



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 1101***

LCO No. 4849



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  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 (A) [in an area served by a priority school or a former  
47 priority school, (B)] in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are  
48 ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in  
49 subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a

50 priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, [(C)] (B) in a town  
51 formerly a town described in subparagraph [(B)] (A) of this  
52 subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or  
53 [(D)] (C) in a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in  
54 section 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school district  
55 pursuant to section 10-266p. A town in which a priority school is  
56 located, a regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c)  
57 of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a  
58 town described in subparagraph [(B)] (A) of this subdivision may  
59 apply for such a grant in an amount [not less than one hundred seven  
60 thousand dollars per priority school or town] equal to the number of  
61 spaces in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness  
62 program seeking accreditation multiplied by the per child cost set forth  
63 in 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)] (A) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant  
67 awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and  
68 a 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)] (C), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school  
79 readiness program or a school readiness program seeking  
80 accreditation. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a  
81 grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase  
82 spaces for such children from providers of accredited school readiness  
83 programs or school 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)] (C), inclusive, of subdivision  
144 (1) of 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 is working or attending high school or who  
179 receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance  
180 program from the Department of Social Services and is participating in

181 an approved education, training or other job preparation activity.  
182 Services available under the child care program shall include the  
183 provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen  
184 or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The Office of  
185 Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the child care  
186 subsidy program and shall administer such program within the  
187 existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice  
188 on the office's Internet web site [and shall provide written notice to  
189 recipients of program benefits and to service providers] any time the  
190 office closes the program to new applications, changes eligibility  
191 requirements, changes program benefits or makes any other change to  
192 the program's status or terms, provided the office shall not be required  
193 to issue such notice when the office expands program eligibility. Any  
194 change in the office's acceptance of new applications, eligibility  
195 requirements, program benefits or any other change to the program's  
196 status or terms for which the office is required to give notice pursuant  
197 to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the office  
198 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 in 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 application  
506 for renewal of a license that has expired, the commissioner may renew  
507 such expired license within thirty days of the date of such expiration

508 upon receipt of an application for renewal that is accompanied by a fee  
509 of forty dollars and a certification from the licensee that any child  
510 enrolled in the family child care home has received age-appropriate  
511 immunizations in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to  
512 subsection (f) of this section.

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

516 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
517 provisions of chapter 54, to assure that family [day] child care homes,  
518 as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, shall meet the  
519 health, educational and social needs of children utilizing such homes.  
520 Such regulations shall ensure that the family [day] child care home is  
521 treated as a residence, and not an institutional facility. Such  
522 regulations shall specify that each child be protected as age-  
523 appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis,  
524 tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus  
525 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of  
526 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f. Such  
527 regulations shall provide appropriate exemptions for children for  
528 whom such immunization is medically contraindicated and for  
529 children whose parents object to such immunization on religious  
530 grounds. Such regulations shall also specify conditions under which  
531 family [day] child care home providers may administer tests to  
532 monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and  
533 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs  
534 specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving  
535 [day] child care services at a family [day] child care home pursuant to  
536 a written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or  
537 another state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to  
538 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant  
539 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written  
540 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. Such regulations

541 shall specify appropriate standards for extended care and intermittent  
542 short-term overnight care. The commissioner shall inform each  
543 licensee, by way of a plain language summary provided not later than  
544 sixty days after the regulation's effective date, of any new or changed  
545 regulations adopted under this subsection with which a licensee must  
546 comply.

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

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

561 (a) Said board shall have general supervision and control of the  
562 educational interests of the state, which interests shall include  
563 preschool, elementary and secondary education, special education,  
564 vocational education and adult education; shall provide leadership  
565 and otherwise promote the improvement of education in the state,  
566 including research, planning and evaluation and services relating to  
567 the provision and use of educational technology, including  
568 telecommunications, by school districts; shall prepare such courses of  
569 study and publish such curriculum guides including recommendations  
570 for textbooks, materials, instructional technological resources and  
571 other teaching aids as it determines are necessary to assist school  
572 districts to carry out the duties prescribed by law; shall conduct

573 workshops and related activities, including programs of intergroup  
574 relations training, to assist teachers in making effective use of such  
575 curriculum materials and in improving their proficiency in meeting the  
576 diverse needs and interests of pupils; shall keep informed as to the  
577 condition, progress and needs of the schools in the state; and shall  
578 develop or cause to be developed evaluation and assessment programs  
579 designed to measure objectively the adequacy and efficacy of the  
580 educational programs offered by public schools and shall selectively  
581 conduct such assessment programs annually and report, pursuant to  
582 subsection (b) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the  
583 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
584 on an annual basis.

