



## Agency Legislative Proposal - 2015 Session

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 10/24/14, OEC, Minor/Technical Revisions

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Office of Early Childhood

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Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Various

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Maggie Adair, Deb Johnson, Lynn Nauss

### Title of Proposal ACC Minor Revisions to Statutes Relating to Early Childhood

**Statutory Reference:** Various

#### Proposal Summary

##### School Readiness

Section 1: Eliminate the requirement for the OEC to conduct a School Readiness Priority School unmet need report.

Section 2: Delete language requiring the State Board of Education to submit the School Readiness Priority School unmet need report.

Section 3: Fix language to allow a School Readiness Competitive School District to receive less than \$107,000 per year.

Section 4: Increase the amount of unspent school readiness funds for scholarship funds from up to \$500,000 to up to \$1,000,000, and increase the scholarship per person for credit-based offerings from up to \$5,000 to up to \$10,000.

##### Smart Start

Section 5: Change Smart Start language to allow for separate accounts for bond funding and operations funding.

Section 6: Change Smart Start language to allow for separate accounts for bond funding and operations funding.

Section 7: Delete "reimburse" and substitute "provides grants-in-aid to" local and regional boards of education.

##### Early Childhood Cabinet/State Advisory Council

Section 8: Reinstate Connecticut General Assembly House and Senate representation on the Cabinet. Add new members: State CCDBG Administrator, state agency coordinator for Section 619 of Part B of IDEA, state Title 1 Director, state coordinator of education for homeless youth and children, and State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

##### Children's Trust Fund

Section 9: Delete statute establishing the Children's Trust Fund.

##### Nurturing Families Network

Section 10: Delete reference to Children's Trust Fund Council and replace with Office of Early Childhood.



### Licensing

Section 11: Clarify that a voluntary surrender of a child day care center or group day care home license is recognized as disciplinary action.

Section 12: Clarify that a voluntary surrender of a family day care home license is recognized as disciplinary action.

Section 13: Clarify that a voluntary surrender of a youth camp license is recognized as disciplinary action.

Section 14: Clarify the commissioner's authority to pursue disciplinary action after a license expires.

Section 15: Clarify the commissioner's authority to pursue disciplinary action after a license expires.

Section 16: Clarify the commissioner's authority to pursue disciplinary action after a license expires.

Section 17: Expand the definition of child day care services to apply to statutes up to and including 19a-87a.

Section 18: Provide the Commissioner with discretion to renew a license for a Family Day Care Home within 30 days of its expiration upon receipt of a renewal application and accompanying fee.

Section 19: Provide the Commissioner with discretion to renew a license for a Child Day Care Center and Group Day Care Home within 30 days of its expiration upon receipt of a renewal application and accompanying fee.

Section 20: Replace references to "Child Day Care Center" with "Child Care Center", "Group Child Day Care Home" with "Group Child Care Home", and "Family Child Day Care Home" with "Family Child Care Home". This change reflects language currently used at the national level as well as in Connecticut.

### Even Start

Section 21: Replace the State Department of Education with the Office of Early Childhood to clarify that Even Start falls under the OEC.

*Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)*

## PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

### ● Reason for Proposal

#### School Readiness

Section 1: Eliminate the requirement for the OEC to conduct a School Readiness Priority School unmet need report. The School Readiness statute, Section 10-16r(b), requires this unmet study only for Priority School Districts, therefore, it only captures a portion of unmet need. Section 84 of P.A. 14-39 requires the Office of Early Childhood to develop a plan to provide universal access to preschool to all eligible children residing in school readiness communities. The plan is due to the Governor January 1, 2015. In addition, the Office of Early Childhood is contracting with CHEFA to conduct a statewide study of preschool capacity and unmet need. This requirement duplicates this current work and does not look at the issue statewide. Requiring this study is a costly and inefficient use of OEC staff.

Section 2: Delete Section 10-4(d) requiring the State Board of Education to submit the School Readiness Priority School unmet need report. See rationale above.

