General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6903

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4348**

Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD CARE SERVICES, EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PATIENTS RECEIVING PRENATAL CARE.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall develop and administer a one-year pilot program to disseminate information concerning child care services, as defined in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, early intervention programs and financial assistance programs available to expectant mothers receiving prenatal care, as defined in section 19a-912 of the general statutes, in hospitals in the state.

(b) In developing the pilot program, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall develop (1) criteria for the selection of hospitals that provide prenatal care in geographically diverse areas of the state, with preference given to hospitals that serve a high proportion of low-income families and are located in areas where the availability of child care services does not meet the demand for such services, (2) requirements

for the dissemination of the documents compiled pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to patients receiving prenatal care, including, but not limited to, a requirement that such documents shall be provided during the first trimester of pregnancy whenever possible, and (3) a system for tracking and reporting the number of such documents provided to patients at each selected hospital each month.

(c) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall select five hospitals for participation in the pilot program using the criteria developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and compile documents for dissemination to patients receiving prenatal care at each such hospital. Such documents shall be tailored to each individual hospital and contain the following information: (1) A list of all child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, located in the municipalities in which the majority of prenatal patients served by such hospital live, including contact information and Internet web site addresses, if available, for each such center and home; (2) a list of early intervention programs administered by the Office of Early Childhood, including descriptions of such programs and contact information and Internet web site addresses, if available, for each such program; and (3) information concerning financial assistance programs available to families, including instructions on how to apply to such programs.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall electronically disseminate the documents compiled pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to the administrator of each hospital selected for participation in the pilot program. During the period beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2026, a copy of the documents tailored to a participating hospital shall be distributed to each patient receiving prenatal care at such hospital.

(e) During the period beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2027, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, administer a survey

to each parent or guardian that enrolls a child in (1) child care services, or (2) an early intervention program administered by the Office of Early Childhood, to determine whether such parent or guardian enrolled in such services or program as a result of the pilot program administered pursuant to this section. The completion of such survey shall be optional.

(f) Not later than June 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children. Such report shall include an analysis of the efficacy of the pilot program administered pursuant to this section and any recommendations for legislation to expand such program or implement such program on a state-wide and permanent basis.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Office of Early Childhood to develop and administer a pilot program to disseminate information concerning child care services, early intervention programs and financial assistance programs to patients receiving prenatal care.

[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.]