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

591 (c) Said board shall prepare every five years a five-year  
592 comprehensive plan for elementary, secondary, vocational, career and  
593 adult education. Said comprehensive plan shall include, but not be  
594 limited to, a policy statement of the State Board of Education's long-  
595 term goals and short-term objectives, an analysis of cost implications  
596 and measurement criteria and how said board's programs and  
597 operations relate to such goals and objectives and specific action plans,  
598 target dates and strategies and methods of implementation for  
599 achieving such goals and objectives. The State Board of Education shall  
600 establish every five years an advisory committee to assist the board in  
601 the preparation of the comprehensive plan. Members of the advisory  
602 committee shall be appointed by the State Board of Education with  
603 representation on the committee to include, but not be limited to,  
604 representatives of the Connecticut Advisory Council on Vocational  
605 and Career Education, education organizations, parent organizations,

606 student organizations, business and industry, organized labor and  
607 appropriate state agencies. Notwithstanding any requirement for  
608 submission of a plan for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984, pursuant  
609 to section 10-96a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to  
610 January 1, 1983, the State Board of Education shall not be required to  
611 submit the master plan for vocational and career education but shall  
612 submit, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the comprehensive  
613 plan for elementary and secondary, vocational, career and adult  
614 education to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the  
615 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
616 on or before September 1, 1996, and every five years thereafter  
617 provided, the master plan currently in effect shall remain in effect until  
618 the comprehensive plan is submitted. The State Board of Education  
619 shall be responsible for annually updating the progress in  
620 implementing the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan and  
621 shall report on such progress to the Governor and to said standing  
622 committee annually. The State Board of Education shall provide  
623 opportunity for public comment prior to its adoption of a plan.

624 [(d) Not later than December 15, 2012, and biennially thereafter,  
625 within available appropriations, the board shall make reasonable  
626 efforts to ensure that summaries of reports required pursuant to  
627 subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection (b) of section 10-16r are  
628 submitted. The board shall summarize the reports and submit such  
629 summaries, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
630 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
631 relating to education.]

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

635 (4) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2025,  
636 inclusive, the sum of ten million dollars shall be disbursed from the  
637 Tobacco Settlement Fund to the smart start competitive operating

638 grant account established by section 10-507, as amended by this act, for  
639 grants-in-aid to towns for the purpose of establishing or expanding a  
640 preschool program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for  
641 the town.

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

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

654 (b) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start  
655 competitive operating grant account" which shall be a separate,  
656 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall  
657 contain moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, in  
658 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of  
659 section 4-28e, as amended by this act. Moneys in the account shall be  
660 expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the  
661 Smart Start competitive grant program established pursuant to section  
662 10-506, as amended by this act.

663 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-506 of the general statutes is  
664 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
665 *1, 2015*):

666 (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2024,  
667 inclusive, the Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with the  
668 Department of Education, shall design and administer the Connecticut

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

691 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10-16z of the general statutes is  
692 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
693 *1, 2015*):

694 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet  
695 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the  
696 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the  
697 commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or  
698 the commissioner's designee, (4) the president of the Board of Regents  
699 for Higher Education, or the president's designee, (5) the  
700 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the  
701 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's

702 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
703 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission  
704 on Children, or the executive director's designee, (9) the project  
705 director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a  
706 parent or guardian of a child who attends or attended a school  
707 readiness program appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
708 Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early  
709 childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,  
710 (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family Resource Center  
711 Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
712 Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care  
713 center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two  
714 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of  
715 whom is a member of a board of education for a town designated as an  
716 alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a  
717 parent who has a child attending a school in an educational reform  
718 district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the  
719 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative  
720 of an association of early education and child care providers and one  
721 of whom is a representative of a public elementary school with a  
722 prekindergarten program, (16) ~~four~~ eight appointed by the Governor,  
723 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Head Start  
724 Association, one of whom is a representative of the business  
725 community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the  
726 philanthropic community in this state, ~~and~~ one of whom is a  
727 representative of the Connecticut State Employees Association, ~~and~~  
728 one of whom is an administrator of the child care development block  
729 grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of  
730 1990, one of whom is responsible for administering grants received  
731 under section 1419 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities  
732 Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended from time to time, one of  
733 whom is responsible for administering the provisions of Title I of the  
734 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., and  
735 one of whom is responsible for coordinating education services to

