



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 8214



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.
SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.
SEN. CABRERA, 17th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.
SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.
SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.
SEN. HOCHADEL, 13th Dist.
SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.

SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.
SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.
SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.
SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MILLER P., 27th Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.
SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.
SEN. RAHMAN, 4th Dist.
SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 2

File No. 77

Cal. No. 73

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS OF CHILDREN."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
4 2024, the Department of Public Health shall hire, on or before January 1,
5 2024, a full-time employee to assist in the licensure of social workers
6 pursuant to chapter 383b of the general statutes.

7 Sec. 2. Section 11-24b of the general statutes is repealed and the
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

9 (a) [Each] Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i) of this
10 section, each principal public library, as defined in section 11-24a, shall
11 be eligible to receive a state grant in accordance with the provisions of
12 subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section provided the following
13 requirements are met:

14 (1) An annual statistical report which includes certification that the
15 grant, when received, shall be used for library purposes is filed with the
16 State Library Board in such manner as the board may require. The report
17 shall include information concerning local library governance, hours of
18 service, type of facilities, library policies, resources, programs and
19 services available, measurement of levels of services provided,
20 personnel and fiscal information concerning library receipts and
21 expenditures;

22 (2) Documents certifying the legal establishment of the principal
23 public library in accordance with the provisions of section 11-20 are filed
24 with the board;

25 (3) The library is a participating library in the Connecticard program
26 established pursuant to section 11-31b;

27 (4) Except for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, to June 30, 2015,
28 inclusive, the principal public library shall not have had the amount of
29 its annual tax levy or appropriation reduced to an amount which is less
30 than the average amount levied or appropriated for the library for the
31 three fiscal years immediately preceding the year of the grant, except
32 that if the expenditures of the library in any one year in such three-year
33 period are unusually high as compared with expenditures in the other
34 two years, the library may request an exception to this requirement and
35 the board, upon review of the expenditures for that year, may grant an
36 exception;

37 (5) State grant funds shall be expended within two years of the date

38 of receipt of such funds. If the funds are not expended in that period,
39 the library shall submit a plan to the State Librarian for the expenditure
40 of any unspent balance;

41 (6) Principal public libraries shall not charge individuals residing in
42 the town in which the library is located or the town in which the contract
43 library is located for borrowing and lending library materials, accessing
44 information, advice and assistance and programs and services which
45 promote literacy; and

46 (7) Principal public libraries shall provide equal access to library
47 service for all individuals and shall not discriminate upon the basis of
48 age, race, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin,
49 handicap or place of residency in the town in which the library is located
50 or the town in which the contract library is located.

51 (b) Within the limits of amounts appropriated, the amount each
52 principal public library shall be eligible to receive annually as a state
53 grant shall be determined by the State Library Board as follows:

54 (1) Principal public libraries, as defined in section 11-24a, shall receive
55 a base grant of one thousand two hundred dollars for each fiscal year.

56 (2) Of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section less the
57 amount distributed as base grants, sixty per cent shall be set aside and
58 paid to principal public libraries pursuant to subsection (c) of this
59 section.

60 (3) Of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section less the
61 amount distributed as base grants, forty per cent shall be set aside and
62 paid to principal public libraries pursuant to subsection (d) of this
63 section.

64 (c) The principal public library for each town shall be eligible to
65 receive an equalization grant in an amount determined as follows:

66 (1) The adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, as defined in
67 subsection (a) of section 10-261, for all towns in the state shall be ranked

68 from highest to lowest.

69 (2) The adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, as ranked for all
70 towns in the state from highest to lowest shall be divided into the
71 following four classes: Class A, towns ranked from one to forty-two,
72 inclusive; class B, towns ranked from forty-three to eighty-four,
73 inclusive; class C, towns ranked from eighty-five to one hundred
74 twenty-six, inclusive; and, class D, towns ranked from one hundred
75 twenty-seven to one hundred sixty-nine, inclusive. Funds available for
76 purposes of this subsection pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b)
77 of this section shall be distributed among the four classes so that
78 principal public libraries for class B, C, and D towns, respectively, shall
79 receive two times, three times and four times as much on a per capita
80 basis as principal public libraries for class A towns.

81 (3) Grants to the principal public library for each town shall be
82 determined as follows: Said funds available for purposes of this
83 subsection shall be multiplied by the per cent of funds for each class to
84 determine an appropriation per class; the appropriation per class shall
85 be divided by the total population per class to determine an amount per
86 capita; the grant for the principal public library for each town shall be
87 the town's total population multiplied by the amount per capita. For
88 purposes of this subdivision, "total population" of a town means that
89 enumerated in the most recent federal decennial census of population.

90 (d) The principal public library for each town shall be eligible to
91 receive an incentive grant in an amount to be determined as follows:

92 (1) The State Library Board shall, in such manner as prescribed by the
93 board, determine for each fiscal year, a state-wide average for per capita
94 library expenditures and each town's individual per capita library
95 expenditure based on the annual statistical report filed in accordance
96 with subsection (a) of this section.

97 (2) The per capita library expenditure of each town shall be ranked
98 from highest to lowest and the ranked expenditures shall be divided
99 into the following classes: Class A, towns which meet or exceed the

100 state-wide average for per capita library expenditures; class B, towns
101 which meet seventy-five to ninety-nine per cent, inclusive, of the state-
102 wide average; class C, towns which meet fifty to seventy-four per cent,
103 inclusive, of the state-wide average; and, class D, towns which fall below
104 fifty per cent of the state-wide average. Funds available for purposes of
105 this subsection pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this
106 section shall be distributed among the four classes so that principal
107 public libraries for class A and B towns, respectively, shall receive three
108 times and two times as much on a per capita basis as principal public
109 libraries for class C towns.

110 (3) Grants to the principal public library for each town shall be
111 determined as follows: Said funds available for purposes of this
112 subsection shall be multiplied by the per cent of funds per class to
113 determine an appropriation per class; the appropriation per class shall
114 be divided by the total population per class to determine an amount per
115 capita; the grant for the principal public library for each town shall be
116 the town's total population multiplied by the amount per capita. For
117 purposes of this subdivision, "total population" of a town means that
118 enumerated in the most recent federal decennial census of population.

