



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 94

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 152

Senate, March 25, 2024

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. MCCRORY, D. of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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 Section 10-514 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Office of Early Childhood shall
4 create a one-page document that (1) lists important developmental
5 milestones experienced by children ages birth to five years, and (2)
6 contains notice that any parent or guardian who is concerned that such
7 parent or guardian's child has not met one or more such developmental
8 milestones may access the Office of Early Childhood Child
9 Development Infoline for information concerning appropriate services.
10 The office shall make such document available on its Internet web site.

11 (b) On and after [February 1, 2020] July 1, 2024, each operator of a
12 child care center, group child care home or family child care home, as
13 described in section 19a-77, other than those centers or homes that serve

14 school-age children exclusively, shall post a copy of the document
15 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in a conspicuous
16 place on the premises of such child care center, group child care home
17 or family child care home.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the 2024 supplement to the
19 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
20 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

21 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate
22 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
23 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
24 who (1) is (A) working or attending high school, or (B) subject to the
25 provisions of subsection (d) of this section, is enrolled or participating
26 in (i) a public or independent institution of higher education, (ii) a
27 private career school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o,
28 inclusive, (iii) a job training or employment program administered by a
29 regional workforce development board, (iv) an apprenticeship program
30 administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship
31 training, (v) an alternate route to certification program approved by the
32 State Board of Education, (vi) an adult education program pursuant to
33 section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, or (vii) a local
34 Even Start program or other adult education program approved by the
35 Commissioner of Early Childhood; or (2) receives cash assistance under
36 the temporary family assistance program from the Department of Social
37 Services and is participating in an education, training or other job
38 preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-
39 688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d. Services available under the
40 child care subsidy program shall include the provision of child care
41 subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the
42 age of nineteen with special needs. The Commissioner of Early
43 Childhood may institute a protective service class in which the
44 commissioner may waive eligibility requirements for at-risk
45 populations that meet the guidelines prescribed by the commissioner,
46 and subject to review by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
47 Management. Such at-risk populations are children placed in a foster

48 home by the Department of Children and Families and for whom the
49 parent or legal guardian receives foster care payments, [adopted]
50 children under the care of a caregiver who is a recipient of subsidies
51 under the subsidized guardianship program pursuant to section 17a-
52 126, children adopted through the Department of Children and Families
53 for one year from the date of adoption and homeless children and
54 youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time. The
55 Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the
56 child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within
57 the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice
58 on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to
59 new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program
60 benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms,
61 except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the
62 office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance
63 of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any
64 other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is
65 required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective
66 until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

67 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 17b-749 of the 2024 supplement to the
68 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
69 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

70 (h) [On or after July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall adopt regulations,
71 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
72 provisions of this section] On and after July 1, 2024, the commissioner
73 shall implement the provisions of 45 CFR 98, as amended from time to
74 time, to administer the child care subsidy program. The commissioner
75 shall develop policies and procedures necessary to implement the
76 provisions of this section.

77 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
78 chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 17b-749-01 to 17b-749-23,
79 inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

80 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

81 (1) "Early intervention services" has the same meaning as provided in
82 section 17a-248 of the general statutes; and

83 (2) "Individualized family service plan" has the same meaning as
84 provided in section 17a-248 of the general statutes.

85 (b) A licensed child care center, group child care home or family child
86 care home, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general
87 statutes, shall allow a child who has an individualized family service
88 plan and is eligible for the birth-to-three program, established under
89 section 17a-248b of the general statutes, to receive early intervention
90 services at such child care center, group child care home or family child
91 care home from the service provider designated in such individualized
92 family service plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-514
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-749(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-749(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 2 of the bill adds the status of "subsidized guardianship" to the list of Care4Kids protective services categories. This makes families within this category eligible regardless of program requirements. This could result in a cost to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to the extent that more families qualify under the provisions of the bill. OEC manages Care4Kids expenditures with the use of the waitlist which may be increased should more families qualify for Care4Kids under the provisions of the bill.

The bill makes various other changes not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to caseload.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 152*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following changes to the laws related to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). It:

1. eliminates the requirement that child care centers and homes that exclusively serve school-age children post a copy of an OEC-developed developmental milestones document in the center or home (§ 1);
2. adds children under the care of a caregiver who receives subsidies under the subsidized guardianship program to the Care 4 Kids protective service class (§ 2);
3. repeals the Care 4 Kids program regulations and instead requires the OEC commissioner to (a) administer the program by implementing the federal Child Care Development Fund program's regulations and (b) develop policies and procedures necessary to do so (§§ 3 & 4); and
4. requires child care centers to allow a child with an individualized family service plan who is eligible to receive Birth-to-Three services to receive these services on-site at a child care center or home (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 1 — OEC DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES DOCUMENT

Current law requires each operator of a child care center or group or

family child care home to post a copy of an OEC-developed document (1) listing key developmental milestones for children from birth to age five and (2) notifying parents or guardians concerned that their child has not met any developmental milestones that they may access the OEC Child Development Infoline for information on appropriate services.

Under the bill, beginning on July 1, 2024, centers that exclusively serve school-age children are no longer required to post a copy of this document.

§§ 2-4 — CARE 4 KIDS

Protective Service Class (§ 2)

The bill adds children under the care of a caregiver who receives subsidies through the Department of Children and Families's subsidized guardianship program to OEC's protective service class. These children then become eligible for Care 4 Kids regardless of the program's eligibility requirements.

By law, the OEC commissioner may institute a protective service class in which she may waive current law's Care 4 Kids eligibility requirements for certain at-risk populations, instead applying guidelines that she prescribes and the Office of Policy and Management reviews. Under current law, these at-risk populations include certain (1) foster care children, (2) newly adopted children, and (3) homeless children.

Regulations, Policies, and Procedures (§§ 3 & 4)

The bill repeals the Care 4 Kids program regulations, and instead requires the OEC commissioner to administer the program by implementing the requirements of the federal Child Care Development Fund, which funds the Care 4 Kids program (45 CFR 98). Under the bill, the OEC commissioner must develop policies and procedures necessary to implement these federal requirements.

§ 5 — BIRTH-TO-THREE SERVICES

The bill requires licensed child care centers and group or family child care homes to allow a child who is eligible for Birth-to-Three and who has an individualized family service plan to receive early intervention services at the center or home designated in the plan.

By law and under the bill, individualized family service plans are written plans for providing early intervention services to an eligible child and the child’s family. These services must, among other things, be (1) provided under public supervision, (2) selected in collaboration with the parents, and (3) designed to meet the infant’s or toddler’s developmental needs and the family’s needs in certain areas (34 CFR § 303.13(a)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 45 Nay 0 (03/06/2024)