736 children and youth who are homeless, (17) the Secretary of the Office  
737 of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (18) the  
738 Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, (19) the  
739 Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, and (20)  
740 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the  
741 commissioner's designee.

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

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

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

757 (a) The [executive director] Commissioner of the Office of Early  
758 Childhood shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a  
759 Nurturing Families Network, which demonstrates the benefits of  
760 preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of  
761 infants and by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-  
762 based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their  
763 families within families identified as high risk.

764 (b) The [executive director of the Office of Early Childhood]  
765 commissioner shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to  
766 be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers; (2) develop

767 the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs;  
768 and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure  
769 the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the  
770 executive director shall take into consideration the most effective and  
771 consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of  
772 current public and private programs.

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

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

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

786 (a) When the Commissioner of Early Childhood has reason to  
787 believe any person licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive,  
788 as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, has  
789 failed substantially to comply with the regulations adopted under said  
790 sections, the commissioner may notify the licensee in writing of the  
791 commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose  
792 a licensure action. Such notice shall be served by certified mail stating  
793 the particular reasons for the proposed action. The licensee may, if  
794 aggrieved by such intended action, make application for a hearing in  
795 writing over the licensee's signature to the commissioner. The licensee  
796 shall state in the application in plain language the reasons why the  
797 licensee claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to

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

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

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

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

836 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood may (1) refuse to license  
837 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a person to own,  
838 conduct, operate or maintain a family [day] child care home, as  
839 defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, (2) refuse to approve  
840 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, a person to act as an  
841 assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home,  
842 as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, or (3) suspend or  
843 revoke the license or approval or take any other action that may be set  
844 forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as  
845 amended by this act, if the person who owns, conducts, maintains or  
846 operates the family [day] child care home, the person who acts as an  
847 assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home  
848 or a person employed in such family [day] child care home in a  
849 position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child  
850 [day] care services, has been convicted, in this state or any other state  
851 of a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted  
852 use or threatened use of physical force against another person, or has a  
853 criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner  
854 reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct,  
855 operate or maintain or be employed by a family [day] child care home,  
856 or act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child  
857 care home, or if such persons or a person residing in the household has  
858 been convicted in this state or any other state of cruelty to persons  
859 under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of  
860 children under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age  
861 of six years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the  
862 felony is a child under eighteen years of age, a violation of section 53a-  
863 70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, illegal

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

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

897 subsection shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a  
898 license or approval under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act,  
899 provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such  
900 denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the  
901 applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license or approval  
902 application.

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

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

927 (e) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a family  
928 [day] child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, as amended by this

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

999 (d) The commissioner shall hold a hearing not later than sixty days  
1000 after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the  
1001 date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the  
1002 hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by the  
1003 commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner,  
1004 in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or hearing officer may  
1005 issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses. The licensee  
1006 shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and a transcript of the  
1007 hearing shall be made. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer,  
1008 the hearing officer shall state the hearing officer's findings and make a  
1009 recommendation to the commissioner on the issue of revocation or  
1010 suspension or the intended licensure action.

1011 (e) The commissioner, based upon the findings and  
1012 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by  
1013 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision, in writing,  
1014 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the  
1015 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by  
1016 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the  
1017 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective  
1018 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the  
1019 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may  
1020 appeal in the same manner as provided in section 19a-85.

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

1026 application.

