth camp requires imperative emergency
1028 action by the office to halt an activity being provided at the camp, the
1029 office may issue a cease and desist order limiting the license and
1030 requiring the immediate cessation of the activity. The office shall
1031 provide the licensee with an opportunity for a hearing regarding the
1032 issuance of a cease and desist order. Such hearing shall be held not
1033 later than ten business days after the date of issuance of the order.
1034 Upon receipt of such order, the licensee shall cease providing the
1035 activity and provide immediate notification to staff and the parents of
1036 all children attending the camp that such activity has ceased at the
1037 camp until such time as the cease and desist order is dissolved by the
1038 office.

1039 (h) In addition to the authority provided to the commissioner in
1040 subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner may resolve any
1041 disciplinary action with respect to the voluntary surrender of a youth
1042 camp license.

1043 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person or entity who is
1044 the subject of an investigation pursuant to section 19a-80f or 19a-87a of
1045 the general statutes or disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-84 of
1046 the general statutes, as amended by this act, while holding a license
1047 issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having held such a license
1048 within eighteen months of the commencement of such investigation or
1049 disciplinary action, shall be considered to hold a valid license for
1050 purposes of such investigation or disciplinary action.

1051 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person who is the subject
1052 of an investigation or disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-87e of
1053 the general statutes, as amended by this act, while holding a license or
1054 approval issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having held such
1055 a license or approval within eighteen months of the commencement of
1056 such investigation or disciplinary action, shall be considered to hold a
1057 valid license or approval for purposes of such investigation or
1058 disciplinary action.

1059 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person or entity who is

1060 the subject of an investigation pursuant to section 19a-429 of the
1061 general statutes or disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-423 of
1062 the general statutes, as amended by this act, while holding a license
1063 issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having held such a license
1064 within eighteen months of the commencement of such investigation or
1065 disciplinary action shall be considered to hold a valid license for
1066 purposes of such investigation or disciplinary action.

1067 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 19a-77 of the general statutes is
1068 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1069 *1, 2015*):

1070 (a) As used in this section and sections [19a-77] 19a-77a to 19a-80,
1071 inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to [19a-87] 19a-
1072 87a, inclusive, ["child day care services" shall include] "child care
1073 services" includes:

1074 (1) A ["child day care center"] "child care center" which offers or
1075 provides a program of supplementary care to more than twelve related
1076 or unrelated children outside their own homes on a regular basis;

1077 (2) A ["group day care home"] "group child care home" which offers
1078 or provides a program of supplementary care (A) to not less than
1079 seven or more than twelve related or unrelated children on a regular
1080 basis, or (B) that meets the definition of a family [day] child care home
1081 except that it operates in a facility other than a private family home;

1082 (3) A ["family day care home"] "family child care home" which
1083 consists of a private family home caring for not more than six children,
1084 including the provider's own children not in school full time, where
1085 the children are cared for not less than three or more than twelve hours
1086 during a twenty-four-hour period and where care is given on a
1087 regularly recurring basis except that care may be provided in excess of
1088 twelve hours but not more than seventy-two consecutive hours to
1089 accommodate a need for extended care or intermittent short-term
1090 overnight care. During the regular school year, a maximum of three
1091 additional children who are in school full time, including the

1092 provider's own children, shall be permitted, except that if the provider
1093 has more than three children who are in school full time, all of the
1094 provider's children shall be permitted;

1095 (4) "Night care" means the care provided for one or more hours
1096 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.;

1097 (5) "Year-round" program means a program open at least fifty
1098 weeks per year.

