



New Copy  
House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 646**

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6558

*House of Representatives, May 10, 2021*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-87b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,  
4 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a  
5 family child care home, as [defined] described in section 19a-77, without  
6 a license issued by the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Licensure  
7 forms shall be obtained from the Office of Early Childhood.  
8 Applications for licensure shall be made to the commissioner on forms  
9 provided by the office and shall contain the information required by  
10 regulations adopted under this section. The licensure and application  
11 forms shall contain a notice that false statements made therein are  
12 punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b. Applicants shall state,  
13 in writing, that they are in compliance with the regulations adopted by  
14 the commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. Before a  
15 family child care home license is granted, the office shall make an

16 inquiry and investigation which shall include a visit and inspection of  
17 the premises for which the license is requested. Any inspection  
18 conducted by the office shall include an inspection for evident sources  
19 of lead poisoning. The office shall provide for a chemical analysis of any  
20 paint chips found on such premises. Neither the commissioner nor the  
21 commissioner's designee shall require an annual inspection for homes  
22 seeking license renewal or for licensed homes, except that the  
23 commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall make an  
24 unannounced visit, inspection or investigation of each licensed family  
25 child care home at least once every year. A licensed family child care  
26 home shall not be subject to any conditions on the operation of such  
27 home by local officials, other than those imposed by the office pursuant  
28 to this subsection, if the home complies with all local codes and  
29 ordinances applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

30 (b) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member to a  
31 person or entity maintaining a family child care home, as defined in  
32 section 19a-77, without an approval issued by the commissioner. Any  
33 person seeking to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a  
34 family child care home shall submit an application for such approval to  
35 the office. Applications for approval shall: (1) Be made to the  
36 commissioner on forms provided by the office, (2) contain the  
37 information required by regulations adopted under this section, and (3)  
38 be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. The approval application  
39 forms shall contain a notice that false statements made in such form are  
40 punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b.

41 (c) The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall require  
42 each initial applicant or prospective employee of a family child care  
43 home in a position requiring the provision of care to a child, including  
44 an assistant or substitute staff member and each household member  
45 who is sixteen years of age or older, to submit to comprehensive  
46 background checks, including state and national criminal history  
47 records checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant  
48 to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.  
49 The commissioner shall also request a check of the state child abuse

50 registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The commissioner  
51 shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection. For  
52 purposes of this subsection, "household member" means any person,  
53 other than the person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a  
54 family child care home, who resides in the family child care home, such  
55 as the licensee's spouse or children, tenants and any other occupant.

56 (d) An application for initial licensure pursuant to this section shall  
57 be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars and such license shall be issued  
58 for a term of four years. An application for renewal of a license issued  
59 pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars  
60 and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in the family  
61 child care home has received age-appropriate immunizations in  
62 accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
63 section. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed for a  
64 term of four years. In the case of an applicant submitting an application  
65 for renewal of a license that has expired, and who has ceased operations  
66 of a family child care home due to such expired license, the  
67 commissioner may renew such expired license within thirty days of the  
68 date of such expiration upon receipt of an application for renewal that  
69 is accompanied by such fee and such certification.

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

73 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
74 provisions of chapter 54, to ~~[assure]~~ ensure that family child care homes,  
75 as ~~[defined]~~ described in section 19a-77, meet the health, educational  
76 and social needs of children utilizing such homes. Such regulations shall  
77 ensure that the family child care home is treated as a residence, and not  
78 an institutional facility. Such regulations shall specify that each child be  
79 protected as age-appropriate by adequate immunization against  
80 diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella,  
81 hemophilus influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the  
82 schedule of active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f.

83 Such regulations shall provide appropriate exemptions for children for  
84 whom such immunization is medically contraindicated and for children  
85 whose parents or guardian objects to such immunization on religious  
86 grounds and require that any such objection be accompanied by a  
87 statement from such parents or guardian that such immunization would  
88 be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or  
89 guardian of such child, which statement shall be acknowledged, in  
90 accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (1) a  
91 judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate, (2) a clerk or  
92 deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (3) a town clerk, (4) a notary public,  
93 (5) a justice of the peace, or (6) an attorney admitted to the bar of this  
94 state. Such regulations shall also specify conditions under which family  
95 child care home providers may administer tests to monitor glucose  
96 levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and administer  
97 medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the  
98 regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving child care services  
99 at a family child care home pursuant to a written order of a physician  
100 licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, an advanced  
101 practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with  
102 section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in  
103 accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a  
104 parent or guardian of such child. Such regulations shall specify  
105 appropriate standards for extended care and intermittent short-term  
106 overnight care. The commissioner shall inform each licensee, by way of  
107 a plain language summary provided not later than sixty days after the  
108 regulation's effective date, of any new or changed regulations adopted  
109 under this subsection with which a licensee must comply.