Section 3: Fix language in P.A. 14-39 to allow a School Readiness Competitive School District to receive less than \$107,000 per year. Language in P.A. 14-39 changes the \$107,000 from a *ceiling* to a *floor*. However, a few School Readiness Competitive communities apply for less than the \$107,000 annual grant. The current language creates a barrier to giving those communities less than \$107,000 annually. The language change aligns the per child cost with language in Section 10-q(b)(1). The practice has been that competitive communities use the Priority School community per child rate.

Section 4: In Section 10-16p, increase the amount of available scholarship funds from up to \$500,000 to up to \$1,000,000, and



increase the scholarship per person for credit-based offerings from up to \$5,000 to up to \$10,000. Increasing the amount of scholarship funding from unspent funds, when available, will support OEC efforts to expedite the number of early childhood professionals securing a Bachelor's degree in a timely manner in order to be in compliance with legislation, P.A. 12-50 (Section 10-16p(b)).

#### **Smart Start**

Section 5: Change language in Section 38 of P.A. 14-217 to designate a smart start competitive operating account. The State Department of Education, which processes payments for the Office of Early Childhood, requested this language change to create a separate operating account to align with its internal financial processes.

Section 6: Change language in Section 24 of P.A. 14-98 to designate a smart start competitive capital account. The State Department of Education, which processes payments for the Office of Early Childhood, requested this language change to create a separate capital account to align with its internal financial processes.

Section 7: In Section 1 of P.A. 14-41, delete "reimburse" and substitute "provides grants-in-aid" to local and regional boards of education. The intent of the legislation was to provide grant funding up front to enable the public schools to operate the preschool classroom. The use of "reimburse" was not intended.

#### **Early Childhood Cabinet/State Advisory Council**

Section 8: Reinstate Connecticut General Assembly House and Senate representation on the Cabinet. The House and Senate of the CT General Assembly until this fiscal year have been represented on the Early Childhood Cabinet. Language was removed in Section 18 of P.A. 14-39 and they are no longer members of the Cabinet. This seeks to reinstate the House and Senate members to the Cabinet.

Add new members: State CCDBG Administrator, state agency coordinator for Section 619 of Part B of IDEA, state Title 1 Director, state coordinator of education for homeless youth and children, and State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These entities should be on the Cabinet to provide broadest representation of early childhood programs and services. In addition, the federal Preschool Development Grant requires that grant recipients have this representation on the Cabinet. If Connecticut receives this grant, legislation must be changed to be in compliance with the grant requirements.

#### **Children's Trust Fund**

Section 9: Delete statute establishing the Children's Trust Fund, Section 17b-751. The Children's Trust Fund programs and services have been moved to the Office of Early Childhood and fall under the Family Support Services Division. It is unnecessary and confusing to have a Children's Trust Fund within a Division of Family Support Services.

#### **Nurturing Families Network**

Section 10: Delete reference to Children's Trust Fund Council and replace with Office of Early Childhood in Section 17b-751b. The Nurturing Families Network program has been moved to the Office of Early Childhood. The Children's Trust Fund Council was eliminated in Section 46-50 of P.A. 13-27. Therefore, the Office of Early Childhood should be added to the statute.

#### **Licensing**

Section 11: Clarify that a voluntary surrender of a child day care center or group day care home license is recognized as disciplinary action..

Section 12: Clarify that a voluntary surrender of a family day care home license is recognized as disciplinary action.

Section 13: Clarify that a voluntary surrender of a youth camp license is recognized as disciplinary action.

Section 14: Clarify the commissioner's authority to pursue disciplinary action after a license expires. This provides the Office of Early Childhood the opportunity to begin to pursue disciplinary action within 18 months after a license expires for serious violations. By allowing this, serious violations can be documented even when the license is not current.

