



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5051**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY START CT.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) As used in this section and  
2 sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for the  
4 Education of Young Children, National Association for Family Child  
5 Care, Early Head Start or Head Start federal approval, or other  
6 nationally recognized accreditations or certifications as approved by the  
7 commissioner;

8 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood;

9 (3) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood; and

10 (4) "Early Start CT" means the state-funded early care and education  
11 system administered by the office that coordinates and facilitates the  
12 efficient delivery of early childhood care and education programs for  
13 eligible children.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Office of Early Childhood  
15 shall operate and administer Early Start CT in order to:

16 (1) Provide open access for infants and toddlers and preschool-age

17 children to high-quality programs that promote the health and safety of  
18 children and prepare them for school;

19 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and  
20 accredited and Head Start approved programs;

21 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and  
22 prevent the duplication of services;

23 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources  
24 available to particular municipalities;

25 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in  
26 children prior to their reaching the age of five;

27 (6) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of family  
28 engagement and partnership in a child's development and education,  
29 and (B) enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of  
30 the children, including children with disabilities;

31 (7) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special  
32 education services for school-age children;

33 (8) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs  
34 available to children who do not have disabilities;

35 (9) Improve the availability and quality of Early Start CT programs  
36 and their coordination with the services of child care providers;

37 (10) Facilitate the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the  
38 children, families and staff in Early Start CT programs; and

39 (11) Maximize local and federal early childhood education funding  
40 to expand capacity and access.

41 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Office of Early Childhood  
42 shall establish a sliding fee scale for families participating in Early Start  
43 CT. Such sliding scale shall be based on family income and align with  
44 the sliding fee scale used in the child care subsidy program described in

45 section 17b-749 of the general statutes.

46 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Early  
47 Childhood shall implement policies and procedures necessary to (1)  
48 administer the provisions of sections 1 to 3, inclusive, and 5 to 10,  
49 inclusive, of this act, (2) implement infant and toddler and school-age  
50 ratios and group size requirements, and (3) implement head teacher  
51 staffing requirements for programs that serve only school-age children,  
52 while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in  
53 regulation form. Any existing regulations relating to infant and toddler  
54 and school-age ratios, group size requirements and head teacher  
55 staffing requirements for programs that serve only school-age children  
56 that are generally applicable to child care centers and group child care  
57 homes shall continue to be applicable to such centers and homes that  
58 serve infants and toddlers and school-age children until replaced by the  
59 policies and procedures described in this section. The commissioner  
60 shall post notice of the intent to adopt regulations on the department's  
61 Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty  
62 days after the date of implementation of such policies and procedures.  
63 Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final  
64 regulations are adopted.

65 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As part of Early Start CT, the  
66 state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early  
67 Childhood, may enter into direct or third-party contracts to provide  
68 financial assistance to municipalities, local and regional boards of  
69 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers,  
70 Head Start programs, preschool programs, nonprofit organizations,  
71 child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, as  
72 such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, and  
73 any other programs that meet standards established by the  
74 commissioner for the purpose of operating early childhood care and  
75 education programs that focus on providing early childhood access  
76 based on economic, social or environmental conditions, including in  
77 regions with insufficient access to child care. At least sixty per cent of  
78 the eligible children participating in Early Start CT and enrolled in a

79 child care center, group child care home or family child care home shall  
80 be members of a family that is at or below seventy-five per cent of the  
81 state median income. No such financial assistance shall be available to  
82 (1) any such child care center, group child care home or family child care  
83 home unless such center or home has been licensed by the  
84 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80 or 19a-87b  
85 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or (2) any such local or  
86 regional board of education or regional educational service center  
87 unless the preschool program is approved by the Department of  
88 Education. The majority of such programs eligible for such financial  
89 assistance shall serve children that reside in or attend programs located  
90 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
91 statutes, former priority school districts or towns with schools deemed  
92 severe need schools because forty per cent or more of the lunches served  
93 are served to students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches  
94 pursuant to federal law. In determining eligibility for financial  
95 assistance, the commissioner may consider (A) a community's  
96 participation in the state's subsidized child care subsidy program  
97 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, and (B)  
98 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's social vulnerability  
99 index determined by census tract, and such index may include a review  
100 of a community's indices of social, economic, racial, ethnic, housing,  
101 transportation and household characteristics as determined by the  
102 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

103 (b) Any contract entered into under this section shall be contingent  
104 upon available funding and a successful application to a request for  
105 proposal issued by the office and informed by the appropriate local or  
106 regional governance partner's needs assessment and community plan,  
107 as described in section 8 of this act. Any Early Start CT facility that has  
108 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the  
109 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and has received  
110 a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social Services,  
111 pursuant to section 17b-749i of the general statutes, on or before June 30,  
112 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the office are exempt from the

113 requirement for issuance of requests for proposals.