110 (g) Upon the declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness  
111 emergency pursuant to section 28-9 or a public health emergency  
112 pursuant to section 19a-131a, the commissioner may waive the  
113 provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section if the  
114 commissioner determines that such waiver would not endanger the life,  
115 safety or health of any child. The commissioner shall prescribe the  
116 duration of such waiver, provided such waiver shall not extend beyond  
117 the duration of the declared emergency. The commissioner shall

118 establish the criteria by which a waiver request shall be made and the  
119 conditions for which a waiver will be granted or denied. The provisions  
120 of section 19a-84 shall not apply to a denial of a waiver request under  
121 this subsection.

122 (h) Any family child care home may provide child care services to  
123 homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended  
124 from time to time, for a period not to exceed ninety days without  
125 complying with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to this  
126 section relating to immunization and physical examination  
127 requirements. Any family child care home that provides child care  
128 services to homeless children and youths at such home under this  
129 subsection shall maintain a record on file of all homeless children and  
130 youths who have attended such home for a period of two years after  
131 such homeless children or youths are no longer receiving child care  
132 services at such home.

133 (i) Any family child care home may provide child care services to a  
134 foster child for a period not to exceed forty-five days without complying  
135 with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section  
136 relating to immunization and physical examination requirements. Any  
137 family child care home that provides child care services to a foster child  
138 at such home under this subsection shall maintain a record on file of  
139 such foster child for a period of two years after such foster child is no  
140 longer receiving child care services at such home. For purposes of this  
141 subsection, "foster child" means a child who is in the care and custody  
142 of the Commissioner of Children and Families and placed in a foster  
143 home licensed pursuant to section 17a-114, foster home approved by a  
144 child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149, facility  
145 licensed pursuant to section 17a-145 or with a relative or fictive kin  
146 caregiver pursuant to section 17a-114.

147 (j) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2026, inclusive,  
148 the Commissioner of Early Childhood may issue a license to maintain a  
149 family child care home in New Britain, New Haven, Bridgeport,  
150 Stamford, Hartford or Waterbury in accordance with the provisions of

151 this chapter to a person or group of persons who have partnered with  
152 an association, organization, corporation, institution or agency, public  
153 or private, to provide child care services in a space provided by such  
154 association, organization, corporation, institution or agency, provided  
155 such space has been approved by the commissioner and is not in a  
156 private family home. The commissioner shall not approve more than  
157 one facility in each such city to be used for licenses issued under this  
158 subsection. An application for a license under this subsection shall  
159 include a copy of the current fire marshal certificate of compliance with  
160 the Fire Safety Code, and written verification of compliance with the  
161 State Building Code, local zoning and building requirements and local  
162 health ordinances. The commissioner may require an applicant for a  
163 license under this subsection to comply with additional conditions  
164 relating to the health and safety of the children who will be served in  
165 such facility. The commissioner may waive any requirement that does  
166 not apply to such facility. Any license issued under this subsection shall  
167 expire on June 30, 2026, except that the commissioner may suspend or  
168 revoke any such license at any time in accordance with the provisions  
169 of section 19a-87e.

170       Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) There is established a task force to  
171 analyze and make recommendations on issues relating to early  
172 childhood workforce development needs in the state.

173       (b) The task force shall examine the following: (1) How to encourage  
174 equity-based practices in early childhood education preparation and  
175 professional development; (2) ways to address inequity in access to  
176 employment opportunities and compensation in the early childhood  
177 workforce; (3) the feasibility of creating a new co-authored license that  
178 would offer multiple levels of flexibility to address the range of ages,  
179 settings and roles in the early childhood field, including a professional  
180 continuum for assistants, lead teachers, generalists and specialists, such  
181 as early intervention, mental health, integrated special education and  
182 rehabilitation therapies; and (4) workforce demands in the state related  
183 to the need for early childhood educators providing child care services  
184 for infants and toddlers and children up to ages six, seven or eight.