119 (e) Application for grants under this section shall be made to the State
120 Library Board in such form and at such time as the board designates.
121 The grant may be used for general library purposes and no portion of
122 the grant money shall revert to the general fund of the town or towns
123 normally served by such library.

124 (f) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall make
125 available, upon the request of the State Library Board, such information
126 as is needed by the board to determine grant payments in accordance
127 with the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

128 (g) The State Library Board shall report triennially to the joint
129 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
130 matters relating to education on the impact of the state grants
131 distributed pursuant to this section.

132 (h) The State Library Board shall, in accordance with the provisions
133 of chapter 54, adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this
134 section.

135 (i) No principal public library shall be eligible to receive a state grant
136 in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this
137 section if such principal public library does not maintain and adhere to
138 collection development, collection management and collection
139 reconsideration policies that have been approved by the governing
140 body of such library. Such collection reconsideration policy shall offer
141 residents a clear process to request a reconsideration of library
142 materials. In the instance of a book challenge, these policies shall govern.

143 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 17a-248g of the general statutes is
144 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
145 *2023*):

146 (h) For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2023, and [June 30, 2024]
147 each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner shall make a general
148 administrative payment to providers in the amount of two hundred
149 dollars for each child with an individualized family service plan on the
150 first day of the billing month and whose plan accounts for less than nine
151 hours of service during such billing month, provided at least one service
152 is provided by such provider during such billing month.

153 Sec. 4. Section 17a-248 of the general statutes is repealed and the
154 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

155 As used in this section, [and] sections 17a-248b to 17a-248g, inclusive,
156 as amended by this act, 38a-490a and 38a-516a and section 6 of this act,
157 unless the context otherwise requires:

158 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood.

159 (2) "Council" means the State Interagency Birth-to-Three
160 Coordinating Council established pursuant to section 17a-248b.

161 (3) "Early intervention services" means early intervention services, as

162 defined in 34 CFR Part 303.13, as from time to time amended.

163 (4) "Eligible children" means children (A) (i) from birth to thirty-six
164 months of age, who are not eligible for special education and related
165 services pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, and (ii) thirty-
166 six months of age or older, who are receiving early intervention services
167 and are eligible or being evaluated for participation in preschool
168 services pursuant to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
169 Education Act, 20 USC 1411 et seq., until such children are enrolled in
170 such preschool services, and (B) who need early intervention services
171 because such children are:

172 [(I)] (i) Experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured
173 by standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including
174 informed clinical opinion, in one or more of the following areas:
175 Cognitive development; physical development, including vision or
176 hearing; communication development; social or emotional
177 development; or adaptive skills; or

178 [(II)] (ii) Diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has
179 a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

180 (5) "Evaluation" means a multidisciplinary professional, objective
181 assessment conducted by appropriately qualified personnel in order to
182 determine a child's eligibility for early intervention services.

183 (6) "Individualized family service plan" means a written plan for
184 providing early intervention services to an eligible child and the child's
185 family.

186 (7) "Lead agency" means the Office of Early Childhood, the public
187 agency responsible for the administration of the birth-to-three system in
188 collaboration with the participating agencies.

189 (8) "Parent" means (A) a biological, adoptive or foster parent of a
190 child; (B) a guardian, except for the Commissioner of Children and
191 Families; (C) an individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive

192 parent, including, but not limited to, a grandparent, stepparent, or other
193 relative with whom the child lives; (D) an individual who is legally
194 responsible for the child's welfare; or (E) an individual appointed to be
195 a surrogate parent.

196 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
197 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children and
198 Families and Developmental Services, the Office of Early Childhood, the
199 Insurance Department and the Department of Aging and Disability
200 Services.

201 (10) "Qualified personnel" means persons who meet the standards
202 specified in 34 CFR Part 303.31, as from time to time amended, and who
203 are licensed physicians or psychologists or persons holding a state-
204 approved or recognized license, certificate or registration in one or more
205 of the following fields: (A) Special education, including teaching of the
206 blind and the deaf; (B) speech and language pathology and audiology;
207 (C) occupational therapy; (D) physical therapy; (E) social work; (F)
208 nursing; (G) dietary or nutritional counseling; and (H) other fields
209 designated by the commissioner that meet requirements that apply to
210 the area in which the person is providing early intervention services,
211 provided there is no conflict with existing professional licensing,
212 certification and registration requirements.

213 (11) "Service coordinator" means a person carrying out service
214 coordination services, as defined in 34 CFR Part 303.34, as from time to
215 time amended.

216 (12) "Primary care provider" means physicians and advanced practice
217 registered nurses, licensed by the Department of Public Health, who are
218 responsible for performing or directly supervising the primary care
219 services for children enrolled in the birth-to-three program.

220 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 17a-248e of the general statutes is
221 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
222 *2023*):

223 (b) The individualized family service plan shall be in writing and
224 contain: (1) A statement of the child's present level of physical
225 development, cognitive development, language and speech
226 development and self-help skills, based on acceptable objective criteria;
227 (2) a statement of the family's priority, resources and concerns relating
228 to enhancing the development of the eligible child; (3) a statement of the
229 major outcomes expected to be achieved for the child and the family and
230 the criteria, procedures and timelines used to determine the degree to
231 which progress toward achieving the outcomes are being made, and
232 whether modifications or revisions of the outcomes are necessary; (4) a
233 statement of specific early intervention services necessary to meet the
234 unique needs of the eligible child and the family, including the
235 frequency, intensity and the method of delivering services; (5) a
236 statement of the natural environments in which the services shall be
237 provided; (6) the projected dates for initiation of services and the
238 anticipated duration of such services; (7) the name of the approved
239 comprehensive service provider that will provide or procure the
240 services specified in the individualized family service plan; (8) the name
241 of the individual service coordinator from the profession most
242 immediately relevant to the eligible child's or the family's needs who
243 will be responsible for the implementation of the plan and coordination
244 with the other agencies and providers or an otherwise qualified
245 provider selected by a parent; and (9) the steps to be taken to support
246 the transition of the child who is eligible for participation in preschool
247 programs under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 USC
248 1471 et seq., as appropriate. The individualized family service plan shall
249 be translated into and provided in Spanish for any family whose
250 primary language is Spanish.