Section 15: Clarify the commissioner's authority to pursue disciplinary action after a license expires. This proposal allows the Commissioner to consider a license or approval valid for purposes of disciplinary, should a license or approval expire within 18 months of commencement of an investigation or disciplinary action. By allowing this, serious violations and subsequent



discipline can be documented even when the license has expired.

Section 16: Clarify the commissioner's authority to pursue disciplinary action after a license expires. This proposal allows the Commissioner to consider a license or approval valid for purposes of disciplinary, should a license or approval expire within 18 months of commencement of an investigation or disciplinary action. By allowing this, serious violations and subsequent discipline can be documented even when the license has expired.

Section 17: Expand the definition of child day care services to apply to statutes up to and including 19a-87a. Section 19a-87a(e) references "child day care services," as described in Section 19a-77. Section 19a-77 defines child day care services as used in sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as including family day care. It does not include Section 19a-87a. This clarifies that family day care homes fall within the scope of "child day care services."

Section 18: Provide the Commissioner with discretion to renew a license for a Family Day Care Home within 30 days of its expiration upon receipt of a renewal application and accompanying fee. This provides a grace period in instances where the provider made a good-faith effort to renew but did not meet the filing deadline. Providing this grace period, at the discretion of the Commissioner, keeps the provider in business and provides stability of care for the child and the family.

Section 19: Provide the Commissioner with discretion to renew a license for a Child Day Care Center and Group Day Care Home within 30 days of its expiration upon receipt of a renewal application and accompanying fee. This provides a grace period in instances where the provider made a good-faith effort to renew but did not meet the filing deadline. Providing this grace period, at the discretion of the Commissioner, keeps the provider in business and provides stability of care for the child and the family.

Section 20: Replace references to "Child Day Care Center" with "Child Care Center", "Group Child Day Care Home" with "Group Child Care Home", and "Family Child Day Care Home" with "Family Child Care Home". This change reflects language currently used at the national level as well as in Connecticut.

#### **Even Start**

Section 21: In Section 10-265n, replace the State Department of Education with the Office of Early Childhood to clarify that Even Start falls under the OEC. Even Start was moved to the OEC so the language should reflect that move.

- **Origin of Proposal**       **New Proposal**       **Resubmission**

*If this is a resubmission, please share:*

- (1) *What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?*
- (2) *Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?*
- (3) *Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?*
- (4) *What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?*

## **PROPOSAL IMPACT**

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: State Department of Education

Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Martha Deeds, Education Staff Assistance, 860-713-6959

Date Contacted: October 20, 2014

Approve of Proposal     YES     NO     Talks Ongoing

### **Summary of Affected Agency's Comments**

Two proposals would impact the Start Start legislation related to finances and accounting procedures. Since SDE handles grants payments for OEC, it would impact their finance division. SDE asked for these changes to align with their internal fiscal



procedures.

One proposal would add three new members to the Early Childhood Cabinet, which impact SDE staff. They are the state Title 1 Director, the coordinator for Section 619 of Part B of IDEA, and the state coordinator of education for homes children and youth.

Will there need to be further negotiation? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Agency Name: Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Doreen Delbianco, Legislative Program Manager, 860-418-6967  
Date Contacted: October 20, 2014

Approve of Proposal  YES  NO  Talks Ongoing

**Summary of Affected Agency's Comments**

The proposal would add the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to the Early Childhood Cabinet. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services supports this legislative proposal.

Will there need to be further negotiation? \_\_\_ YES  NO

• **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

**Municipal** (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)  
None

**State**  
None

**Federal**  
None

Additional notes on fiscal impact

• **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

Note: Proposed changes are capitalized in statutes that were previously changed in Public Act 14-39. Changes are in lower case in statutes that were not included in Public Act 14-39.



