

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 1101**

LCO No. 5816

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*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] in (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) [in] a town
51 formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as
52 provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) [in] a town
53 designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose

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

84 Sec. 3. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of
85 section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
86 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

87 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year

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

118 Sec. 4. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of
119 section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
120 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

121 (C) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this

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

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

148 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
149 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
150 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
151 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
152 act, 10-16u, 17b-749a and 17b-749c; (2) foster partnerships among
153 providers of school readiness programs; (3) [submit biennial reports to
154 the Department of Education on the number and location of school
155 readiness spaces and estimates of the number of children not being

156 served by school readiness programs and the estimated cost of
157 providing spaces to all eligible children, as described in subparagraphs
158 (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-
159 16p, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness
160 program seeking accreditation; (4)] cooperate with the department in
161 any program evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures
162 developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of evaluating the
163 effectiveness of school readiness programs; [(5)] (4) identify existing
164 and prospective resources and services available to children and
165 families; [(6)] (5) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services
166 to children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B)
167 before and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
168 programs; [(7)] (6) exchange information with other councils, the
169 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
170 families; [(8)] (7) make recommendations to school officials concerning
171 transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and [(9)]
172 (8) encourage public participation.

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

175 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and
176 operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability,
177 affordability and quality of child care services for families with a
178 parent or caretaker who 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 applicant
506 submitting an application for renewal of a license that has expired, and
507 who has ceased operations of a family child care home due to such
508 expired license, the commissioner may renew such expired license
509 within thirty days of the date of such expiration upon receipt of an
510 application for renewal that is accompanied by a fee of forty dollars
511 and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in the
512 family child care home has received age-appropriate immunizations in
513 accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this
514 section.

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

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

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

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

559 provisions of section 19a-84, as amended by this act, shall not apply to
560 a denial of a waiver request under this subsection.

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

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

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

592 public education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

656 (b) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start
657 competitive operating grant account" which shall be a separate,

658 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall
659 contain moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, in
660 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of
661 section 4-28e, as amended by this act. Moneys in the account shall be
662 expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the
663 Smart Start competitive grant program established pursuant to section
664 10-506, as amended by this act.

665 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-506 of the general statutes is
666 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
667 *1, 2015*):

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

692 office.

693 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10-16z of the general statutes is
694 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
695 *1, 2015*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

788 (a) When the Commissioner of Early Childhood has reason to
789 believe any person licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive,
790 as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, has

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

826 revocation.

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

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

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

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

858 or act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family [day] child
859 care home, or if such persons or a person residing in the household has
860 been convicted in this state or any other state of cruelty to persons
861 under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of
862 children under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age
863 of six years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the
864 felony is a child under eighteen years of age, a violation of section 53a-
865 70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, illegal
866 manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing or
867 administration under section 21a-277 or 21a-278, or illegal possession
868 under section 21a-279, or if such person, a person who acts as assistant
869 or substitute staff member in a family [day] child care home or a
870 person employed in such family [day] child care home in a position
871 connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child [day]
872 care services, either fails to substantially comply with the regulations
873 adopted pursuant to section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, or
874 conducts, operates or maintains the home in a manner which
875 endangers the health, safety and welfare of the children receiving child
876 [day] care services. Any refusal of a license or approval pursuant to
877 this section shall be rendered in accordance with the provisions of
878 sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive. Any person whose license or
879 approval has been revoked pursuant to this section shall be ineligible
880 to apply for a license or approval for a period of one year from the
881 effective date of revocation.

882 (b) When the commissioner intends to suspend or revoke a license
883 or approval or take any other action against a license or approval set
884 forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, as amended by
885 this act, the commissioner shall notify the licensee or approved staff
886 member in writing of the commissioner's intended action. The licensee
887 or approved staff member may, if aggrieved by such intended action,
888 make application for a hearing in writing over the licensee's or
889 approved staff member's signature to the commissioner. The licensee
890 or approved staff member shall state in the application in plain
891 language the reasons why the licensee or approved staff member

892 claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the
893 commissioner within thirty days of the licensee's or approved staff
894 member's receipt of notification of the intended action. The
895 commissioner shall thereupon hold a hearing within sixty days from
896 receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the date
897 of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the hearing,
898 to the licensee or approved staff member. The provisions of this
899 subsection shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a
900 license or approval under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act,
901 provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such
902 denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the
903 applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license or approval
904 application.