251 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, an
252 eligible child whose primary language is Spanish shall be entitled to
253 receive early intervention services from Spanish-speaking qualified
254 personnel and a Spanish-speaking service coordinator. If no such
255 Spanish-speaking qualified personnel or Spanish-speaking coordinator
256 are available within the state-wide birth-to-three system for the

257 provision of such early intervention services, a Spanish-speaking
258 interpreter or translator shall be used to provide interpreting or
259 translation services to such Spanish-speaking eligible children on behalf
260 of the qualified personnel and service coordinators providing early
261 intervention services, and such Spanish-speaking interpreter or
262 translator shall be reimbursed at the rate received by court-appointed
263 interpreters and translators within the judicial branch.

264 Sec. 7. Section 31-57r of the general statutes is repealed and the
265 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

266 As used in this section and sections 31-57s to 31-57w, inclusive:

267 (1) "Child" means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal
268 ward of a service worker, or a child of a service worker standing in loco
269 parentis, who is (A) under eighteen years of age; or (B) eighteen years
270 of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical
271 disability;

272 (2) "Day or temporary worker" means an individual who performs
273 work for another on (A) a per diem basis, or (B) an occasional or
274 irregular basis for only the time required to complete such work,
275 whether such individual is paid by the person for whom such work is
276 performed or by an employment agency or temporary help service, as
277 defined in section 31-129;

278 (3) "Employee" means an individual engaged in service to an
279 employer in the business of the employer;

280 (4) "Employer" means any person, firm, business, educational
281 institution, nonprofit agency, corporation, limited liability company or
282 other entity that employs fifty or more individuals in the state, which
283 shall be determined based on such person's, firm's, business',
284 educational institution's, nonprofit agency's, corporation's, limited
285 liability company's or other entity's payroll for the week containing
286 October first, annually. "Employer" does not include: (A) Any business
287 establishment classified in sector 31, 32 or 33 in the North American

288 Industrial Classification System, or (B) any nationally chartered
289 organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the
290 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
291 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time
292 amended, that provides all of the following services: Recreation, child
293 care and education;

294 (5) "Family violence" has the same meaning as provided in section
295 46b-38a;

296 (6) "Mental health wellness day" means a day during which a service
297 worker attends to such service worker's emotional and psychological
298 well-being in lieu of attending a regularly scheduled shift;

299 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Retaliatory personnel action" means any termination,
300 suspension, constructive discharge, demotion, unfavorable
301 reassignment, refusal to promote, disciplinary action or other adverse
302 employment action taken by an employer against an employee or a
303 service worker;

304 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "Service worker" means an employee primarily engaged in
305 an occupation with one of the following broad or detailed occupation
306 code numbers and titles, as defined by the federal Bureau of Labor
307 Statistics Standard Occupational Classification system or any successor
308 system: (A) 11-9050 Food Service Managers; (B) 11-9110 Medical and
309 Health Services Managers; (C) 21-1020 Social Workers; (D) 21-1093
310 Social and Human Service Assistants; (E) 21-1094 Community Health
311 Workers; (F) 21-1099 Community and Social Service Specialists, All
312 Other; (G) 25-4020 Librarians; (H) 29-1050 Pharmacists; (I) 29-1070
313 Physician Assistants; (J) 29-1120 Therapists; (K) 29-1140 Registered
314 Nurses; (L) 29-1150 Nurse Anesthetists; (M) 29-1160 Nurse Midwives;
315 (N) 29-1170 Nurse Practitioners; (O) 29-2020 Dental Hygienists; (P) 29-
316 2040 Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics; (Q) 29-2050
317 Health Practitioner Support Technologists and Technicians; (R) 29-2060
318 Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses; (S) 31-1011 Home
319 Health Aides; (T) 31-1012 Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants; (U)

320 31-1013 Psychiatric Aides; (V) 31-9091 Dental Assistants; (W) 31-9092
321 Medical Assistants; (X) 33-9032 Security Guards; (Y) 33-9091 Crossing
322 Guards; (Z) 35-1010 Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving
323 Workers; (AA) 35-2010 Cooks; (BB) 35-2020 Food Preparation Workers;
324 (CC) 35-3010 Bartenders; (DD) 35-3020 Fast Food and Counter Workers;
325 (EE) 35-3030 Waiters and Waitresses; (FF) 35-3040 Food Servers,
326 Nonrestaurant; (GG) 35-9010 Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants
327 and Bartender Helpers; (HH) 35-9020 Dishwashers; (II) 35-9030 Hosts
328 and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge and Coffee Shop; (JJ) 35-9090
329 Miscellaneous Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers; (KK) 37-
330 2011 Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners;
331 (LL) 37-2019 Building Cleaning Workers, All Other; (MM) 39-3030
332 Ushers, Lobby Attendants and Ticket Takers; (NN) 39-5010 Barbers,
333 Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists; (OO) 39-6010 Baggage
334 Porters, Bellhops and Concierges; (PP) 39-9010 Child Care Workers;
335 (QQ) 39-9021 Personal Care Aides; (RR) 41-1010 First-Line Supervisors
336 of Sales Workers; (SS) 41-2011 Cashiers; (TT) 41-2021 Counter and
337 Rental Clerks; (UU) 41-2030 Retail Salespersons; (VV) 43-3070 Tellers;
338 (WW) 43-4080 Hotel, Motel and Resort Desk Clerks; (XX) 43-4170
339 Receptionists and Information Clerks; (YY) 43-5020 Couriers and
340 Messengers; (ZZ) 43-6010 Secretaries and Administrative Assistants;
341 (AAA) 43-9010 Computer Operators; (BBB) 43-9020 Data Entry and
342 Information Processing Workers; (CCC) 43-9030 Desktop Publishers;
343 (DDD) 43-9040 Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks; (EEE)
344 43-9050 Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service;
345 (FFF) 43-9060 Office Clerks, General; (GGG) 43-9070 Office Machine
346 Operators, Except Computer; (HHH) 43-9080 Proofreaders and Copy
347 Markers; (III) 43-9110 Statistical Assistants; (JJJ) 43-9190 Miscellaneous
348 Office and Administrative Support Workers; (KKK) 51-3010 Bakers;
349 (LLL) 51-3020 Butchers and Other Meat, Poultry and Fish Processing
350 Workers; (MMM) 51-3090 Miscellaneous Food Processing Workers;
351 (NNN) 53-3010 Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, Except Emergency
352 Medical Technicians; (OOO) 53-3020 Bus Drivers; (PPP) 53-3040 Taxi
353 Drivers and Chauffeurs; or (QQQ) 29-2034 Radiologic Technologists,
354 and is (i) paid on an hourly basis, or (ii) not exempt from the minimum