185 (c) The task force shall make recommendations concerning: (1)  
186 Legislation for educator preparation requirements in the early  
187 childhood field; (2) the creation of a new early childhood teacher license  
188 or credential jointly issued by the Office of Early Childhood and the  
189 Department of Education; (3) the development of a unifying framework  
190 for early childhood educator preparation, in accordance with the  
191 National Association for the Education of Young Children and the  
192 Council for Exceptional Children - Division of Early Childhood, in order  
193 to offer definition of levels for competencies and compensation, such as  
194 (A) professional development and alternative routes for aides or  
195 classroom assistants, (B) associate degree preparation and alternative  
196 routes for assistant teachers, (C) bachelor's degree preparation or post-  
197 baccalaureate work for head teachers, (D) bachelor's degree preparation,  
198 post-baccalaureate work or graduate degree attainment for specialists,  
199 and (E) alignment with competencies to address adult learners,  
200 experience in the field, as well as capacity in languages, community  
201 context and cultural norms; (4) methods to increase compensation  
202 related to competency and degree attainment that will work across all  
203 sectors of the early care and education sector including subsidized and  
204 parent fee supported programs; and (5) workforce development and the  
205 creation of job opportunities in early childhood.

206 (d) The task force shall consist of the following members:

207 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
208 one of whom is a professor of early childhood education at a public  
209 institution of higher education in the state and one of whom is a  
210 representative of a school readiness program, as defined in section 10-  
211 16p of the general statutes, or a state-funded child care center pursuant  
212 to section 8-210 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

213 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
214 whom is a faculty member from a community college and one of whom  
215 is a representative of a private child care provider that is not receiving  
216 state financial assistance under section 8-210 of the general statutes, as  
217 amended by this act, or 10-16p of the general statutes;

218 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
219 Representatives, who is a representative from the Capitol Region  
220 Education Council;

221 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is an  
222 operator of a family child care home or a representative of an  
223 organization that represents or supports the interests of family child  
224 care homes;

225 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
226 Representatives, who is a representative from the Connecticut Early  
227 Childhood Alliance;

228 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
229 representative from a state or national early childhood accrediting  
230 organization;

231 (7) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's  
232 designee;

233 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

234 (9) The cochair of the Connecticut Consortium for the Advancement  
235 of Early Childhood Educators; and

236 (10) The executive director of the State Education Resource Center, or  
237 the executive director's designee.

238 (e) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (3),  
239 (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (d) of this section may be a member of the  
240 General Assembly.

241 (f) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
242 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
243 be filled by the appointing authority.

244 (g) The appointments of the speaker of the House of Representatives  
245 and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall serve as the  
246 chairpersons of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first

247 meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days  
248 after the effective date of this section.

249 (h) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
250 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
251 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

252 (i) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report  
253 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
254 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
255 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
256 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
257 submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	19a-87b
Sec. 2	July 1, 2021	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(j), "the cities of" was deleted for proper form, and "in a space within a facility, other than a private family home and that has been approved by the commissioner, that has been provided by such association, organization, corporation, institution or agency" was replaced with "in a space provided by such association, organization, corporation, institution or agency, provided such space has been approved by the commissioner and is not in a private family home" for clarity; in Section 2(b)(3), "flexibly" was replaced with "flexibility" for accuracy and "interventionist" was replaced with "intervention" for accuracy; in Section 2(b)(4) "to age six or age eight" was replaced with "and children up to ages six, seven or eight" for clarity; and in Section 2(e) "(1), (2)," was deleted for proper form.

**ED** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill allows the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to issue a family child care home license to provide care in a space outside a private family home from FY 22 through FY 26. The bill limits the issuance of the license to one facility per city in New Britain, New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, or Waterbury. The bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as it does not expand eligibility for state-subsidized childcare, and OEC has the expertise necessary to meet related licensing requirements.

The bill also establishes a task force to analyze and make recommendations on issues related to early childhood workforce development needs in the state, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact. The taskforce must report and terminate by January 1, 2023.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6558****AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.****SUMMARY**

This bill allows the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) commissioner to issue up to six family child care home licenses to a person or group of people who provide child care services in a commissioner-approved space provided through a partnership with an association, organization, corporation, institution, or public or private agency. Under current law, family child care home licenses are for child care services provided in the licensee's private home.