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

922 (d) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking
923 employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a
924 child receiving family [day] child care home services to make a false
925 written statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a

926 form bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are
927 punishable, which statement such person does not believe to be true
928 and is intended to mislead the prospective employer.

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

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

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

958 (a) The commissioner may take any of the actions authorized under
959 subsection (b) of this section if the youth camp licensee: (1) Is convicted
960 of any offense involving moral turpitude, the record of conviction
961 being conclusive evidence thereof; (2) is legally adjudicated insane or
962 mentally incompetent, the record of such adjudication being
963 conclusive evidence thereof; (3) uses any narcotic or any controlled
964 drug, as defined in section 21a-240, to an extent or in a manner that
965 such use impairs the licensee's ability to properly care for children; (4)
966 fails to comply with the statutes and regulations for licensing youth
967 camps; (5) furnishes or makes any misleading or any false statement or
968 report to the office; (6) refuses to submit to the office any reports or
969 refuses to make available to the office any records required by it in
970 investigating the facility for licensing purposes; (7) fails or refuses to
971 submit to an investigation or inspection by the office or to admit
972 authorized representatives of the office at any reasonable time for the
973 purpose of investigation, inspection or licensing; (8) fails to provide,
974 maintain, equip and keep in safe and sanitary condition premises
975 established for or used by the campers pursuant to minimum
976 standards prescribed by the office or by ordinances or regulations
977 applicable to the location of such facility; or (9) wilfully or deliberately
978 violates any of the provisions of this chapter.

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

992 (c) The commissioner shall notify the licensee, in writing, of the
993 commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose
994 a licensure action. The licensee may, if aggrieved by such intended
995 action, make application for a hearing, in writing, over the licensee's
996 signature to the commissioner. The licensee shall state in the
997 application in plain language the reasons why the licensee claims to be
998 aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner not
999 later than thirty days after the licensee's receipt of notification of the
1000 intended action.

1001 (d) The commissioner shall hold a hearing not later than sixty days
1002 after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the
1003 date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the
1004 hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by the
1005 commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner,
1006 in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or hearing officer may
1007 issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses. The licensee
1008 shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and a transcript of the
1009 hearing shall be made. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer,
1010 the hearing officer shall state the hearing officer's findings and make a
1011 recommendation to the commissioner on the issue of revocation or
1012 suspension or the intended licensure action.

1013 (e) The commissioner, based upon the findings and
1014 recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by
1015 the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision, in writing,
1016 suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the
1017 intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by
1018 certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the
1019 license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective
1020 thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the
1021 licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may
1022 appeal in the same manner as provided in section 19a-85.

1023 (f) The provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section
1024 shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a license under

1025 section 19a-421, provided the commissioner notifies the applicant of
1026 any such denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written
1027 notice to the applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license
1028 application.

1029 (g) If the office determines that the health, safety or welfare of a
1030 child or staff person at a youth camp requires imperative emergency
1031 action by the office to halt an activity being provided at the camp, the
1032 office may issue a cease and desist order limiting the license and
1033 requiring the immediate cessation of the activity. The office shall
1034 provide the licensee with an opportunity for a hearing regarding the
1035 issuance of a cease and desist order. Such hearing shall be held not
1036 later than ten business days after the date of issuance of the order.
1037 Upon receipt of such order, the licensee shall cease providing the
1038 activity and provide immediate notification to staff and the parents of
1039 all children attending the camp that such activity has ceased at the
1040 camp until such time as the cease and desist order is dissolved by the
1041 office.

1042 (h) In addition to the authority provided to the commissioner in
1043 subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner may resolve any
1044 disciplinary action with respect to the voluntary surrender of a license.

1045 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person or entity who is
1046 the subject of an investigation pursuant to section 19a-80f or 19a-87a of
1047 the general statutes or disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-84 of
1048 the general statutes, as amended by this act, while holding a license
1049 issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having held such a license
1050 within eighteen months of the commencement of such investigation or
1051 disciplinary action, shall be considered to hold a valid license for
1052 purposes of such investigation or disciplinary action.