355 wage and overtime compensation requirements of the Fair Labor
356 Standards Act of 1938 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, as
357 amended from time to time. "Service worker" does not include day or
358 temporary workers;

359 [(8)] (9) "Sexual assault" means any act that constitutes a violation of
360 section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
361 January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
362 53a-73a;

363 [(9)] (10) "Spouse" means a husband or wife, as the case may be; and

364 [(10)] (11) "Year" means any three-hundred-sixty-five-day period
365 used by an employer to calculate employee benefits.

366 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 31-57t of the general statutes is
367 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
368 *1, 2023*):

369 (a) An employer shall permit a service worker to use the paid sick
370 leave accrued pursuant to section 31-57s:

371 (1) For (A) a service worker's illness, injury or health condition, (B)
372 the medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a service worker's mental
373 illness or physical illness, injury or health condition, [or] (C)
374 preventative medical care for a service worker, or (D) a mental health
375 wellness day;

376 (2) For (A) a service worker's child's or spouse's illness, injury or
377 health condition, (B) the medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a service
378 worker's child's or spouse's mental or physical illness, injury or health
379 condition, or (C) preventative medical care for a child or spouse of a
380 service worker; and

381 (3) Where a service worker is (A) a victim of family violence or sexual
382 assault, [(A)] or (B) the parent or guardian of a child who is a victim of
383 family violence or sexual assault, provided such service worker is not
384 the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator of such family violence or sexual

385 assault, for (i) medical care or psychological or other counseling for
386 physical or psychological injury or disability, [(B) to obtain] (ii)
387 obtaining services from a victim services organization, [(C) to relocate]
388 (iii) relocating due to such family violence or sexual assault, or [(D) to
389 participate] (iv) participating in any civil or criminal proceedings
390 related to or resulting from such family violence or sexual assault.

391 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
392 Services shall provide Medicaid reimbursement, to the extent
393 permissible under federal law, for suicide risk assessments and other
394 mental health evaluations and services provided at a school-based
395 health center or public school.

396 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall (1) amend the Medicaid
397 state plan, if necessary, to provide reimbursement for the suicide risk
398 assessments and mental health evaluations and services described in
399 subsection (a) of this section, and (2) set reimbursement at a level that
400 ensures an adequate pool of providers for such suicide risk assessments
401 and mental health evaluations and services.

402 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established an Office
403 of the Behavioral Health Advocate which shall be within the Insurance
404 Department for administrative purposes only.

405 (b) The Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate may:

406 (1) Assist mental and behavioral health care providers, who are
407 licensed, certified or registered in the state, with receiving payments for
408 claims submitted to health carriers for services provided to covered
409 patients;

410 (2) Assist state residents with accessing mental and behavioral health
411 care and related resources;

412 (3) Provide information to the public, agencies, legislators and others
413 regarding the problems and concerns of mental and behavioral health
414 care providers and patients and make recommendations for resolving

415 such problems and concerns;

416 (4) Analyze and monitor the development and implementation of
417 federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies relating to mental
418 and behavioral health care and recommend changes as necessary;

419 (5) Facilitate public comment by mental and behavioral health care
420 providers and patients on laws, regulations and policies, including, but
421 not limited to, the policies and actions of health carriers;

422 (6) Coordinate services with the Healthcare Advocate to assist
423 individuals with obtaining access to and coverage for mental and
424 behavioral health care services and to fulfill the duties set forth in
425 subsections (e) and (g) of section 38a-1041 of the general statutes;

426 (7) Ensure that mental and behavioral health care providers and
427 patients have timely access to the services provided by the office;

428 (8) Establish a toll-free number, or any other free calling option, to
429 allow access to the services provided by the Behavioral Health
430 Advocate;

431 (9) Pursue administrative remedies on behalf of and with the consent
432 of any mental and behavioral health care providers and patients;

433 (10) Adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54 of the general statutes,
434 to carry out the provisions of this section; and

435 (11) Take any other actions necessary to fulfill the purposes of this
436 section.

437 (c) The Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate shall make a referral
438 to the Insurance Commissioner if the Behavioral Health Advocate finds
439 that a health carrier may have engaged in a pattern or practice that is in
440 violation of any provision of section 38a-476a or sections 38a-488a to
441 38a-489, inclusive, of the general statutes.

442 (d) All state agencies shall comply with reasonable requests of the

443 Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate for information and
444 assistance.

445 (e) Not later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
446 Behavioral Health Advocate shall submit, in accordance with the
447 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
448 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
449 relating to children, public health, and insurance and real estate a report
450 concerning the activities of the Behavioral Health Advocate. The report
451 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the subject matter,
452 disposition and number of claims processed by the Behavioral Health
453 Advocate on behalf of mental and behavioral health care providers and
454 patients, (2) common problems and concerns discerned by the
455 Behavioral Health Advocate from mental and behavioral health care
456 providers, patients or other relevant sources, and (3) the need, if any, for
457 administrative, legislative or executive remedies to assist mental and
458 behavioral health care providers or patients.

459 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Office of the Behavioral
460 Health Advocate shall be under the direction of the Behavioral Health
461 Advocate who shall be appointed by the Governor, with the approval
462 of the General Assembly. The Behavioral Health Advocate shall be an
463 elector of the state with expertise and experience in the fields of mental
464 or behavioral health care, health insurance and advocacy for parity in
465 mental and behavioral health access and outcomes. In addition to the
466 Behavioral Health Advocate, the Office of the Behavioral Health
467 Advocate shall consist of sufficient staff as the requirements and
468 resources of the office permit, of whom at least one shall be an attorney
469 and at least one shall be a patient care navigator.