**Section 1:** Section 10-16r(b), as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 15, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this act, 10-16u, as amended by this act, 17b-749a, as amended by this act, and 17b-749c, as amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among providers of school readiness programs; [(3) assist in the identification of (A) the need for school readiness programs and the number of children not being served by such a program, and (B) for priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, the number of children not being served by such a program and the estimated operating cost of providing universal school readiness to eligible children in such districts who are not being served; (4)] [(3) **SUBMIT BIENNIAL REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL READINESS SPACES AND ESTIMATES OF**] [future needs; (5) submit biennial reports on factors identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection; (6)] [**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOT BEING SERVED BY SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS AND THE ESTIMATED COST OF PROVIDING SPACES TO ALL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPHS (A) TO (D), INCLUSIVE, OF SUBDIVISION (1) OF SUBSECTION (d) OF SECTION 10-16P, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT, IN AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM OR A SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM SEEKING ACCREDITATION;**] (4) cooperate with the department in any program evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of school readiness programs; [(7)] (5) identify existing and prospective resources and services available to children and families; [(8)] (6) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten programs; [(9)] (7) exchange information with other councils, the community and organizations serving the needs of children and families; [(10)] (8) make recommendations to school officials concerning transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and [(11)] (9) encourage public participation.

**Section 2:** Section 10-4(d) of the general statutes is repealed (*Effective July 2, 2015*):

[(d) not later than december 15, 2012, and biennially thereafter, within available appropriations, the board shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that summaries of reports required pursuant to subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection (b) of section 10-16r are submitted. the board shall summarize the reports and submit such summaries, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the general assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.]

**Section 3:** Section 10-16p(d)(1), as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 13, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(d) (1) The [Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services,] commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking accreditation for eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school or a former priority school, [as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection,] (B) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended by this act, [or] (C) in a town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) in a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended by this act. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an amount [NOT] [to exceed] [**LESS THAN**] IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PER CHILD COST IN SECTION 10-16q(B)(1) OF THE GENERAL STATUTES [**ONE HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PRIORITY SCHOOL OR TOWN**]. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the [Department of Education] commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant [in excess of one hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such district] to such town or regional school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation. A town or regional school readiness



council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking accreditation.

**Section 4:** Section 10-16p(e)(2)(B), as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 13, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2012] 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this section are not expended, an amount up to [~~FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND~~] ONE MILLION dollars of such unexpended funds may be available for the provision of professional development for early childhood care and education program providers, [offered by a professional development and program improvement system within the Connecticut State University System] and staff employed in such programs, provided such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool slots. Such unexpended funds may be available for use in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year. The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner may use such unexpended funds on and after [July 1, 2012, in consultation with the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education] July 1, 2015, to support early childhood education programs accepting state funds in satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The [Department of Education] commissioner shall use any such funds to provide assistance to individual staff members, giving priority to those staff members (i) attending an institution of higher education [(i)] accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or [State Board of Education] the Office of Higher Education, and approved by the Office of Early Childhood, and [(ii)] regionally accredited, at a maximum of [~~FIVE~~] TEN THOUSAND dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than December 31, [2013] 2015, an associate's degree, as such degrees are described in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), [at an in-state public institution of higher education or a Connecticut-based for-profit or nonprofit institution of higher education] or (ii) receiving noncredit competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of one thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members' financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such unexpended funds in a manner determined by the [Department of Education] commissioner. The [Commissioner of Education] commissioner shall determine [, in consultation with the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education,] how such unexpended funds shall be distributed.

**Section 5:** Section 138 of Public Act 14-217 is repealed and the following is substitute in lieu thereof (*Effective upon passage*):

(4) For each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, the sum of ten million dollars shall be disbursed from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to the smart start competitive OPERATING grant account established by section 24 of Public Act 14-98 for grants-in-aid to towns for the purpose of establishing or expanding a preschool program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town.

**Section 6:** Section 24 of Public Act 14-98 is repealed and the following is substitute in lieu thereof (*Effective upon passage*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start competitive CAPITAL grant account" which shall be a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain the amounts authorized by the State Bond Commission in accordance with section 25 of this act and any other moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the Smart Start competitive grant program established by public act 14-41.