1027 (g) If the office determines that the health, safety or welfare of a  
1028 child or staff person at a youth camp requires imperative emergency  
1029 action by the office to halt an activity being provided at the camp, the  
1030 office may issue a cease and desist order limiting the license and  
1031 requiring the immediate cessation of the activity. The office shall  
1032 provide the licensee with an opportunity for a hearing regarding the  
1033 issuance of a cease and desist order. Such hearing shall be held not  
1034 later than ten business days after the date of issuance of the order.  
1035 Upon receipt of such order, the licensee shall cease providing the  
1036 activity and provide immediate notification to staff and the parents of  
1037 all children attending the camp that such activity has ceased at the  
1038 camp until such time as the cease and desist order is dissolved by the  
1039 office.

1040 (h) In addition to the authority provided to the commissioner in  
1041 subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner may resolve any  
1042 disciplinary action with respect to the voluntary surrender of a 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"] "child care services" shall  
1073 include:

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 as amended by this act, and 4-39, to (1) the Department of Education  
1153 with respect to sections 8-210, 10-16n, 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as  
1154 amended by this act, 10-16u, 10-16w, 10-16aa, 17b-749a, 17b-749c and  
1155 17b-749g to 17b-749i, inclusive; (2) the Department of Social Services  
1156 (A) with respect to sections 17b-12, as amended by this act, 17b-705a,  
1157 17b-730, 17b-733 to 17b-736, inclusive, 17b-738, 17b-739, 17b-749, as  
1158 amended by this act, 17b-749d to 17b-749f, inclusive, 17b-749j, 17b-  
1159 749k, 17b-750 to 17b-751a, inclusive, and 17b-751d, [and 17b-751e,] and  
1160 (B) for the purpose of administering the child care development block  
1161 grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of  
1162 1990; and (3) the Department of Public Health (A) with respect to  
1163 sections 10a-194c, 12-634, 17a-28, 17a-101 and 19a-80f, (B) for the  
1164 purpose of regulating child day care services pursuant to sections 19a-  
1165 77, as amended by this act, 19a-79, as amended by this act, 19a-80, as  
1166 amended by this act, 19a-82 and 19a-84 to 19a-87e, inclusive, as  
1167 amended by this act, (C) for the purpose of the conduct of regulation of  
1168 youth camps, pursuant to sections 19a-420 to 19a-434, inclusive, and  
1169 (D) for the purpose of administering the Maternal, Infant, and Early  
1170 Childhood Home Visiting Program authorized under the Patient  
1171 Protection and 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, 10-501, 10a-194c, 16-50p,  
1177 17a-101, 17b-733, 17b-738, 17b-749f, 19a-77, as amended by this act,  
1178 19a-79a, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-80e to 19a-80g, inclusive,  
1179 19a-86, 19a-87a, 19a-87f, 19a-131k, 19a-900, 21a-278a and 21a-279.

1180 (b) Whenever the term "group day care home" is used in any public

1181 or special act of 2015 or in the following sections of the general  
1182 statutes, the term "group child care home" shall be substituted in lieu  
1183 thereof: 8-2, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 10a-194c, 17a-101, 17b-733,  
1184 17b-738, 17b-749a, 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as  
1185 amended by this act, 19a-80e, 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-86 to 19a-87a,  
1186 inclusive, 19a-87f, 19a-131k and 19a-900.

1187 (c) Whenever the term "family day care home" is used in any public  
1188 or special act of 2015 or in the following sections of the general  
1189 statutes, the term "family child care home" shall be substituted in lieu  
1190 thereof: 8-2, 8-3j, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 17a-101, 17b-705, 17b-  
1191 733, 17b-738, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-  
1192 79a, 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-87a to 19a-87f, inclusive, and 19a-131k.

1193 (d) Whenever the term "child day care service" or "child day care  
1194 services" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the following  
1195 sections of the general statutes, the term "child care service" or "child  
1196 care services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 8-210, 10-16p, as  
1197 amended by this act, 10-16q, 10-500, 12-81n, 17a-145, 17b-90, 17b-261g,  
1198 17b-733, 17b-737, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 19a-77, as amended by this act,  
1199 19a-77a, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-87a, 19a-87e, as  
1200 amended by this act, 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	July 1, 2015	10-16p(c)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	10-16p(d)(1)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2015	10-16p(e)(2)(B)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2015	10-16p(e)(2)(C)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2015	10-16r(b)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2015	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 Purpose:**

To make minor and technical revisions to the statutes relating to the Office of Early Childhood.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*