470 (b) The Governor shall make the initial appointment of the Behavioral
471 Health Advocate from a list of candidates prepared and submitted, not
472 later than February 1, 2024, to the Governor by the advisory committee
473 established pursuant to section 21 of this act. The Governor shall notify
474 the advisory committee of the pending expiration of the term of an
475 incumbent Behavioral Health Advocate not less than ninety days prior

476 to the final day of the Behavioral Health Advocate's term in office. If a
477 vacancy occurs in the position of Behavioral Health Advocate, the
478 Governor shall notify the advisory committee immediately of the
479 vacancy. The advisory committee shall meet to consider qualified
480 candidates for the position of Behavioral Health Advocate and shall
481 submit a list of not more than five candidates to the Governor ranked in
482 order of preference, not more than sixty days after receiving notice from
483 the Governor of the pending expiration of the Behavioral Health
484 Advocate's term or the occurrence of a vacancy. The Governor shall
485 designate, not more than sixty days after receipt of the list of candidates
486 from the advisory committee, one candidate from the list for the position
487 of Behavioral Health Advocate. If, after the list is submitted to the
488 Governor by the advisory committee, any candidate withdraws from
489 consideration, the Governor shall designate a candidate from those
490 remaining on the list. If the Governor fails to designate a candidate
491 within sixty days of receipt of the list from the advisory committee, the
492 advisory committee shall refer the candidate with the highest ranking
493 on the list to the General Assembly for confirmation. If the General
494 Assembly is not in session at the time of the Governor's or advisory
495 committee's designation of a candidate, the candidate shall serve as the
496 acting Behavioral Health Advocate until the General Assembly meets
497 and confirms the candidate as Behavioral Health Advocate. A candidate
498 serving as acting Behavioral Health Advocate is entitled to
499 compensation and has all the powers, duties and privileges of the
500 Behavioral Health Advocate. A Behavioral Health Advocate shall serve
501 a term of four years, not including any time served as acting Behavioral
502 Health Advocate, and may be reappointed by the Governor or shall
503 remain in the position until a successor is confirmed. Although an
504 incumbent Behavioral Health Advocate may be reappointed, the
505 Governor shall also consider additional candidates from a list submitted
506 by the advisory committee as provided in this section.

507 (c) Upon a vacancy in the position of the Behavioral Health Advocate,
508 the most senior attorney in the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate
509 shall serve as the acting Behavioral Health Advocate until the vacancy

510 is filled pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section. The acting
511 Behavioral Health Advocate has all the powers, duties and privileges of
512 the Behavioral Health Advocate.

513 Sec. 12. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 20-195o of the
514 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
515 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

516 (a) Application for licensure shall be on forms prescribed and
517 furnished by the commissioner. Each applicant shall furnish evidence
518 satisfactory to the commissioner that he or she has met the requirements
519 of section 20-195n. The application fee for a clinical social worker license
520 shall be [~~three hundred fifteen~~] two hundred dollars. The application fee
521 for a master social worker license shall be [~~two hundred twenty~~] one
522 hundred twenty-five dollars.

523 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n concerning
524 examinations, on or before October 1, 2015, the commissioner may issue
525 a license without examination, to any master social worker applicant
526 who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that, on or
527 before October 1, 2013, he or she held a master's degree from a social
528 work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or,
529 if educated outside the United States or its territories, completed an
530 educational program deemed equivalent by the council.

531 (c) Each person licensed pursuant to this chapter may apply for
532 renewal of such licensure in accordance with the provisions of
533 subsection (e) of section 19a-88. A fee of [~~one~~] two hundred [~~ninety-five~~]
534 dollars shall accompany each renewal application for [~~a licensed master~~
535 ~~social worker or~~] a licensed clinical social worker and a fee of one
536 hundred twenty-five dollars shall accompany each renewal application
537 for a licensed master social worker. Each such applicant shall furnish
538 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having satisfied the
539 continuing education requirements prescribed in section 20-195u.

540 Sec. 13. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the
541 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

542 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist shall
543 present to the department satisfactory evidence that such applicant has:
544 (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing in marital and
545 family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university
546 or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by
547 the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
548 Education offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher
549 education; (2) completed a supervised practicum or internship with
550 emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by the program
551 granting the requisite degree or by an accredited postgraduate clinical
552 training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
553 Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally
554 accredited institution of higher education; (3) completed twelve months
555 of relevant postgraduate experience, including (A) a minimum of one
556 thousand hours of direct client contact offering marital and family
557 therapy services subsequent to being awarded a master's degree or
558 doctorate or subsequent to the training year specified in subdivision (2)
559 of this subsection, and (B) one hundred hours of postgraduate clinical
560 supervision provided by a licensed marital and family therapist; and (4)
561 passed an examination prescribed by the department. The fee shall be
562 [~~three hundred fifteen~~] two hundred dollars for each initial application.

563 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
564 associate shall present to the department (1) satisfactory evidence that
565 such applicant has completed a graduate degree program specializing
566 in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited
567 institution of higher education or an accredited postgraduate clinical
568 training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
569 Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally
570 accredited institution of higher education, and (2) verification from a
571 supervising licensed marital and family therapist that the applicant is
572 working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for
573 licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of
574 subsection (a) of this section. The fee shall be [~~one hundred twenty-five~~]
575 one hundred twenty-five dollars for each initial application.

576 (c) The department may grant licensure without examination, subject
577 to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any
578 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage
579 and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in
580 another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, provided
581 such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or
582 certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are
583 equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall
584 be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional
585 disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved
586 complaint.

587 (d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family therapist issued under
588 this section may be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions
589 of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be [three hundred
590 twenty] two hundred dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist
591 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
592 commissioner of having participated in continuing education programs.
593 The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
594 54, to (A) define basic requirements for continuing education programs,
595 which shall include not less than one contact hour of training or
596 education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency
597 and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of
598 training or education during the first renewal period in which
599 continuing education is required and not less than once every six years
600 thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans
601 and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a
602 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for
603 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,
604 depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, (B) delineate
605 qualifying programs, (C) establish a system of control and reporting,
606 and (D) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement for
607 good cause.

