



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 964

LCO No. 3491



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

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

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

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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

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

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11 section 10-264l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is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

13 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year
14 thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

111 (a) The [executive director of the Office] Commissioner of Early

112 Childhood shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a
113 Nurturing Families Network, which demonstrates the benefits of
114 preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of
115 infants and by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-
116 based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their
117 families within families identified as high risk.

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

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

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

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

141 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
142 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards

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

178 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
179 issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General
180 Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include,
181 but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and
182 length of time on such waiting list.

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

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

211 counselor or a domestic violence counselor, as defined in section
212 52-146k, (30) any person who is a licensed professional counselor, (31)
213 any person who is a licensed foster parent, (32) any person paid to care
214 for a child in any public or private facility, child day care center, group
215 day care home or family day care home licensed by the state, (33) any
216 employee of the Department of Children and Families, (34) any
217 employee of the Department of Public Health, (35) any employee of the
218 Office of Early Childhood who is responsible for the licensing of child
219 day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes or
220 youth camps, ~~[(35)]~~ (36) any paid youth camp director or assistant
221 director, ~~[(36)]~~ (37) the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office
222 of the Child Advocate, and ~~[(37)]~~ (38) any family relations counselor,
223 family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor
224 employed by the Judicial Department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

245 (5) Information to parents regarding methods to address and cope
246 with mental, emotional and behavioral health stressors at various ages
247 of a child's development and at various stages of a parent's work and
248 family life;

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

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

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

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

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

266 (a) There is established an Office of Early Childhood. The office
267 shall be under the direction of the Commissioner of Early Childhood,
268 whose appointment shall be made by the Governor. Such appointment
269 shall be in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8,
270 inclusive. The commissioner shall be responsible for implementing the
271 policies and directives of the office. The commissioner shall have the

272 authority to designate any employee as his or her agent to exercise all
 273 or part of the authority, powers and duties of the commissioner in his
 274 or her absence. Said office shall be within the Department of Education
 275 for administrative purposes only.

276 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10-501 of the general statutes is
 277 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
 278 *passage*):

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-357b(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-2641(c)(3)(C)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-222p(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-16r(b)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	19a-80(c)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	17a-28(g)(11)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	17b-751b
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	17b-749(c)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	17a-101(b)

Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	17a-22dd(b)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	17a-22cc
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	10-500(a)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-501(a)

ED *Joint Favorable*