1099 Sec. 23. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-80 of the
1100 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1101 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

1102 (b) (1) Upon receipt of an application for a license, the commissioner
1103 shall issue such license if, upon inspection and investigation, said
1104 commissioner finds that the applicant, the facilities and the program
1105 meet the health, educational and social needs of children likely to
1106 attend the child [day] care center or group [day] child care home and
1107 comply with requirements established by regulations adopted under
1108 this section and sections 19a-77 to [19a-80] 19a-79a, inclusive, as
1109 amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive. The
1110 commissioner shall offer an expedited application review process for
1111 an application submitted by a municipal agency or department. The
1112 commissioner shall have discretion to determine whether a change of
1113 operator, ownership or location request from a currently licensed
1114 person or entity, as described in subsection (a) of this section, shall
1115 require the filing of a new license application from such person or
1116 entity. Each license shall be for a term of four years, shall be
1117 nontransferable, and may be renewed upon receipt by the
1118 commissioner of a renewal application and accompanying licensure
1119 fee. The commissioner may suspend or revoke such license after notice
1120 and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in section 19a-84, as
1121 amended by this act, for violation of the regulations adopted under
1122 this section and sections 19a-77 to [19a-80] 19a-79a, inclusive, as
1123 amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive. In the
1124 case of an application for renewal of a license that has expired, the

1125 commissioner may renew such expired license within thirty days of
1126 the date of such expiration upon receipt of a renewal application and
1127 accompanying licensure fee.

1128 Sec. 24. Section 10-265n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1130 The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood shall
1131 administer, within available appropriations, an even start family
1132 literacy program, in accordance with the William F. Goodling Even
1133 Start Family Literacy Program under the No Child Left Behind Act,
1134 P.L. 107-111, to provide grants to establish new or expand existing
1135 local family literacy programs that provide literacy services for
1136 children and the parents or guardians of such children.

1137 Sec. 25. Subsection (b) of section 17a-106e of the general statutes is
1138 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1139 *1, 2015*):

1140 (b) The department shall refer any child exhibiting developmental
1141 or social-emotional delays pursuant to such screenings to the birth-to-
1142 three program. The department shall refer any child who is not found
1143 eligible for services under the birth-to-three program to the Help Me
1144 Grow prevention program [of the Children's Trust Fund] under the
1145 Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to section 17b-751d, or a similar
1146 program which the department deems appropriate.

1147 Sec. 26. Subsection (d) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is
1148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1149 *1, 2015*):

1150 (d) The Office of Early Childhood shall constitute a successor
1151 department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e
1152 and 4-39, to (1) the Department of Education with respect to sections 8-
1153 210, 10-16n, 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended by this act, 10-16u,
1154 10-16w, 10-16aa, 17b-749a, 17b-749c and 17b-749g to 17b-749i,
1155 inclusive; (2) the Department of Social Services (A) with respect to

1156 sections 17b-12, as amended by this act, 17b-705a, 17b-730, 17b-733 to
1157 17b-736, inclusive, 17b-738, 17b-739, 17b-749, as amended by this act,
1158 17b-749d to 17b-749f, inclusive, 17b-749j, 17b-749k, 17b-750 to 17b-
1159 751a, inclusive, and 17b-751d, [and 17b-751e,] and (B) for the purpose
1160 of administering the child care development block grant pursuant to
1161 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and (3) the
1162 Department of Public Health (A) with respect to sections 10a-194c, 12-
1163 634, 17a-28, 17a-101 and 19a-80f, (B) for the purpose of regulating child
1164 day care services pursuant to sections 19a-77, as amended by this act,
1165 19a-79, as amended by this act, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-82
1166 and 19a-84 to 19a-87e, inclusive, as amended by this act, (C) for the
1167 purpose of the conduct of regulation of youth camps, pursuant to
1168 sections 19a-420 to 19a-434, inclusive, and (D) for the purpose of
1169 administering the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home
1170 Visiting Program authorized under the Patient Protection and
1171 Affordable Care Act of 2010, P.L. 111-148.

1172 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Whenever the term "child
1173 day care center" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the
1174 following sections of the general statutes, the term "child care center"
1175 shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 8-210, 10-16p, as amended by this
1176 act, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 10-500, as amended by this act, 10-
1177 501, 10a-194c, 16-50p, 17a-101, 17b-733, 17b-738, 17b-749f, 19a-77, as
1178 amended by this act, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-80e
1179 to 19a-80g, inclusive, 19a-86, 19a-87a, 19a-87f, 19a-131k, 19a-900, 21a-
1180 278a and 21a-279.