608 (2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate (A)
609 prior to July 1, 2023 shall expire on or before twenty-four months after

610 the date on which such license was issued and, (B) on or after July 1,
611 2023 shall expire on or before twelve months after the date on which
612 such license was issued. Such license may be renewed [once] not more
613 than two times if issued prior to July 1, 2023, and not more than three
614 times if issued on or after July 1, 2023, for an additional [twenty-four]
615 twelve months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The
616 fee for such renewal shall be [two hundred twenty] one hundred
617 twenty-five dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist associate
618 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
619 commissioner of working toward completing the postgraduate
620 experience required for licensure as a marital and family therapist under
621 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section and the potential for
622 successful completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the
623 [twenty-four month] twelve-month renewal period.

624 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant who
625 is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family
626 therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United
627 States that does not maintain standards for licensure or certification that
628 are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this state may
629 substitute three years of licensed or certified work experience in the
630 practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in section 20-195a, in
631 lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of
632 this section.

633 Sec. 14. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 20-195cc of the general
634 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
635 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

636 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license (1) as a
637 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence
638 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the
639 requirements of section 20-195dd, and (2) as a professional counselor
640 associate to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the
641 commissioner that such applicant has met the requirements of section
642 20-195dd. The commissioner shall develop and provide application

643 forms. The application fee for a professional counselor shall be [three
644 hundred fifteen] two hundred dollars. The application fee for a
645 professional counselor associate shall be [two hundred twenty] one
646 hundred twenty-five dollars.

647 (b) Licenses issued to professional counselors and professional
648 counselor associates under this section may be renewed annually
649 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be [one] two
650 hundred [ninety-five] dollars for a professional counselor and one
651 hundred twenty-five dollars for a professional counselor associate. Each
652 licensed professional counselor and professional counselor associate
653 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
654 commissioner of having participated in continuing education programs.
655 The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
656 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing education programs
657 that shall include (A) not less than one contact hour of training or
658 education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency,
659 (B) on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of
660 training or education during the first renewal period in which
661 continuing education is required and not less than once every six years
662 thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans
663 and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a
664 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for
665 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,
666 depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, and (C) on
667 and after January 1, 2018, not less than three contact hours of training or
668 education each registration period on the topic of professional ethics, (2)
669 delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and
670 reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the continuing education
671 requirement for good cause.

672 Sec. 15. Section 24 of public act 22-81 is repealed and the following is
673 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

674 (a) There is established a task force to continue to study the
675 comprehensive needs of children in the state and the extent to which

676 such needs are being met by educators, community members and local
677 and state agencies. The task force shall (1) address subdivisions (1) to
678 (6), inclusive, of subsection (a) of section 30 of public act 21-46, (2)
679 provide recommendations to meet the demand for infant and toddler
680 care in the state by increasing access to and enrollment in child care
681 centers, group child care homes and family child care homes, and
682 identify resources to assist such centers and homes in meeting such
683 demand, [and] (3) study the feasibility of adjusting school start times to
684 improve students' mental and physical well-being, (4) review and
685 analyze the efficacy of those programs designed to assist and support
686 the needs of children and their families that have received and expended
687 federal funds received pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
688 Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136, as amended from time to time, the
689 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act,
690 P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, and the American Rescue
691 Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, and, based
692 on such analysis, make recommendations about which of those
693 programs should receive a more permanent funding structure from the
694 state, and (5) conduct a needs assessment for children that identifies
695 gaps between existing conditions and desired outcomes, and the extent
696 to which such gaps are attributable to the result of the COVID-19
697 pandemic, with a focus on children and individuals who were enrolled
698 in high school in the state and were members of the classes graduating
699 from 2020 to 2023, inclusive. As used in this section, "COVID-19" means
700 the respiratory disease designated by the World Health Organization on
701 February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof
702 recognized by the World Health Organization as a communicable
703 respiratory disease.

704 (b) The task force shall consist of the members appointed to the task
705 force to study the comprehensive needs of children pursuant to
706 subsection (b) of section 30 of public act 21-46, except that if any member
707 declines such appointment, a new appointee shall be selected by the
708 appointing authority pursuant to said subsection.

709 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to

710 (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section 30 of public act 21-46 may be a
711 member of the General Assembly.

712 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
713 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
714 be filled by the appointing authority not later than thirty days after the
715 vacancy occurs. If a vacancy is not filled by the appointing authority, the
716 chairpersons of the task force may fill such vacancy.

717 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
718 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
719 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
720 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
721 days after the effective date of this section.

722 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
723 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
724 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

725 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, and January 1, [2024] 2025, the task
726 force shall update the report issued pursuant to subsection (g) of section
727 30 of public act 21-46, and submit such updated report and any
728 additional findings and recommendations to the joint standing
729 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
730 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
731 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
732 submits such report or [January 1, 2024] July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

733 Sec. 16. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,
734 the Department of Social Services shall hire temporary and part-time
735 employees who will be responsible for collaborating with nonprofit
736 organizations to identify and enroll eligible children in the HUSKY
737 Health program.

738 Sec. 17. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,
739 the Department of Education shall award a grant to and collaborating
740 with a nonprofit organization that specializes in identifying and

741 providing services for at-risk teenage students who are experiencing
742 depression, anxiety, substance abuse struggles and trauma and conflict-
743 related stresses, for the purpose of training school behavioral health
744 providers to be able to identify and provide services for such at-risk
745 teenage students. The department may, within available
746 appropriations, hire one full-time employee who will be responsible for
747 implementing the provisions of this section.

