Offered by:
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SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5449       File No. 448       Cal. No. 319

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND THE PROVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD."

1 Strike section 2 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2018) (a) As used in this subsection, "early care and education and childhood development programs" includes the child care subsidy program, established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the supplemental quality enhancement grant program, established pursuant to section 17b-749c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the Nurturing Families Network, established pursuant to section 17b-751b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the program for state financial
assistance for neighborhood facilities, including child care centers, pursuant to section 8-210 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may expend in any year an amount not to exceed two per cent of the total amount appropriated to the office for early care and education and child development programs for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities pursuant to section 10-500 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, piloting innovative and results-driven service delivery, program evaluation and improvement, funding and procurement models that are performance-driven and results-accountable, interagency coordination and collaboration and evaluative tools and infrastructure, provided if the total amount of such two per cent exceeds one million dollars, all funds in excess of one million dollars shall be used for service delivery. The commissioner may not expend any funds under this section for administrative or other overhead costs of the Office of Early Childhood. The commissioner may develop policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section.

(c) Not later than January first of each year, the office shall submit a report relating to how the commissioner has expended funds pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the results of any program evaluations conducted by the office, (2) an assessment of the relationship between the cost and the value of the service delivery outcomes achieved, and (3) any policies and procedures developed by the commissioner to implement the provisions of this section."

Strike lines 150 to 194, inclusive, in their entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

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Amendment

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“(c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities under the Department of Social Services’ "Jobs First" program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency, and (G) any household with a child or children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early Head Start eligibility criteria; (2) health and safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for child care services which account for differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise discretion in prioritizing within and between existing priority groups, including, but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler, and (B) reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list."

Strike section 8 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2018):

(b) (1) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2015, [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2019, inclusive, the per child cost of the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner may establish, within available appropriations, new rates for the school readiness program, provided such new rates are established to improve program quality and access. The commissioner may revise the rates for the school readiness program during a fiscal year if the commissioner determines that such revised rates are necessary to improve quality of, increase access to or fill spaces in school readiness programs."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sec. 2</th>
<th>July 1, 2018</th>
<th>New section</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 8</td>
<td>July 1, 2018</td>
<td>10-16q(b)(1)</td>
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