(b) THERE IS ESTABLISHED AN ACCOUNT TO BE KNOWN AS THE "SMART START COMPETITIVE OPERATING GRANT ACCOUNT" WHICH SHALL BE A SEPARATE, NONLAPSING ACCOUNT WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND. THE ACCOUNT SHALL CONTAIN MONEYS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE ACCOUNT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 138 OF PUBLIC ACT 14-217. MONEYS IN THE ACCOUNT SHALL BE EXPENDED BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SMART START COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY PUBLIC ACT 14-41.

**Section 7:** Section 1 of Public Act 14-41 is repealed and the following is substitute in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):



Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2014) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2024, inclusive, the Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall design and administer the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program to [reimburse] [PROVIDE GRANTS-IN-AID](#) to local and regional boards of education for capital and operating expenses related to establishing or expanding a preschool program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town. A local or regional board of education may submit an application to the office, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and may receive (1) a grant for capital expenses in an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars per classroom for costs related to the renovation of an existing public school to accommodate the establishment or expansion of a preschool program, and (2) an annual grant for operating expenses (A) in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per child served by such grant, or (B) in an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars for each preschool classroom, provided no town shall receive a total annual grant for operating expenses greater than three hundred thousand dollars. Each local or regional board of education that establishes or expands a preschool program under this section shall be eligible to receive an annual grant for operating expenses for a period of five years, provided such preschool program meets standards established by the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Such local or regional board of education may submit an application for renewal of such grant to the office.

**Section 8:** Section 10-16z, as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 18, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2015):

(a) There is established the Early Childhood [Education] Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, [(2) one representative from the Department of Education who is responsible for programs required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq. , as amended from time to time, appointed by the Commissioner of Education,] (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, (4) [a representative from an institution of higher education in this state appointed by] the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or the president's designee, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission on Children, or the executive director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child who attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state funded child care center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a member of [\[THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES\]](#) a board of education for a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who has a child attending a school in [a priority school district] an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is [\[A MEMBER OF THE SENATE\]](#) a representative of an association of early education and child care providers and one of whom is a representative of a public elementary school with a prekindergarten program, (16) [two] four appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Head Start Association, [and] one of whom is a representative of the business [or philanthropic] community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the philanthropic community in this state and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut State Employees Association, and (17) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. [The chairperson of the council shall be appointed from among its members by the Governor.] [ADD HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A MEMBER OF THE SENATE BACK TO THE STATUTE. ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS: STATE CHILD DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT \(CCDGBG\) ADMINISTRATOR, STATE AGENCY COORDINATOR FOR SECTION 619 PART B OF IDEA, STATE TITLE 1 DIRECTOR, STATE COORDINATOR OF EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.](#)

**Section 9:** Section 17b-751 is repealed (effective July 1, 2015):

**[Sec. 17b-751. (Formerly Sec. 17a-50). Children's Trust Fund established. Regulations. Children's Trust Fund Council. Report. (a) There is established a Children's Trust Fund, the resources of which shall be used by the council established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the Commissioner of [Social Services] Early Childhood with the advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council to fund programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. Said fund is intended to be in addition to those resources that would otherwise be appropriated by the state for programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. The Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner may**





apply for and accept any federal funds which are available for a Children's Trust Fund and shall administer such funds in the manner required by federal law. The fund shall receive money from grants and gifts made pursuant to section 17a-18. The Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner may solicit and accept funds, on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner, with the advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to administer the fund and to set eligibility requirements for programs seeking funding. Youth service bureaus may receive funds from the Children's Trust Fund.]

**Section 10:** Section 17b-751b is repealed in the general statutes and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*effective July 1, 2015*):

Sec. 17b-751b. (Formerly Sec. 17a-56). Nurturing Families Network. (a) The [Children's Trust Fund Council] Office of Early Childhood shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a Nurturing Families Network, which demonstrates the benefits of preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their families within families identified as high risk.