1181 (b) Whenever the term "group day care home" is used in any public
1182 or special act of 2015 or in the following sections of the general
1183 statutes, the term "group child care home" shall be substituted in lieu
1184 thereof: 8-2, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 10a-194c, 17a-101, 17b-733,
1185 17b-738, 17b-749a, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-80e,
1186 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-86 to 19a-87a, inclusive, 19a-87f, 19a-131k and 19a-
1187 900.

1188 (c) Whenever the term "family day care home" is used in any public

1189 or special act of 2015 or in the following sections of the general
 1190 statutes, the term "family child care home" shall be substituted in lieu
 1191 thereof: 8-2, 8-3j, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 17a-101, 17b-705, 17b-
 1192 733, 17b-738, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 19a-79a, 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-87a to
 1193 19a-87d, inclusive, 19a-87f and 19a-131k.

1194 (d) Whenever the term "child day care service" or "child day care
 1195 services" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the following
 1196 sections of the general statutes, the term "child care service" or "child
 1197 care services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 8-210, 10-16q, 10-500,
 1198 as amended by this act, 12-81n, 17a-145, 17b-90, 17b-261g, 17b-733, 17b-
 1199 737, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-77a, 19a-
 1200 79a, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-87a, 19a-131k and 28-5.

1201 (e) Whenever the term "child day care program" or "child day care
 1202 programs" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the
 1203 following sections of the general statutes, the term "child care
 1204 program" or "child care programs" shall be substituted in lieu thereof:
 1205 4b-23, 10-16p, as amended by this act, 17b-730, 17b-749d, 17b-749f and
 1206 19a-80e.

1207 (f) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying the
 1208 provisions of this section, make such technical, grammatical and
 1209 punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this
 1210 section.

1211 Sec. 28. Sections 17b-751 and 17b-751e of the general statutes are
 1212 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2015*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(d)(1)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(e)(2)(B)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(e)(2)(C)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16r(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17b-749

Sec. 7	July 1, 2015	19a-79
Sec. 8	July 1, 2015	19a-87b
Sec. 9	July 1, 2015	10-4
Sec. 10	from passage	4-28e(c)(4)
Sec. 11	from passage	10-507
Sec. 12	July 1, 2015	10-506(a)
Sec. 13	July 1, 2015	10-16z(a)
Sec. 14	July 1, 2015	17b-12
Sec. 15	July 1, 2015	17b-751b
Sec. 16	July 1, 2015	19a-84
Sec. 17	July 1, 2015	19a-87e
Sec. 18	July 1, 2015	19a-423
Sec. 19	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 20	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 21	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 22	July 1, 2015	19a-77(a)
Sec. 23	July 1, 2015	19a-80(b)(1)
Sec. 24	from passage	10-265n
Sec. 25	July 1, 2015	17a-106e(b)
Sec. 26	July 1, 2015	10-500(d)
Sec. 27	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 28	July 1, 2015	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 6(a) Subdiv. designators "(1)" and "(2)" were added for clarity, in Section 18(h) "youth camp" was added before "license" for clarity and in Section 27, references to statutory sections duplicative of other sections amended in the bill were deleted.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	less than \$1,000	less than \$1,000
Office of Early Childhood	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 1 and 2 could result in a cost associated with expanding eligibility for currently funded school readiness seats. While the number of seats is not increased, the bill expands eligibility to children who do not live in the district where the program is located. Based on FY 15 data, there are 249 unfilled Priority school readiness spaces and 2 unfilled Competitive school readiness spaces. Filling these spaces would result in increased costs at a maximum of \$8,670 per space, which would reduce funding that would otherwise lapse.

Section 2 will also result in a cost associated with removing the grant floor of \$107,000 for competitive school readiness grants and instead making the grants based on the number of spaces multiplied by the cost per child (maximum of \$8,670). Based on FY 14 data, an additional two towns with approximately 27 seats would qualify for grant funding of at least \$170,000.

