



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 487

LCO No. 4013



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INFANT AND TODDLER EARLY CARE AND FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVE.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Child care services provider" means a child care center, group
3 child care home or family child care home that provides child care
4 services, each as defined in section 19a-77 of the general statutes;
- 5 (2) "Staffed family child care network" means a group of family child
6 care homes supported by the Office of Early Childhood for the sharing
7 and coordination of administrative and child care services;
- 8 (3) "Early care availability" means the ratio of infant and toddler
9 spaces in licensed child care centers and family child care homes in a
10 town for every one hundred children under the age of three years in
11 such town; and
- 12 (4) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for the

13 Education of Young Children, National Association for Family Child
14 Care, a Head Start on-site program review instrument or a successor
15 instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or otherwise meeting such
16 criteria as may be established by the Commissioner of Early Childhood,
17 unless the context otherwise requires.

18 (b) The Office of Early Childhood shall establish and administer the
19 Infant and Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative. The
20 initiative shall provide grants-in-aid to child care service providers and
21 staffed family child care networks to support the growth and
22 enhancement of a system of high-quality early childhood care and
23 education by creating and subsidizing infant and toddler spaces in high-
24 need areas throughout the state. The office shall establish standards for
25 the initiative. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
26 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
27 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parental involvement, and staff
28 qualifications and training.

29 (c) The Commissioner of Early Childhood may enter into a five-year
30 contract with a child care service provider or staffed family child care
31 networks, to create new or support existing infant and toddler spaces in
32 such child care centers, group child care homes and family child care
33 homes. In entering into a contract under the initiative, the commissioner
34 shall give priority to those child care centers, group child care homes
35 and family child care homes that are (1) located in towns with the lowest
36 median household income and greatest deficit of early care availability,
37 (2) creating new infant and toddler spaces, (3) accredited, and (4)
38 licensed to individuals who reflect the demographics of the infant and
39 toddler population in the community in which such center or home is
40 located.

41 (d) Any contract entered into under the initiative shall provide (1) a
42 grant-in-aid for each infant and toddler space that is in an amount that
43 is at least seventy-five per cent of the market rate, as determined by the
44 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to the current market rate
45 study required under federal law, (2) a bonus equal to twenty-five per

46 cent of the amount described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to any
47 accredited child care center, group child care home or family child care
48 home, (3) access to family support services in accordance with the
49 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, and (4) in the case of a child
50 care center, group child care home or family child care home that enters
51 into a contract with the office and is not accredited, additional assistance
52 to help such center or home get accredited within three years.

53 (e) Each contract entered into under the initiative shall include
54 provisions requiring the office to provide access to and support for
55 family support services in the amount of ten per cent of the total grant-
56 in-aid under the contract. Such family support services shall include, but
57 need not be limited to, parenting support, information about child
58 development, assistance to help parents complete their education, learn
59 English, enroll in a job training program, find employment and other
60 related services.

61 (f) (1) There is established an account to be known as the "early care
62 and family support account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
63 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
64 required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account
65 shall be expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of
66 the initiative established under this section.

67 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year
68 thereafter, an amount equal to the percentage remaining after the
69 amounts have been calculated pursuant to section 2-33c of the general
70 statutes, as amended by this act, shall be transferred from the resources
71 of the General Fund to the early care and family support account and
72 credited to such account for the purposes of such initiative. The Office
73 of Policy and Management shall make such funds available in quarterly
74 allotments.

75 (3) (A) The office may use a portion of the funds in the account to (i)
76 provide technical assistance to existing child care centers, group child
77 care homes and family child care homes in planning for the expansion

78 of infant and toddler spaces under the initiative, including business
79 planning, accreditation support, predevelopment expenses for any
80 major renovations to an existing building or for new construction and
81 the development of standardized plans and prefabricated buildings, (ii)
82 develop family support services, and (iii) develop data collection and
83 evaluation tools for continuous program improvement, as follows: For
84 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, up to fifty per cent of such funds;
85 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, up to thirty-five per cent of such
86 funds; and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, up to twenty per cent
87 of such funds.

88 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
89 thereafter, the office may expend up to ten per cent of the funds in the
90 account for the initiative for program evaluation, quality improvement
91 and capacity expansion.

92 Sec. 2. Section 10-507 of the general statutes is repealed and the
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

94 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start
95 competitive capital grant account" which shall be a capital projects fund.
96 The account shall contain the amounts authorized by the State Bond
97 Commission in accordance with section 10-508, as amended by this act,
98 and any other moneys required by law to be deposited in the account.
99 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Office of Early
100 Childhood for the purposes of the Connecticut Smart Start competitive
101 grant program established pursuant to section 10-506 and the Infant and
102 Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative established pursuant
103 to section 1 of this act.

104 (b) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start
105 competitive operating grant account" which shall be a separate,
106 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain
107 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the
108 account shall be expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the
109 purposes of the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program

110 established pursuant to section 10-506 and the Infant and Toddler Early
111 Care and Family Support Initiative established pursuant to section 1 of
112 this act.

113 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-508 of the 2022 supplement to the
114 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
115 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

116 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount
117 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Early
118 Childhood for the purposes of early care and education facility
119 improvements in the Smart Start competitive grant program established
120 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-501, section 10-506 and section 3
121 of public act 14-41, the school readiness program, as defined in section
122 10-16p, state-funded day care centers pursuant to section 8-210, Even
123 Start program pursuant to section 10-265n, programs administered by
124 local and regional boards of education, and to expand the delivery of
125 child care services to infants and toddlers [where a demonstrated need
126 exists, as determined by the Office of Early Childhood] under the Infant
127 and Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative established
128 pursuant to section 1 of this act. Grants awarded pursuant to this
129 subsection shall be used for facility improvements and minor capital
130 repairs. Applicants eligible pursuant to this subsection may submit an
131 application to the Office of Early Childhood and may receive a grant for
132 capital expenses in an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand
133 dollars per classroom for costs related to the renovation of a facility.

134 Sec. 4. Section 2-33c of the general statutes is repealed and the
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

136 [(a)] In addition to the provisions of section 2-33a, on and after July 1,
137 2019, [except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,] the General
138 Assembly shall not authorize General Fund and Special Transportation
139 Fund appropriations for any fiscal year in an amount that, in the
140 aggregate, exceeds the percentage of the statement of estimated revenue
141 passed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 2-35 for each fiscal year

142 indicated as follows:

T1	Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Percentage of Estimated Revenue
T2	2020	99.5
T3	2021	99.25
T4	2022	99
T5	2023	98.75
T6	2024	98.5
T7	2025	98.25
T8	2026, and each	98
T9	fiscal year thereafter	

143 [(b) The General Assembly may authorize General Fund and Special
 144 Transportation Fund appropriations for any fiscal year in an amount
 145 that, in the aggregate, exceeds the percentage of estimated revenue
 146 specified in subsection (a) of this section for such fiscal year, if:

147 (1) (A) The Governor declares an emergency or the existence of
 148 extraordinary circumstances and at least three-fifths of the members of
 149 each house of the General Assembly vote to exceed such percentage for
 150 the purposes of such emergency or extraordinary circumstances, and (B)
 151 any such appropriation is for the fiscal year in progress only. Any such
 152 declaration shall specify the nature of such emergency or circumstances;
 153 or

154 (2) Each house of the General Assembly approves by majority vote
 155 any such appropriation for purposes of an adjusted appropriation and
 156 revenue plan.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-507
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-508(b)

Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	2-33c
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Infant and Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative.

[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.]