



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5279

February Session, 2022



AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

3 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet
4 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the
5 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the
6 commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
7 commissioner's designee, (4) the president of the Connecticut State
8 Colleges and Universities, or the president's designee, (5) the
9 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the
10 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's
11 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
12 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission
13 on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity or the executive
14 director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start
15 State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child who
16 attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the
17 minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative of
18 a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the minority

19 leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family
20 Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House
21 of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care
22 center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two
23 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom
24 is a member of a board of education for a town designated as an alliance
25 district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who
26 has a child attending a school in an educational reform district, as
27 defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the president pro
28 tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of an association
29 of early education and child care providers and one of whom is a
30 representative of a public elementary school with a prekindergarten
31 program, (16) ~~eight~~ ten appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a
32 representative of the Connecticut Head Start Association, one of whom
33 is a representative of the business community in this state, one of whom
34 is a representative of the philanthropic community in this state, one of
35 whom is a representative of the Connecticut State Employees
36 Association, one of whom is an administrator of the child care
37 development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development
38 Block Grant Act of 1990, one of whom is responsible for administering
39 grants received under section 1419 of Part B of the Individuals with
40 Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended from time to time,
41 one of whom is responsible for administering the provisions of Title I of
42 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., [and]
43 one of whom is responsible for coordinating education services to
44 children and youth who are homeless, one of whom is a licensed family
45 child care home provider and a member of a staffed family child care
46 network identified by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, and one of
47 whom is a parent recommended by a parent advisory group that has
48 been appointed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, (17) the
49 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
50 designee, (18) the Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's
51 designee, (19) the Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's
52 designee, and (20) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
53 Services, or the commissioner's designee.

54 (b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall serve as a
55 cochairperson of the cabinet. The other cochairperson of the cabinet
56 shall be appointed from among its members by the Governor. The
57 cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Members shall not be compensated
58 for their services, [Any member who fails to attend three consecutive
59 meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during
60 any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the cabinet]
61 except the parent member recommended by a parent advisory group
62 and appointed by the Governor may, within available appropriations,
63 be compensated for any time and travel related to meetings of the
64 cabinet.

65 (c) Within available resources, the Early Childhood Cabinet shall (1)
66 advise the Office of Early Childhood, established pursuant to section 10-
67 500, (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter,
68 develop an annual plan of action that assigns the appropriate state
69 agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal Head Start Act of
70 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time, and (3) not later than
71 March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an annual state-wide
72 strategic report, pursuant to said federal Head Start Act, in accordance
73 with the provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the progress such
74 agencies have made toward the completion of such tasks outlined under
75 said federal Head Start Act and this subsection to the Governor and the
76 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
77 of matters relating to education and human services.

78 (d) The Early Childhood Cabinet shall be within the Office of Early
79 Childhood for administrative purposes only.

80 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 17b-749k of the 2022 supplement to
81 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
82 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

83 (b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall, within available
84 appropriations, require any relative who provides child care services to
85 a child and who receives a child care subsidy from the Office of Early

86 Childhood, to submit to a check of (1) the National Sex Offender Public
87 Website maintained by the United States Department of Justice and the
88 registry established and maintained pursuant to section 54-257, (2) the
89 state child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, and
90 (3) the [Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication
91 Teleprocessing System] Connecticut Criminal History Request System
92 maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
93 Protection. If such check reveals that the name of any such relative
94 appears in such databases, on said registry or in said system, the
95 commissioner may require such relative to submit to state and national
96 criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with section
97 29-17a.

98 Sec. 3. Section 10-520b of the general statutes is repealed and the
99 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

100 The Office of Early Childhood, upon receipt of a proper application
101 and in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood,
102 shall issue an early childhood teacher credential to any person who
103 holds (1) an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood
104 education from an institution of higher education that is regionally
105 accredited, provided such associate degree program is approved by (A)
106 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher
107 Education, and (B) the Office of Early Childhood, or (2) a bachelor's
108 degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an
109 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, provided
110 such bachelor's degree program is approved by (A) the Board of Regents
111 for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (B) the Office
112 of Early Childhood. [Any early childhood teacher credential issued
113 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section shall be valid until June 30,
114 2021.] For purposes of this section, "concentration in early childhood
115 education" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-16p, as
116 amended by this act.

117 Sec. 4. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-77 of the general
118 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof

119 (Effective July 1, 2022):

120 (3) A "family child care home" which consists of a private family
121 home [caring] providing care (A) for (i) not more than six children,
122 including the provider's own children not in school full time, [where the
123 children are cared] without an assistant or substitute staff member
124 approved by the commissioner of Early Childhood, pursuant to section
125 19a-87b, present and assisting the provider, or (ii) not more than nine
126 children, including the provider's own children, with an assistant or
127 substitute staff member approved by the Commissioner of Early
128 Childhood present and assisting the provider, and (B) for not less than
129 three or more than twelve hours during a twenty-four-hour period and
130 where care is given on a regularly recurring basis except that care may
131 be provided in excess of twelve hours but not more than seventy-two
132 consecutive hours to accommodate a need for extended care or
133 intermittent short-term overnight care. During the regular school year,
134 for providers described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, a
135 maximum of three additional children who are in school full time,
136 including [the] such provider's own children, shall be permitted, except
137 that if [the] such provider has more than three children who are such
138 provider's own children and in school full time, all of [the] such
139 provider's children shall be permitted. During the summer months
140 when regular school is not in session, for providers described in
141 subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, a maximum of three additional
142 children who are otherwise enrolled in school full time [, including the
143 provider's own children,] shall be permitted if there is an assistant or
144 substitute staff member approved by the Commissioner of Early
145 Childhood, pursuant to section 19a-87b, present and assisting [the] such
146 provider, except that [(A)] (i) if [the] such provider has more than three
147 such additional children who are [the] such provider's own children, all
148 of [the] such provider's own children shall be permitted, and [(B)] (ii)
149 such approved assistant or substitute staff member shall not be required
150 if all of such additional children are [the] such provider's own children;

151 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the 2022 supplement to the

152 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
153 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

154 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, 10-16u, 17b-749a
155 and 17b-749c:

156 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
157 (A) meets the standards set by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant
158 to subsection (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q,
159 and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of
160 not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for
161 eligible children, except as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

162 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age and
163 children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
164 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
165 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

166 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
167 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
168 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
169 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
170 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
171 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
172 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a grant
173 pursuant to section 10-16u;

174 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
175 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
176 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to students
177 who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

178 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for the
179 Education of Young Children, National Association for Family Child
180 Care, a Head Start on-site program review instrument or a successor
181 instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or otherwise meeting such
182 criteria as may be established by the commissioner, unless the context

183 otherwise requires;

184 (6) "Year-round" means [fifty] forty-eight weeks per year, except as
185 provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

186 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood;

187 (8) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood;

188 (9) "Seeking accreditation" means a school readiness program seeking
189 accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young
190 Children, National Association for Family Child Care or a Head Start
191 on-site program review instrument or successor instrument pursuant to
192 federal regulations, or attempting to meet criteria as may be established
193 by the commissioner; and

194 (10) "Concentration in early childhood education" means a program
195 of study in early childhood education, including, but not limited to,
196 early childhood education, child study, child development or human
197 growth and development.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	10-16z
Sec. 2	from passage	17b-749k(b)
Sec. 3	from passage	10-520b
Sec. 4	July 1, 2022	19a-77(a)(3)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2022	10-16p(a)

ED Joint Favorable Subst.