Section 3 could result in a cost associated with increasing the set-aside of unexpended funds, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, which can be used for professional development for certain providers and associated

staff. The additional \$500,000 in expenditures would reduce funding that would otherwise lapse.

Section 3 also increases the maximum award, from \$5,000 to \$10,000, which staff can receive for certain higher education expenses, which are supported by the unexpended funds. While this does not result in a fiscal impact overall, it could change the distribution of such funding. As of January 2015, over 100 recipients were identified for scholarships at the \$5,000 level or higher.

Section 6 will result in a cost associated with removing language related to eligibility determinations under the Care4Kids program. While the bill is unclear regarding who would make the determinations and the length of such eligibility, the federal Child Care Development and Block Grant Act requires states to consider each child who receives assistance under the program eligible for at least 12 months.

Sections 10 and 11 create separate Smart Start operating and capital grant accounts, which are non-appropriated. **Section 12** provides grant awards under the Smart Start competitive grant program prospectively rather than on a reimbursement basis. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact overall; however, it does change the timing of payments.

Section 13 could result in a cost of less than \$1,000 to reimburse new Early Childhood Cabinet members and agency staff for mileage expenses.

The bill makes other technical and conforming changes that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1101*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes the following changes to various early childhood statutes:

1. expands school readiness seat eligibility (§§ 1 & 2);
2. revises the formula for calculating competitive school readiness grants (§ 2);
3. increases the amount of unexpended school readiness funding that may be spent on professional development for early childhood care and education program providers (§ 3);
4. eliminates the requirement that school readiness councils submit biennial reports to SDE on the number and location of readiness spaces, estimated number of unserved children, and estimated cost of providing spaces to all eligible children (§ 5);
5. removes the child care subsidy program (“Care 4 Kids”) agency determination authority and eligibility determination schedule (§ 6);
6. removes the Office of Early Childhood’s (OEC) duty to (a) send written notices on specific topics to Care 4 Kids recipients and service providers and (b) report to the Human Services and Appropriations committees on Care 4 Kids eligibility redeterminations (§ 6);
7. replaces statutory references to (a) “day care” with “child care” and (b) OEC “executive director” with “commissioner” (§§ 7 & 8,

- 15, 17, 22 & 23, 27);
8. allows the OEC commissioner to waive child care regulation provisions during civil preparedness or public health emergencies (§§ 7 & 8);
 9. allows the OEC commissioner to renew expired child care licenses within 30 days of their expiration upon certain conditions (§§ 8 & 23);
 10. creates separate operating and capital grant accounts for the Smart Start competitive grant program (§§ 10 & 11);
 11. requires OEC to redesign the Smart Start program grants as up-front payments rather than reimbursements (§ 12);
 12. adds seven new members to the Early Childhood Cabinet (§ 13);
 13. repeals the law creating the Children's Trust Fund (see BACKGROUND) and the fund's and the Children Trust Fund Council's orders, regulations, and contracts (§ 28);
 14. eliminates OEC's authority to accept gifts or bequests on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund or for its programs and services (§ 14);
 15. requires the OEC commissioner to report annually, rather than semiannually, to the General Assembly on the Nurturing Families Network (§ 15);
 16. allows the OEC commissioner to resolve disciplinary action against child care providers using voluntary license surrender (§§ 16-18);
 17. allows OEC to investigate and discipline child care providers even if their license expired within 18 months of the investigation's start (§§ 19-21);
 18. shifts administration of the Even Start family literacy program

(see BACKGROUND) from the State Department of Education to OEC (§ 24); and

19. shifts the Help Me Grow program (see BACKGROUND) from the Children's Trust Fund to OEC (§ 25).

The bill also makes numerous conforming and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015, except for the sections concerning Smart Start operating and capital grant accounts and Even Start, which are effective upon passage.