114 (c) The office, in operating and administering Early Start CT, shall  
115 allocate an amount up to five per cent of the total funding for each town  
116 or city, or, in the case of a regional application, the participating towns  
117 or cities, but not more than seventy-five thousand dollars per town or  
118 city, for coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such  
119 amount shall be increased by an amount equal to local funding provided  
120 for early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and  
121 administration, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Each local  
122 or regional governance partner, established pursuant to section 8 of this  
123 act, shall designate a staff person to be responsible for such  
124 coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a  
125 liaison between the town and the commissioner.

126 (d) Any program under Early Start CT that receives funds pursuant  
127 to this section shall not discriminate based on ancestry, race, color,  
128 national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation,  
129 religion, learning, physical, intellectual or mental disability or any other  
130 protected class described in chapter 814c of the general statutes.

131 (e) No funds received as part of Early Start CT under this section shall  
132 be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received for early  
133 childhood education on behalf of children in an early childhood  
134 education program.

135 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the office may pay, in an  
136 individual contract entered into under this section, a per-child rate, or  
137 an equivalent per-classroom rate, that has been determined by the  
138 commissioner. The per-child cost paid by the office under this section  
139 for each eligible child enrolled in a program under Early Start CT who  
140 is three or four years of age and each child who is five years of age and  
141 not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant to section 10-15c of the general  
142 statutes, shall be at least ten thousand five hundred dollars for each such  
143 child, or paid at an equivalent rate and amount per classroom for  
144 eighteen children. For each eligible child who is under the age of three

145 and enrolled in an infant or toddler classroom and not in a preschool  
146 classroom, the per-child cost paid by the office shall be at least thirteen  
147 thousand five hundred dollars for each such child, or paid at an  
148 equivalent rate and amount per classroom of eight children. The office  
149 shall use data-driven, outcomes-based contract provisions to facilitate  
150 and incentivize full enrollment.

151 (g) The office may use up to two per cent of funds allocated to the  
152 early care and education appropriation to evaluate program  
153 effectiveness and impact on participating children, families and  
154 programs, including, but not limited to, child outcomes, later school  
155 performance, quality standards, professional development and  
156 preparation, and parent engagement impact.

157 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Except as otherwise provided  
158 in subsection (b) of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,  
159 and each fiscal year thereafter, if funds appropriated to the Office of  
160 Early Childhood for Early Start CT are not expended by the  
161 Commissioner of Early Childhood, an amount up to one million dollars  
162 of such unexpended funds may be available (1) for the provision of  
163 professional development for early childhood care and education  
164 program providers, and staff employed in such programs, provided  
165 such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool slots,  
166 or (2) to support early childhood education programs in satisfying the  
167 staff qualifications requirements, provided such programs accept state  
168 funds. The commissioner shall determine how such unexpended funds  
169 shall be distributed.

170 (b) If any unexpended funds described in subsection (a) of this section  
171 are not expended by the office under said subsection (a), the  
172 commissioner, with the consent of the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
173 and Management, may use such unexpended funds to provide support  
174 for purposes that include, but are not limited to, (1) assisting programs  
175 in meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements, (2) providing  
176 training in implementing preschool assessments and curricula,  
177 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (3) developing and

178 implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool and  
179 kindergarten student learning, (4) developing and implementing  
180 strategies for children to successfully transition to preschool and from  
181 preschool to kindergarten, including through parental engagement and  
182 whole-family supports that may be utilized through the two-  
183 generational initiative, established pursuant to section 17b-112l of the  
184 general statutes, or through other available resources, and (5) providing  
185 for professional development.

186       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any program participating in  
187 Early Start CT, including, but not limited to, licensed family child care  
188 homes, group child care homes, child care centers and other licensed  
189 exempt child care providers and settings, shall be accredited or Early  
190 Head Start or Head Start approved not later than three years after  
191 entering into a contract with the Office of Early Childhood to serve  
192 children under Early Start CT. Any such program that is not accredited  
193 shall have an approved program plan not later than twelve months after  
194 entering into a contract with the office.

195       Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There shall be established,  
196 within available appropriations, local governance partners to assist in  
197 the provision of early care and education in a community under Early  
198 Start CT. Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate  
199 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood  
200 education in a region may establish a regional governance partner.

201       (b) The membership of each local or regional governance partner  
202 shall reflect the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic composition of the  
203 town or region it serves and consist of early care and education  
204 stakeholders, including, but not limited to, elected and appointed  
205 officials, parents, representatives with expertise in early childhood  
206 education, a representative, where applicable, of Smart Start established  
207 pursuant to section 10-506 of the general statutes, local education and  
208 healthcare providers in the community, a local homeless education  
209 liaison, community representatives from a workforce or job training  
210 entity and other community representatives who provide services to

211 children.