748 Sec. 18. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of section 46b-129a of the
749 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
750 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

751 (2) (A) A child shall be represented by counsel knowledgeable about
752 representing such children who shall be assigned to represent the child
753 by the office of Chief Public Defender, or appointed by the court if there
754 is an immediate need for the appointment of counsel during a court
755 proceeding. Such assignment or appointment shall continue for the
756 duration of any such proceeding under section 46b-129,
757 notwithstanding such child's attainment of eighteen years of age. If the
758 child's parent or guardian has been accused by a competent witness of
759 abusing the child, or of causing the child to be neglected or uncared for,
760 upon the assignment or appointment of counsel, such counsel shall be
761 granted immediate access to (i) records relating to the child, including,
762 but not limited to, Department of Social Services records and medical,
763 mental health and substance abuse treatment, law enforcement and
764 educational records, without the necessity of securing further releases,
765 and (ii) the child, for the purpose of consulting with the child privately.
766 The court shall give the parties prior notice of such assignment or
767 appointment. Counsel for the child shall act solely as attorney for the
768 child.

769 Sec. 19. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commission on Women,
770 Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, established pursuant to
771 section 2-127 of the general statutes, shall, in collaboration with the
772 Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory
773 Collaborative, established pursuant to section 10-222q of the general

774 statutes, as amended by this act, and one or more community-based
775 bereavement and grief counseling resource centers serving children and
776 families, conduct a study of community-based bereavement and grief
777 counseling organizations and services for children and families to
778 determine the (1) extent and availability of such organizations and
779 services state-wide, and (2) feasibility of and recommendations for
780 implementation of a state-wide program for the delivery of such
781 services at no cost to participants. Such recommendations shall include,
782 but need not be limited to, the types of services the program should
783 provide, eligibility criteria for children and families to access such
784 services, the optimal geographic distribution of such services and
785 opportunities to utilize gifts, grants or donations from private sources
786 and any available federal funding to fund such program in whole or in
787 part.

788 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commission on Women,
789 Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall submit a report, in
790 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
791 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
792 cognizance of matters relating to children. Such report shall include the
793 findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
794 section and any legislative recommendations for the implementation of
795 a state-wide program for the delivery of bereavement and grief
796 counseling services for children and families.

797 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

798 (1) "Free play" means unstructured, voluntary, child-initiated
799 activities that are performed by a child for self-amusement and have
800 behavioral, social and psychomotor rewards, except "free play" may be
801 structured to promote activities that are child-directed, joyful and
802 spontaneous.

803 (2) "Guided play" means learning experiences that combine the child-
804 directed nature of free play with a focus on learning outcomes and adult
805 guidance.

806 (3) "Play-based learning" means a pedagogical approach that
807 emphasizes play in promoting learning and includes developmentally
808 appropriate strategies that can be integrated with existing learning
809 standards. "Play-based learning" does not mean time spent in recess or
810 as part of a physical education course or instruction.

811 (4) "Recess" means the time during the regular school day for each
812 student enrolled in elementary school that is devoted to physical
813 exercise of not less than twenty minutes in total pursuant to section 10-
814 221o of the general statutes.

815 (5) "Mobile electronic device" has the same meaning as provided in
816 section 10-222d of the general statutes.

817 (6) "Instructional time" means the time of actual school work during
818 a regular school day.

819 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall provide for play-
820 based learning during the instructional time of each regular school day
821 for all students in kindergarten and any preschool program offered by
822 the board. Such play-based learning shall (1) be incorporated and
823 integrated into daily practice, (2) allow for the needs of such students to
824 be met through free play, guided play and games, and (3) be
825 predominantly free of the use of mobile electronic devices.

826 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall permit a teacher
827 to utilize play-based learning during the instructional time of a regular
828 school day for all students in grades one to five, inclusive. Such play-
829 based learning (1) may be incorporated and integrated into daily
830 practice, (2) shall allow for the needs of such students to be met through
831 free play, guided play and games, and (3) shall be predominantly free
832 of the use of mobile electronic devices.

833 (d) Any play-based learning utilized under this section shall comply
834 with the individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section
835 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for
836 any student.

837 (e) A school employee may only prevent or otherwise restrict a
838 student's participation in play-based learning if such prevention or
839 restriction is in accordance with the policy developed by the local or
840 regional board of education pursuant to section 10-221o of the general
841 statutes.

842 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established an
843 advisory committee to the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate
844 which shall meet four times a year with the Behavioral Health Advocate
845 and the staff of the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to review
846 and assess the performance of the Office of the Behavioral Health
847 Advocate. The advisory committee shall consist of seven members
848 appointed one each by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the
849 speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the
850 Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority
851 leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives
852 and the Governor. Each member of the advisory committee shall serve
853 a term of five years and may be reappointed at the conclusion of that
854 term. All initial appointments to the advisory committee shall be made
855 not later than October 1, 2023.

856 (b) The advisory committee shall make an annual evaluation of the
857 effectiveness of the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate and shall
858 submit the evaluation to the Governor and the joint standing
859 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
860 relating to public health and insurance not later than January 1, 2025,
861 and annually thereafter.

862 Sec. 22. Section 17a-215d of the general statutes is repealed and the
863 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

864 (a) There is established the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory
865 Council. The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The
866 Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (2) the
867 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
868 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's

869 designee; (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
870 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of
871 Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of
872 Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (7) the
873 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's
874 designee; (8) the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the
875 commissioner's designee; (9) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
876 Management, or the secretary's designee; (10) two persons with autism
877 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the speaker
878 of the House of Representatives; (11) two persons who are parents or
879 guardians of a child with autism spectrum disorder, one each appointed
880 by the Governor and the minority leader of the Senate; (12) two persons
881 who are parents or guardians of an adult with autism spectrum
882 disorder, one each appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate
883 and the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (13) two
884 persons who are advocates for persons with autism spectrum disorder,
885 one each appointed by the Governor and the speaker of the House of
886 Representatives; (14) two persons who are licensed professionals
887 working in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one each appointed
888 by the Governor and the majority leader of the Senate; (15) two persons
889 who provide services for persons with autism spectrum disorder, one
890 each appointed by the Governor and the minority leader of the House
891 of Representatives; (16) two persons who shall be representatives of an
892 institution of higher education in the state with experience in the field
893 of autism spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and
894 the president pro tempore of the Senate; (17) the executive director of
895 the nonprofit entity designated by the Governor in accordance with
896 section 46a-10b to serve as the Connecticut protection and advocacy
897 system, or the executive director's designee; and (18) one person who is
898 a physician who treats or diagnoses persons with autism spectrum
899 disorder, appointed by the Governor.

