



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9463



Offered by:

REP. SANCHEZ, 25th Dist.

REP. MCCARTY, 38th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6558

File No. 646

Cal. No. 465

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

1 Strike lines 30 to 40, inclusive, in their entirety and insert the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "(b) (1) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member
4 to a person or entity maintaining a family child care home, as defined in
5 section 19a-77, without an approval issued by the commissioner. Any
6 person seeking to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a
7 family child care home shall submit an application for such approval to
8 the office. Applications for approval shall: [(1)] (A) Be made to the
9 commissioner on forms provided by the office, [(2)] (B) contain the
10 information required by regulations adopted under this section, and
11 [(3)] (C) be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. The approval
12 application forms shall contain a notice that false statements made in

13 such form are punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b.

14 (2) A licensee of a family child care home who is attending a medical
15 appointment, receiving medical treatment or completing education or
16 training may use a substitute staff member who has been approved
17 pursuant to this subsection to provide child care services for a duration
18 of time that is greater than one hour while such licensee is absent,
19 provided such licensee provides advance notice to the parents or
20 guardians of children enrolled in the family child care home of the dates
21 and times such substitute staff member will be providing such child care
22 services and such licensee continues to maintain control of the day-to-
23 day operations of the family child care home. No such use of a substitute
24 staff member under this subdivision shall constitute a transfer or
25 franchise of the family child care home. "

26 In line 150, insert "Danbury" after "Hartford"

27 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
28 internal references accordingly:

29 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of section 17b-749 of the
30 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
31 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

32 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate
33 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
34 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
35 who (1) is (A) working or attending high school, or (B) subject to the
36 provisions of subsection (d) of this section, is enrolled or participating
37 in (i) a public or independent institution of higher education, (ii) a
38 private occupational school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to
39 10a-22o, inclusive, (iii) a job training or employment program
40 administered by a regional workforce development board, (iv) an
41 apprenticeship program administered by the Labor Department's office
42 of apprenticeship training, (v) an alternate route to certification program
43 approved by the State Board of Education, (vi) an adult education
44 program pursuant to section 10-69 or other high school equivalency

45 program, or (vii) a local Even Start program or other adult education
46 program approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood; or (2)
47 receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance program
48 from the Department of Social Services and is participating in an
49 education, training or other job preparation activity approved pursuant
50 to subsection (b) of section 17b-688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-
51 689d. Services available under the child care subsidy program shall
52 include the provision of child care subsidies for children under the age
53 of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The
54 Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the
55 child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within
56 the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice
57 on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to
58 new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program
59 benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms,
60 except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the
61 office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance
62 of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any
63 other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is
64 required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective
65 until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

66 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants
67 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty
68 per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner (1)
69 may increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed under
70 federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children and
71 Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that
72 children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of
73 Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program,
74 and (3) on and after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility
75 level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for
76 applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility
77 for temporary family assistance. The commissioner may adopt
78 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria

79 and durational requirements for such waiver of income standards.

80 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
81 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards
82 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system
83 with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary family
84 assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities
85 under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First" program, (B)
86 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
87 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care
88 subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income working families,
89 (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted from the
90 Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of
91 income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
92 [and] (F) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency, ~~(G)~~
93 parents or caretakers participating in an apprenticeship program
94 administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship
95 training, (H) parents or caretakers enrolled in an adult education
96 program pursuant to section 10-69 or other high school equivalency
97 program, (I) parents or caretakers participating in a job training or
98 employment program administered by a regional workforce
99 development board, and (J) parents or caretakers enrolled in a public or
100 independent institution of higher education; (2) health and safety
101 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
102 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
103 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
104 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and unlicensed
105 caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by licensed and
106 unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen hours of annual
107 in-service training or credentialing of child care directors and
108 administrators, and program accreditation; (4) supplemental payment
109 for special needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an
110 annual rate review process for providers which assures that
111 reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal access
112 to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for

113 participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an
114 administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and
115 abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments; (9) an
116 extended period of program and payment eligibility when a parent who
117 is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary interruption
118 in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the
119 child care subsidy program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise
120 discretion in prioritizing within and between existing priority groups,
121 including, but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as
122 amended from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler,
123 and (B) reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision
124 (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion
125 of this information in the annual report required to be issued annually
126 by the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance
127 with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to,
128 family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such
129 waiting list.

130 (d) Not later than July 1, 2015, an applicant determined to be eligible
131 for program benefits by the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall
132 remain eligible for such benefits for a period prescribed by federal law,
133 except any applicant determined to be eligible for program benefits by
134 the commissioner under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
135 subsection (a) of this section shall only be eligible for and receive such
136 benefits upon the availability of federal funds received pursuant to
137 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act,
138 P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, or the American Rescue
139 Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, and
140 designated by the commissioner for such benefits.

141 Sec. 502. Section 8-210 of the general statutes is amended by adding
142 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

143 (NEW) (g) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023,
144 the Office of Early Childhood shall permit any family that meets the
145 eligibility requirements described in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection

146 (a) of section 17b-749, as amended by this act, or subdivision (2) of
147 subsection (d) of section 17b-749, as amended by this act, to participate
148 in a program provided at a state-contracted child care center under this
149 section."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-749(a) to (d)
Sec. 502	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	8-210