§§ 1- 5, 9 – SCHOOL READINESS

The school readiness grant program funds full-day, full-year spaces in accredited programs for children age three to five who are ineligible to enroll in public school. It provides grants on a competitive and non-competitive basis. The bill makes changes to school readiness seat eligibility, calculation of competitive school readiness grants, available amounts of unexpended grant funds for provider professional development, and SBE reporting requirements.

Seat Eligibility

The bill expands school readiness seat eligibility by allowing programs to serve children who do not live in the priority school district or former priority school district (see BACKGROUND) where the program is currently located. Under current law, children must reside in one of these districts to be eligible to attend their respective school readiness program.

Grant Formula

The bill also changes the method for calculating competitive school readiness grants for towns or regional school readiness councils. Under current law, such towns or a council may apply for grants of at least \$107,000 per priority school or town. The bill allows them to apply for grants equal to the number of spaces multiplied by a \$8,670 per child cost amount.

Unexpended Grant Funds

Under current law, up to \$500,000 in unexpended school readiness grant funds may be used to provide professional development for early childhood care and education program providers. The bill increases this amount to up to \$1 million.

Existing law specifically allows unexpended school readiness funds to be used, among other professional development purposes, to provide assistance to early childhood education program staff attending a state-accredited, OEC-approved higher education institution. Currently, the law allows a maximum of \$5,000 in assistance per staff member per year for the cost of higher education courses leading to a bachelor's or associate's degree. The bill increases this assistance to \$10,000 per staff member per year.

§ 6 – CARE 4 KIDS

Care 4 Kids helps low- to moderate-income families pay for child care costs. The bill (1) eliminates agency authority to make Care 4 Kids determinations and eligibility determination schedules and (2) changes Care 4 Kids notice requirements.

Eligibility Determination

Under current law, the OEC commissioner (1) has the authority to make initial eight-month eligibility determinations for Care 4 Kids subsidy applicants and (2) may not make eligibility redeterminations until the eight-month period has expired, unless the commissioner can demonstrate, beginning July 1, 2014, that OEC has overpaid more program benefits in comparison to the 2010 calendar year, in which case the commissioner may reduce the redetermination period to six months.

The bill eliminates the OEC commissioner's authority to make eligibility determinations but does not specify how such determinations are to be made in the future. The bill also removes all references to the length of eligibility determination periods and does not replace them with another specific determination period. It also

removes OEC's duty to report annually, beginning July 1, 2014, to the Human Services and Appropriations committees an analysis of overpayments made by OEC as a result of eight-month eligibility redeterminations.

Notice Requirements

The bill also removes the requirement that OEC provide written notice to Care 4 Kids subsidy recipients and service providers when the office (1) closes the program to new applications, (2) changes eligibility requirements or program benefits, or (3) makes any other change to the program's status or terms. By law, and unchanged by the bill, OEC must continue to notice such changes on its website.

§§ 7 & 8 – EMERGENCY CHILD CARE REGULATION WAIVERS

The bill allows the OEC commissioner to waive the provisions of any family child care home, child care center, or group child care home regulation that would not endanger the life, health, or safety of any child when the governor declares a (1) civil preparedness emergency or (2) public health emergency. It requires the commissioner to prescribe the waiver's duration but does not allow the waiver to extend beyond the declared emergency's duration.

The bill also requires the commissioner to establish (1) criteria for making a waiver request and (2) conditions for which a waiver will be granted or denied. It also specifies that the same processes that apply to child care center license suspensions and revocations and initial license application denials do not apply to waiver request denials.

§§ 8 & 23 – EXPIRED CHILD CARE LICENSE RENEWAL

The bill allows the OEC commissioner, after receiving a renewal application, to renew a family child care home license that has expired within the last 30 days, if the application is accompanied by the required fee and immunization certification for enrolled children. It allows the same renewal conditions for expired child care centers and group child care homes but does not require immunization certification.

§§10-12 – SMART START COMPETITIVE GRANTS ACCOUNTS

The Smart Start program provides competitive grants to school districts to establish or expand public preschool programs. The bill requires the grants to be awarded up front, rather than as a reimbursement for eligible expenses.