(b) The [Children's Trust Fund Council] Office of Early Childhood shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers; (2) develop the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs; and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the [Children's Trust Fund Council] Office of Early Childhood shall take into consideration the most effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of current public and private programs.

(c) The [Children's Trust Fund Council] Office of Early Childhood shall establish a data system to enable the programs to document the following information in a standard manner: (1) The level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of child development; and (5) any other information the [Children's Trust Fund Council] Office of Early Childhood deems appropriate.

(d) The [Children's Trust Fund Council] Office of Early Childhood shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the establishment, implementation and progress of the Nurturing Families Network, on January first and July first, of each year.

**Section 11:** Section 19a-84, as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 69, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 2, 1015*):

(c) IN ADDITION TO THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSIONER IN SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER MAY RESOLVE ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO A LICENSE BY VOLUNTARY SURRENDER.

**Section 12:** Section 19a-87e, as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 59, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 2, 1015*):

(f) IN ADDITION TO THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSIONER IN SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER MAY RESOLVE ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO A LICENSE BY VOLUNTARY SURRENDER.

**Section 13:** Section 19a-423, as amended by P.A. 14-39, Section 78, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 2, 1015*)

(h) IN ADDITION TO THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSIONER IN SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER MAY RESOLVE ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO A LICENSE BY VOLUNTARY SURRENDER.

**Section 14:** This is new language pertaining to child day care centers and group day care homes – seeking guidance where it should be inserted.



ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO 19A-80f OR 19A-87a OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 19A-84, WHILE HOLDING A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD OR HAVING HELD SUCH A LICENSE WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HOLD A VALID LICENSE FOR PURPOSES OF SUCH INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

**Section 15:** This is new language pertaining to family day care homes – seeking guidance where it should be inserted.

ANY PERSON WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION PURSUANT TO 19A-87e, WHILE HOLDING A LICENSE OR APPROVAL ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD OR HAVING HELD SUCH A LICENSE OR APPROVAL WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HOLD A VALID LICENSE OR APPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF SUCH INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

**Section 16:** This is new language pertaining to youth camps – seeking guidance where it should be inserted.

ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO 19A-429 OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 19A-423, WHILE HOLDING A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD OR HAVING HELD SUCH A LICENSE WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HOLD A VALID LICENSE FOR PURPOSES OF SUCH INVESTIGATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

**Section 17:** Section 19a-77, as amended by Public Act 14-39, Section 48, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

(a) As used in sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act, "child day care services" shall include:

**Section 18:** Section 19a-87b, as amended by Public Act 14-39, Section 56, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(g) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO RENEW A LICENSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF ITS EXPIRATION UPON RECEIPT OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION AND ACCOMPANYING FEE. NOTWITHSTANDING SAID DISCRETION, THE COMMISSIONER MAY UTILIZE THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 19A-87c AND SECTION 19A-87d OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.

**Section 19:** Section 19a-80, as amended by Public Act 14-39, Section 50, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(e) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO RENEW A LICENSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF ITS EXPIRATION UPON RECEIPT OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION AND ACCOMPANYING FEE. NOTWITHSTANDING SAID DISCRETION, THE COMMISSIONER MAY UTILIZE THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 19A-86 AND SECTION 19A-87 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.

**Section 20:** Replace references to "Child Day Care Center" with "Child Care Center", "Group Child Day Care Home" with "Group Child Care Home", and "Family Child Day Care Home" with "Family Child Care Home". This change reflects language currently used at the national level as well as in Connecticut.

**Section 21:** Section 10-265n is repealed in the general statutes and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective upon passage*):

Sec. 10-265n. Even start family literacy program. The [Department of Education] Office of Early Childhood shall administer, within available appropriations, an even start family literacy program, in accordance with the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program under the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-111, to provide grants to establish new or expand existing local family literacy programs that provide literacy services for children and the parents or guardians of such children.