



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Raised Bill No. 931**

LCO No. 4494



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2019*):

4 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
5 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards  
6 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility  
7 system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary  
8 family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment  
9 activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"  
10 program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was  
11 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application  
12 for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income  
13 working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted  
14 from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a  
15 waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
16 this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare

17 dependency, and (G) any household with a child or children  
18 participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal  
19 grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early  
20 Head Start eligibility criteria; (2) health and safety standards for child  
21 care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system  
22 for child care services which account for differences in the age of the  
23 child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type  
24 of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and  
25 type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers,  
26 successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or  
27 credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program  
28 accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child  
29 and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process  
30 for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are (A)  
31 maintained at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child  
32 care settings, and (B) at least equal to the seventy-fifth percentile of the  
33 market cost of child care, as determined by a market study conducted  
34 by the Office of Early Childhood within the previous two years; (6) a  
35 sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an  
36 administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process  
37 to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions  
38 and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and  
39 payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care  
40 subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other  
41 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy  
42 program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise discretion in  
43 prioritizing within and between existing priority groups, including,  
44 but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended  
45 from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler, and (B)  
46 reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of  
47 this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of  
48 this information in the annual report required to be issued annually by  
49 the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance  
50 with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to,  
51 family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such

52 waiting list.

53 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is  
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
55 *1, 2019*):

56 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of  
57 Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a  
58 human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation for  
59 state financial assistance in developing and operating child care  
60 centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or  
61 environmental conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall  
62 be available for the operating costs of any such child care center unless  
63 it has been licensed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant  
64 to section 19a-80. Such financial assistance shall be available for a  
65 program of a municipality, of a human resource development agency  
66 or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel,  
67 equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and  
68 remodeling of the physical facilities of such child care centers. Such  
69 contract shall provide for state financial assistance, within available  
70 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of  
71 the cost of such program, as determined by the Commissioner of Early  
72 Childhood, if not federally assisted, (2) equal to one-half of the amount  
73 by which the net cost of such program, as approved by the  
74 Commissioner of Early Childhood, exceeds the federal grant-in-aid  
75 thereof, or (3) in an amount [up to] not less than the per child cost as  
76 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q, for each  
77 child in such program, [that is three or four years of age and each child  
78 that is five years of age who is not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant  
79 to section 10-15c, while maintaining services to children under three  
80 years of age under this section.] For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
81 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, any amount of state financial  
82 assistance received pursuant to a contract entered into under this  
83 subsection over the amount received for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
84 2019, shall be used exclusively to increase the salaries of early  
85 childhood educators employed at the child care center. The

86 Commissioner of Early Childhood may authorize child care centers  
87 receiving financial assistance under this subsection to apply a program  
88 surplus to the next program year. The Commissioner of Early  
89 Childhood shall consult with directors of child care centers in  
90 establishing fees for the operation of such centers.

91 Sec. 3. Section 10-16p of the general statutes is amended by adding  
92 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

93 (NEW) (l) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal  
94 year thereafter, any school readiness program that (1) is licensed by the  
95 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to chapter 368a, (2) provides full-  
96 day and year-round child care and education programs for children,  
97 and (3) receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, shall  
98 use all such funds over the amount so received for the fiscal year  
99 ending June 30, 2019, exclusively to increase the salaries of those  
100 individuals with direct responsibility for teaching or caring for  
101 children in a classroom at such school readiness program.

102 Sec. 4. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the  
103 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
104 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

105 (b) (1) For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2015, [to June 30,  
106 2019, inclusive,] and each fiscal year thereafter, the per child cost of the  
107 Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a  
108 school readiness provider shall not exceed [eight] nine thousand nine  
109 hundred twenty-seven dollars. [For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
110 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner may establish,  
111 within available appropriations, new rates for the school readiness  
112 program, provided such new rates are established to improve program  
113 quality and access. The commissioner may revise the rates for the  
114 school readiness program during a fiscal year if the commissioner  
115 determines that such revised rates are necessary to improve quality of,  
116 increase access to or fill spaces in school readiness programs.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	17b-749(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	8-210(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-16p
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-16q(b)(1)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require Care4Kids program payments to be at least equal to the seventy-fifth percentile of the market cost of child care; to require that any increase in funding to child care centers and school readiness program providers are to be used for increasing educator salaries; and to reestablish school readiness grant rates in the general statutes and to increase such rates.

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