It also creates two separate grant accounts for the Smart Start program. It creates the non-lapsing operating grant account within the General Fund, which by law receives \$10 million annually in disbursed funds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund for FYs 16-25. It also creates the non-lapsing capital grant account, which is not within the General Fund and contains amounts authorized by the State Bond Commission.

§ 13 – EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET

The bill adds seven new members to the Early Childhood Cabinet for a total of 29 members. It adds four new gubernatorial appointees (for a total of eight), who must include:

1. a Child Care and Development Block Grant administrator,
2. an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B grant administrator,
3. a federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act administrator, and
4. an education services coordinator for homeless children and youth.

It also adds to the cabinet the (1) lieutenant governor, or her designee; (2) housing commissioner, or her designee; and (3) mental health and addition services commissioner, or her designee.

§ 15 – NURTURING FAMILIES NETWORK

The bill requires the OEC commissioner to report annually, rather than semiannually, to the General Assembly on the Nurturing Families Network. Under current law, the commissioner must report on

January 1 and July 1 annually, and the bill removes the January 1 reporting requirement. The network aims to reduce the abuse and neglect of infants by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-based assessment with home visitation follow-up on infants and their families identified as high risk.

§§ 16-18 – VOLUNTARY LICENSE SURRENDER

The bill allows the OEC commissioner to resolve a disciplinary action against a child day care center, group day care home, family day care home, or youth camp by accepting the voluntary surrender of a license.

§§ 19-21 – INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINE REGARDLESS OF LICENSE EXPIRATION

The bill allows the OEC commissioner to investigate and discipline a child day care center, group child day care home, family day care home, or youth camp if it holds a license or has held a license from OEC within the past 18 months of the investigation or discipline beginning.

BACKGROUND

Children's Trust Fund

Programs subsidized by the Children's Trust Fund are (1) aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect or (2) are family resource programs. The fund is administered by the OEC commissioner under current law (CGS § 17b-751).

Even Start

This program provides grants to establish new, or expand existing, local family literacy programs that provide literacy services for children and their parents or guardians (CGS § 10-265n). It is a federal program that is authorized under the No Child Left Behind Act (20 USC § 6381, et seq.).

Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow is designed to identify children at risk for developmental or behavioral problems and to connect these children

to existing community resources. It consists of four primary components:

1. training child health providers in effective developmental surveillance;
2. creating a resource inventory of community-based programs supporting child development and families;
3. developing a coordinated, statewide referral system that links young children and families to existing services and support; and
4. collecting data and analyses of children's developmental status and statewide resources.

Priority School District

A priority school district is one that is targeted for additional state educational assistance based on a formula that identifies those with the highest populations or concentrations of students (1) on temporary family assistance and (2) performing poorly on statewide mastery exams (CGS § 10-266p). There are 15 such districts.

Former Priority School District

A former priority district is one that no longer qualifies for priority district status and whose priority district grants are being phased out (CGS § 10-16p).

Civil Preparedness and Public Health Emergencies

The law allows the governor to proclaim that a state of civil preparedness emergency exists in the event of a serious disaster, enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action. This declaration allows the governor to personally take direct operational control of any and all parts of the state's civil preparedness forces and functions (CGS § 28-9).

The law allows the governor to declare a public health emergency in the event of a statewide or regional public health emergency. The

governor may order the public health commissioner to implement all or some of the public health emergency response plan, authorize the commissioner to isolate or quarantine people, order the commissioner to vaccinate people, apply for federal assistance, or order the commissioner to suspend certain license renewal and inspection functions during the emergency period and for six-months afterward (CGS § 19a-131a).

Related Bill

SB 956, File 156, favorably reported by the Children’s Committee, allows the OEC commissioner to make Care 4 Kids eligibility redeterminations on a six-month basis if benefit overpayments increased compared to 2010 as a result of having a 12-month redetermination period, instead of the current eight-month period.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/25/2015)