AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

SUMMARY

This bill limits how certain state financial assistance for state-licensed child care centers for disadvantaged children may be used. Existing law allows the state, through the Office of Early Childhood commissioner, to enter into contracts with municipalities, human resource development agencies, or nonprofit corporations for state financial assistance in developing such centers. Beginning in FY 20, the bill requires any state financial assistance for these centers that exceeds their FY 19 funding received to be used only to increase the salaries of educators employed by these centers.

Also beginning FY 20, the bill requires state-licensed school readiness programs that operate full-day, year-round programs and receive school readiness per-pupil state grants to use any grant amount exceeding their FY 19 amounts exclusively for staff salary increases. By law, a school readiness program is a nonreligious, state-funded program that provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience for children ages three to five years who are too young to enroll in kindergarten (CGS § 10-16p).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

School Readiness Funds

The State Department of Education allocates school readiness funds using two different methods: a school readiness grant program and a competitive grant program. School readiness program grants are given to priority and former priority school districts. Competitive grants are given to (1) areas served by a priority or former priority school, (2) the 50 towns with the lowest town wealth whose school
districts are not priority school districts, and (3) alliance districts that are not priority school districts (CGS § 10-16p(c)-(d)).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/15/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 42 Nay 6 (05/02/2019)