1053 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person who is the subject
1054 of an investigation or disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-87e of
1055 the general statutes, as amended by this act, while holding a license or
1056 approval issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having held such

1057 a license or approval within eighteen months of the commencement of
1058 such investigation or disciplinary action, shall be considered to hold a
1059 valid license or approval for purposes of such investigation or
1060 disciplinary action.

1061 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person or entity who is
1062 the subject of an investigation pursuant to section 19a-429 of the
1063 general statutes or disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-423 of
1064 the general statutes, as amended by this act, while holding a license
1065 issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having held such a license
1066 within eighteen months of the commencement of such investigation or
1067 disciplinary action shall be considered to hold a valid license for
1068 purposes of such investigation or disciplinary action.

1069 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 19a-77 of the general statutes is
1070 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1071 *1, 2015*):

1072 (a) As used in this section and sections [19a-77] 19a-77a to 19a-80,
1073 inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to [19a-87] 19a-
1074 87a, inclusive, ["child day care services"] "child care services" shall
1075 include:

1076 (1) A ["child day care center"] "child care center" which offers or
1077 provides a program of supplementary care to more than twelve related
1078 or unrelated children outside their own homes on a regular basis;

1079 (2) A ["group day care home"] "group child care home" which offers
1080 or provides a program of supplementary care (A) to not less than
1081 seven or more than twelve related or unrelated children on a regular
1082 basis, or (B) that meets the definition of a family [day] child care home
1083 except that it operates in a facility other than a private family home;

1084 (3) A ["family day care home"] "family child care home" which
1085 consists of a private family home caring for not more than six children,
1086 including the provider's own children not in school full time, where
1087 the children are cared for not less than three or more than twelve hours

1088 during a twenty-four-hour period and where care is given on a
1089 regularly recurring basis except that care may be provided in excess of
1090 twelve hours but not more than seventy-two consecutive hours to
1091 accommodate a need for extended care or intermittent short-term
1092 overnight care. During the regular school year, a maximum of three
1093 additional children who are in school full time, including the
1094 provider's own children, shall be permitted, except that if the provider
1095 has more than three children who are in school full time, all of the
1096 provider's children shall be permitted;

1097 (4) "Night care" means the care provided for one or more hours
1098 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.;

1099 (5) "Year-round" program means a program open at least fifty
1100 weeks per year.

1101 Sec. 23. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-80 of the
1102 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1103 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

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

1120 commissioner of a renewal application and accompanying licensure
1121 fee. The commissioner may suspend or revoke such license after notice
1122 and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in section 19a-84, as
1123 amended by this act, for violation of the regulations adopted under
1124 this section and sections 19a-77 to [19a-80] 19a-79a, inclusive, as
1125 amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive. In the
1126 case of an application for renewal of a license that has expired, the
1127 commissioner may renew such expired license within thirty days of
1128 the date of such expiration upon receipt of a renewal application and
1129 accompanying licensure fee.

1130 Sec. 24. Section 10-265n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1132 The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood shall
1133 administer, within available appropriations, an even start family
1134 literacy program, in accordance with the William F. Goodling Even
1135 Start Family Literacy Program under the No Child Left Behind Act,
1136 P.L. 107-111, to provide grants to establish new or expand existing
1137 local family literacy programs that provide literacy services for
1138 children and the parents or guardians of such children.

1139 Sec. 25. Subsection (b) of section 17a-106e of the general statutes is
1140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1141 *1, 2015*):

1142 (b) The department shall refer any child exhibiting developmental
1143 or social-emotional delays pursuant to such screenings to the birth-to-
1144 three program. The department shall refer any child who is not found
1145 eligible for services under the birth-to-three program to the Help Me
1146 Grow prevention program [of the Children's Trust Fund] under the
1147 Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to section 17b-751d, or a similar
1148 program which the department deems appropriate.