These licenses must be issued in accordance with existing law (unless otherwise specified under the bill) and may be issued in FYs 22-26 for up to one space in each of the following cities: Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Stamford, or Waterbury. They expire on June 30, 2026, subject to the commissioner's authority to suspend or revoke them under the law (see BACKGROUND). The bill also prescribes an application process for this type of licensure.

Additionally, the bill creates a 13-member early childhood workforce development needs task force.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESS**

The bill requires prospective licensees for the six family child care home licenses to submit the following items as part of their licensure application: (1) a copy of the current fire marshal certificate of compliance with the Fire Safety Code and (2) written verification of

compliance with the State Building Code, local zoning and building requirements, and local health ordinances. Additionally, the bill allows the OEC commissioner to (1) require applicants to comply with additional conditions related to the health and safety of children to be served in these facilities and (2) waive any requirement that does not apply to these facilities.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

### **Scope**

The bill requires the task force to examine the following:

1. ways to encourage equity-based practices in early childhood education preparation and professional development;
2. ways to address inequity in access to employment opportunities and compensation in the early childhood workforce;
3. the feasibility of creating a new, co-authored license that would offer multiple levels of flexibility to address the range of ages, settings, and roles in the early childhood field, including a professional continuum for assistants; lead teachers; generalists; and specialists such as early interventionist, mental health, integrated special education, and rehabilitation therapies; and
4. workforce demands in the state related to the need for early childhood educators providing child care services for infants and toddlers to age six or eight.

Additionally, the bill requires the task force to make recommendations about the following topics:

1. legislation for early childhood educator preparation requirements;
2. creating a new early childhood teacher license or credential jointly issued by OEC and the State Department of Education (SDE);

3. developing a unifying framework for early childhood educator preparation, in accordance with the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Council for Exceptional Children – Division of Early Childhood, to offer definition of levels for competencies and compensation such as (a) professional development and alternative routes for aides or classroom assistants; (b) associate degree preparation and alternative routes for assistant teachers; (c) bachelor’s degree preparation or post-baccalaureate work for head teachers; (d) bachelor’s degree preparation, post-baccalaureate work, or graduate degree attainment for specialists; and (e) alignment with competencies to address adult learners, experience in the field, as well as capacity in languages, community content, and cultural norms;
4. methods for increasing compensation related to competency and degree attainment that will work across all sectors of the early care and education sector, including subsidized and parent fee supported programs; and
5. early childhood workforce development and job opportunity creation.

**Membership**

Table 1 describes the required expertise for the 13 task force members and their respective appointing authorities. The bill allows any members appointed by legislative leaders to be General Assembly members.

**Table 1: Task Force Membership**

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Member(s) and Required Expertise</i>
House speaker	Early childhood education professor at a Connecticut public higher education institution  Representative of a school readiness program or state-funded child care

	center
Senate president pro tempore	Community college faculty member Representative of a private child care provider that is not receiving state financial assistance
House majority leader	Representative of the Capitol Region Education Council regional education service center
Senate majority leader	Family child care home operator or representative of an organization that represents or supports family child care homes
House minority leader	Representative of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Senate minority leader	Representative of a state or national early childhood accrediting organization
N/A	OEC commissioner, or the commissioner's designee
N/A	SDE commissioner, or the commissioner's designee
N/A	Co-chairs of the Connecticut Consortium for the Advancement of Early Childhood Educators
N/A	State Education Resource Center executive director, or the director's designee

The bill requires the above appointments to be made by July 31, 2021, and appointing authorities to fill any vacancies that may arise.

### ***Leadership, Staff, and Meetings***

Under the bill, the House speaker's and Senate president pro tempore's appointees must serve as the task force chairpersons, and the Education Committee administrative staff must serve as task for staff. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting by August 30, 2021.

The task force must report its findings to the Education Committee

by January 1, 2023. It must terminate on the date it submits the report or on January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

**BACKGROUND**

***License Suspension and Revocation***

The OEC commissioner may suspend or revoke a family child care home license if the family child care home’s owner or operator, an assistant or substitute staff member or employee, or any household member age 16 or older has a criminal history containing felony convictions for, among other things, (1) use of physical force, (2) risk of injury to or impairing morals of children, (3) abandonment of young children, (4) illegal drug sale or possession, (5) sexual assault, or (6) any felony where the victim is a minor (CGS § 19a-87e).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP  
Yea 38 Nay 0 (03/15/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/21/2021)