900 (b) The council shall have three chairpersons who shall be elected by
901 the members of the council, provided not less than two of the persons
902 elected as chairpersons by the members of the council shall be: (1) A

903 person with autism spectrum disorder appointed pursuant to
904 subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of this section, (2) a parent or guardian
905 of a child with autism spectrum disorder appointed pursuant to
906 subdivision (11) of subsection (a) of this section, or (3) a parent or
907 guardian of an adult with autism spectrum disorder appointed
908 pursuant to subdivision (12) of subsection (a) of this section. The council
909 shall make rules for the conduct of its affairs. The council shall meet not
910 less than four times per year and at such other times as requested by the
911 chairpersons. Council members shall serve without compensation.

912 (c) ~~(1)~~ The council shall advise the Commissioner of Social Services
913 concerning: ~~[(1)]~~ ~~(A)~~ Policies and programs for persons with autism
914 spectrum disorder; ~~[(2)]~~ ~~(B)~~ services provided by the Department of
915 Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services; and
916 ~~[(3)]~~ ~~(C)~~ implementation of the recommendations resulting from the
917 autism feasibility study.

918 ~~(2)~~ The council may ~~(A)~~ make recommendations to the commissioner
919 for policy and program changes to improve support services for persons
920 with autism spectrum disorder; ~~(B)~~ identify strategies and methods of
921 improving outreach and coordination of services associated with autism
922 spectrum disorders for racial minority group members; and (C) identify
923 and recommend updates to existing state guidelines for early screening
924 and intervention for autism spectrum disorders, including, but not
925 limited to, revisions to best practice protocols to include developmental
926 screening for children three years of age and younger.

927 Sec. 23. Section 10-222q of the general statutes is repealed and the
928 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

929 (a) There is established a social and emotional learning and school
930 climate advisory collaborative. The collaborative shall (1) collect
931 information concerning the school climate improvement efforts of local
932 and regional boards of education, (2) document any needs articulated
933 by local and regional boards of education for technical assistance and
934 training relating to fostering positive school climates, (3) identify best

935 practices for promoting positive school climates, (4) direct resources to
936 support state-wide and local initiatives on issues relating to fostering
937 and improving positive school climates and improving access to social
938 and emotional learning in schools, (5) develop an assessment for
939 screening students in grades three to twelve, inclusive, to determine
940 whether such students are at risk for suicide, (6) develop a biennial state-
941 wide school climate survey, as described in subsection (c) of section 2 of
942 public act 19-166, (7) develop a model positive school climate policy, as
943 described in subsection (a) of section 2 of public act 19-166, (8) develop
944 a plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
945 sections 10-4a and 10-4b for distribution to parents and guardians
946 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 10-222d, and
947 provide such explanation to each local and regional board of education
948 not later than January 1, 2021, and (9) perform other functions
949 concerning social and emotional learning and fostering positive school
950 climates.

951 (b) The collaborative shall consist of the following members:

952 (1) Five appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
953 one of whom is a member of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight
954 Committee, established pursuant to section 46b-121n; one of whom is a
955 representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;
956 one of whom is a school administrator with experience in district-level,
957 equity-focused and cross-disciplinary social and emotional learning;
958 one of whom is a representative of an organization that provides free or
959 reduced-cost legal services; and one of whom is a representative of
960 Connecticut Parent Power;

961 (2) Five appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
962 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools; one
963 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School
964 Administrators; one of whom is a representative of the Social Emotional
965 Learning Alliance for Connecticut; one of whom is a representative of
966 the Connecticut School Counselor Association; and one of whom is a
967 representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School

968 Superintendents;

969 (3) Three appointed by the majority leader of the House of
970 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of Special Education
971 Equity for Kids of Connecticut; one of whom is a representative of the
972 Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center; and one of whom is a
973 representative of African Caribbean American Parents of Children with
974 Disabilities, Inc.;

975 (4) Three appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
976 is a representative of the Center for Children's Advocacy; one of whom
977 is a representative of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence; and one
978 of whom is a representative of the Neag School of Education at The
979 University of Connecticut;

980 (5) Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of
981 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American
982 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut; one of whom is a representative of
983 the Center for Social and Emotional Learning at Central Connecticut
984 State University; and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
985 Parent Teacher Association;

986 (6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of
987 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association; one
988 of whom is a representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness,
989 Connecticut; and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
990 Suicide Advisory Board established pursuant to section 17a-52;

991 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

992 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
993 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
994 relating to children and education;

995 (9) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee; and

996 (10) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
997 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

998 (c) All appointments to the collaborative shall be made not later than
999 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
1000 filled by the appointing authority.

1001 (d) The cochairpersons of the collaborative shall be the executive
1002 director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and
1003 Opportunity, or the executive director's designee, and a cochairperson
1004 elected from among the members. The first meeting of the collaborative
1005 shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this
1006 section.

1007 (e) The collaborative may designate subcommittees and advisory
1008 groups to carry out its functions, provided any subcommittees so
1009 designated shall be comprised of members of the collaborative.

1010 (f) The staff of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity
1011 and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of the collaborative.

1012 (g) Not later than January 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the
1013 collaborative shall submit a report concerning (1) its efforts to (A)
1014 monitor the school climate improvement efforts of local and regional
1015 boards of education, (B) document needs articulated by local and
1016 regional boards of education for technical assistance and training
1017 relating to fostering positive school climates, (C) identify best practices
1018 for promoting positive school climates, and (D) direct resources to
1019 support state-wide and local initiatives on issues relating to fostering
1020 and improving positive school climates and improving access to social
1021 and emotional learning, and (2) any recommendations, including
1022 recommendations concerning ways in which to promote the social and
1023 emotional development of young children, ages birth to five, inclusive,
1024 covered under the state Medicaid program, by identifying age-appropriate
1025 methods of screening, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and more, to the joint
1026 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1027 matters relating to children and education, in accordance with the
1028 provisions of section 11-4a."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	11-24b
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-248g(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-248
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-248e(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	31-57r
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	31-57t(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	20-195o(a) to (c)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	20-195c
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	20-195cc(a) and (b)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	PA 22-81, Sec. 24
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	46b-129a(2)(A)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-215d
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-222q