1149 Sec. 26. Subsection (d) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is
1150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1151 *1, 2015*):

1152 (d) The Office of Early Childhood shall constitute a successor
1153 department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e
1154 and 4-39, to (1) the Department of Education with respect to sections 8-
1155 210, 10-16n, 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended by this act, 10-16u,
1156 10-16w, 10-16aa, 17b-749a, 17b-749c and 17b-749g to 17b-749i,
1157 inclusive; (2) the Department of Social Services (A) with respect to
1158 sections 17b-12, as amended by this act, 17b-705a, 17b-730, 17b-733 to
1159 17b-736, inclusive, 17b-738, 17b-739, 17b-749, as amended by this act,
1160 17b-749d to 17b-749f, inclusive, 17b-749j, 17b-749k, 17b-750 to 17b-
1161 751a, inclusive, and 17b-751d, [and 17b-751e,] and (B) for the purpose
1162 of administering the child care development block grant pursuant to
1163 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and (3) the
1164 Department of Public Health (A) with respect to sections 10a-194c, 12-
1165 634, 17a-28, 17a-101 and 19a-80f, (B) for the purpose of regulating child
1166 day care services pursuant to sections 19a-77, as amended by this act,
1167 19a-79, as amended by this act, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-82
1168 and 19a-84 to 19a-87e, inclusive, as amended by this act, (C) for the
1169 purpose of the conduct of regulation of youth camps, pursuant to
1170 sections 19a-420 to 19a-434, inclusive, and (D) for the purpose of
1171 administering the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home
1172 Visiting Program authorized under the Patient Protection and
1173 Affordable Care Act of 2010, P.L. 111-148.

1174 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Whenever the term "child
1175 day care center" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the
1176 following sections of the general statutes, the term "child care center"
1177 shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 8-210, 10-16p, as amended by this
1178 act, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 10-500, as amended by this act, 10-
1179 501, 10a-194c, 16-50p, 17a-101, 17b-733, 17b-738, 17b-749f, 19a-77, as
1180 amended by this act, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as amended by this act, 19a-80e
1181 to 19a-80g, inclusive, 19a-86, 19a-87a, 19a-87f, 19a-131k, 19a-900, 21a-
1182 278a and 21a-279.

1183 (b) Whenever the term "group day care home" is used in any public
1184 or special act of 2015 or in the following sections of the general
1185 statutes, the term "group child care home" shall be substituted in lieu

1186 thereof: 8-2, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 10a-194c, 17a-101, 17b-733,
1187 17b-738, 17b-749a, 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as
1188 amended by this act, 19a-80e, 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-86 to 19a-87a,
1189 inclusive, 19a-87f, 19a-131k and 19a-900.

1190 (c) Whenever the term "family day care home" is used in any public
1191 or special act of 2015 or in the following sections of the general
1192 statutes, the term "family child care home" shall be substituted in lieu
1193 thereof: 8-2, 8-3j, 10-16r, as amended by this act, 17a-101, 17b-705, 17b-
1194 733, 17b-738, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 19a-77, as amended by this act, 19a-
1195 79a, 19a-80f, 19a-82, 19a-87a to 19a-87f, inclusive, and 19a-131k.

1196 (d) Whenever the term "child day care service" or "child day care
1197 services" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the following
1198 sections of the general statutes, the term "child care service" or "child
1199 care services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 8-210, 10-16p, as
1200 amended by this act, 10-16q, 10-500, as amended by this act, 12-81n,
1201 17a-145, 17b-90, 17b-261g, 17b-733, 17b-737, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 19a-77,
1202 as amended by this act, 19a-77a, 19a-79a, 19a-80, as amended by this
1203 act, 19a-87a, 19a-87e, as amended by this act, 19a-131k and 28-5.

1204 (e) Whenever the term "child day care program" or "child day care
1205 programs" is used in any public or special act of 2015 or in the
1206 following sections of the general statutes, the term "child care
1207 program" or "child care programs" shall be substituted in lieu thereof:
1208 4b-23, 10-16p, as amended by this act, 17b-730, 17b-749d, 17b-749f and
1209 19a-80e.

1210 (f) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying the
1211 provisions of this section, make such technical, grammatical and
1212 punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this
1213 section.

1214 Sec. 28. Sections 17b-751 and 17b-751e of the general statutes are
1215 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2015*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(d)(1)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(e)(2)(B)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16p(e)(2)(C)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16r(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17b-749
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-79
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-87b
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-4
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	4-28e(c)(4)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	10-507
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-506(a)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-16z(a)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17b-12
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17b-751b
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-84
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-87e
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-423
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-77(a)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	19a-80(b)(1)
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	10-265n
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17a-106e(b)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-500(d)
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	Repealer section