212 (c) The role and responsibilities of a local or regional governance  
213 partner shall include, but are not limited to, (1) conducting and  
214 administering a data-driven needs assessment for its respective  
215 community or region in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c)  
216 of this section, (2) employing strategies to solicit parental engagement  
217 and membership, (3) providing periodic technical assistance regarding  
218 best practices in early childhood and family engagement for its town or  
219 region, (4) jointly sponsoring with the office, professional development  
220 opportunities, and (5) ensuring that community outreach is regularly  
221 conducted and maintained with community stakeholders.

222 (d) Each local or regional governance partner shall, within available  
223 appropriations, conduct a data-driven needs assessment for the town or  
224 region in which such partner serves. Such needs assessment may  
225 include recommendations for the preferred distribution and allocation  
226 of child care spaces within such partner's respective town or region, and,  
227 subject to the office's approval, may include a data-driven methodology  
228 to reassign child care spaces before the contract date has lapsed. Such  
229 needs assessment shall be created by the office in collaboration with  
230 communities and shall directly inform, among other things, the  
231 assignment of child care spaces across a mixed-delivery system,  
232 including, but not limited to, licensed family child care providers, group  
233 child care homes, child care centers and license-exempt public schools.

234 (e) Each local or regional governance partner shall employ a staff  
235 liaison to aid and support the local or regional governance partner in  
236 implementing the provisions of this section. Each staff liaison shall  
237 ensure (1) that partnerships are established and fostered among child  
238 care providers, (2) that cooperation is maintained with the Office of  
239 Early Childhood in monitoring and evaluating child care programs, (3)  
240 that existing and potential resources and services available to children  
241 and families are identified, (4) facilitation and coordination of efficient,  
242 data-driven, delivery of services to children and families, including (A)  
243 referral procedures, and (B) before and after school child care for



244 children attending school day, school year programs, (5) the exchange  
245 of information with other community organizations serving the needs  
246 of children and families, (6) that recommendations are made to school  
247 officials concerning transition from child care programs to preschool  
248 programs and kindergarten, (7) that effective community engagement  
249 strategies are employed to ensure diverse participation, (8) that  
250 biannual child assessments, approved by the office, are performed at  
251 programs, and conducted in partnership with families, and (9)  
252 collaboration with the office related to planning improvements to the  
253 state early care and education governance structure.

254 (f) The office shall monitor each local or regional governance partner  
255 to ensure compliance with the provisions of this section.

256 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As part of Early Start CT, the  
257 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish a state-funded  
258 competitive program in which contracts are entered into with nonprofit  
259 agencies and local and regional boards of education, which are federal  
260 Head Start grantees, to assist in (1) establishing extended-day and full-  
261 day, year-round, Head Start programs or expanding existing Head Start  
262 programs to extended-day or full-day, year-round programs, (2)  
263 enhancing program quality, (3) increasing the number of children  
264 served in programs that are both a Head Start program and Early Head  
265 Start grantee or delegate, (4) increasing the number of Early Head Start  
266 children served above those who are federally funded, and (5)  
267 increasing the hours for children currently receiving Early Head Start  
268 services. Nonprofit agencies or boards of education seeking contracts  
269 pursuant to this section shall make application to the commissioner on  
270 such forms and at such times as the commissioner shall prescribe. The  
271 commissioner shall include contract provisions that mandate at least  
272 twenty-five per cent of the funding for such contracts shall be for the  
273 purpose of enhancing program quality. All contracts entered into under  
274 this section shall be funded within the limits of available appropriations  
275 or otherwise from federal funds and private donations. All Head Start  
276 programs funded pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with  
277 federal Head Start performance standards.

278 (b) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
279 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for purposes of this  
280 section.

281 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the provisions  
282 of sections 4-98, 4-212 to 4-219, inclusive, 4a-51 and 4a-57 of the general  
283 statutes, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may, within available  
284 appropriations, allocate funds to regional educational service centers for  
285 the provision of professional development services, technical assistance  
286 and evaluation and program planning and implementation activities,  
287 local and regional boards of education, child care centers, group child  
288 care homes and family child care homes, as such terms are described in  
289 section 19a-77 of the general statutes, and other early childhood care and  
290 education entities, as determined by the commissioner. Any funds  
291 allocated by the commissioner under this section shall be expended in  
292 accordance with procedures and conditions prescribed by the  
293 commissioner.

294 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal years ending June  
295 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the office may pay, in an individual contract  
296 entered into under sections 8-210 of the general statutes, as amended by  
297 this act, and 10-16p of the general statutes, or a grant awarded pursuant  
298 to section 10-16n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, a per-  
299 child rate, or an equivalent per-classroom rate, that has been determined  
300 by the commissioner. The per-child cost paid by the office under this  
301 section for each eligible child enrolled in a program who is three or four  
302 years of age and each child who is five years of age and not eligible to  
303 enroll in school, pursuant to section 10-15c of the general statutes, shall  
304 be at least ten thousand five hundred dollars for each such child, or paid  
305 at an equivalent rate and amount per classroom for eighteen children.  
306 For each eligible child who is under the age of three and enrolled in an  
307 infant or toddler classroom and not in a preschool classroom, the per-  
308 child cost paid by the office shall be at least thirteen thousand five  
309 hundred dollars for each such child, or paid at an equivalent rate and  
310 amount per classroom of eight children. The office shall use data-driven,  
311 outcomes-based contract provisions to facilitate and incentivize full

312 enrollment.

313 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the 2024 supplement to the  
314 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
315 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

316 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of  
317 Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a group  
318 child care home or family child care home, as described in section 19a-  
319 77, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation  
320 for state financial assistance in developing and operating child care  
321 centers, group child care homes and family child care homes for  
322 children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental  
323 conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for  
324 the operating costs of any such child care center, group child care home  
325 or family child care home unless it has been licensed by the  
326 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80. Such  
327 financial assistance shall be available for a program of a municipality, of  
328 a group child care home or family child care home, of a human resource  
329 development agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide  
330 for personnel, equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and  
331 renovation and remodeling of the physical facilities of such child care  
332 centers, group child care homes or family child care homes. Such  
333 contract shall provide for state financial assistance, within available  
334 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the  
335 cost of such program, as determined by the Commissioner of Early  
336 Childhood, if not federally assisted, (2) equal to one-half of the amount  
337 by which the net cost of such program, as approved by the  
338 Commissioner of Early Childhood, exceeds the federal grant-in-aid  
339 thereof, or (3) (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in an amount  
340 not less than [(A)] (i) the per child cost as described in subdivision (1) of  
341 subsection (b) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act, for each child  
342 in such program that is three or four years of age and each child that is  
343 five years of age who is not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant to  
344 section 10-15c, while maintaining services to children under three years  
345 of age under this section, and [(B)] (ii) thirteen thousand five hundred

346 dollars for each child three years of age or under who is in infant or  
347 toddler care and not in a preschool program, and (B) for the fiscal years  
348 ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, in accordance with the  
349 provisions of section 11 of this act. Any such contract entered into on or  
350 after July 1, 2022, shall include a provision that at least sixty per cent of  
351 the children enrolled in such child care center, group child care home or  
352 family child care home are members of families who are at or below  
353 seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The Commissioner of  
354 Early Childhood may authorize child care centers, group child care  
355 homes and family child care homes receiving financial assistance under  
356 this subsection to apply a program surplus to the next program year.  
357 The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall consult with directors of  
358 child care centers in establishing fees for the operation of such centers.  
359 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Commissioner of Early  
360 Childhood shall, within available appropriations, enter into contracts  
361 under this section for the purpose of expanding the number of spaces  
362 available to children three years of age or under who are in infant or  
363 toddler care and not in a preschool program.

364 Sec. 13. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2024  
365 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
366 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

367 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the per child cost of  
368 the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a  
369 school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred  
370 twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, to June  
371 30, 2024, inclusive, the per child cost of the Office of Early Childhood  
372 school readiness program offered by a school readiness provider shall  
373 not exceed nine thousand twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal [year]  
374 years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the per child cost of the  
375 Office of Early Childhood full-time school readiness program offered by  
376 a school readiness provider shall [not exceed ten thousand five hundred  
377 dollars] be in accordance with the provisions of section 11 of this act.

378 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 10-16n of the general statutes is

379 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
380 *2024*):

381 (b) The Office of Early Childhood shall annually allocate to each town  
382 in which the number of children under the temporary family assistance  
383 program, as defined in subdivision (17) of section 10-262f, equals or  
384 exceeds nine hundred children, (1) determined for the fiscal [year] years  
385 ending June 30, 1996, to June 30, 2024, inclusive, an amount equal to one  
386 hundred fifty thousand dollars plus eight and one-half dollars for each  
387 child under the temporary family assistance program, provided such  
388 amount may be reduced proportionately so that the total amount  
389 awarded pursuant to this subsection does not exceed two million seven  
390 hundred thousand dollars, and (2) for the fiscal years ending June 30,  
391 2025, and June 30, 2026, an amount determined in accordance with the  
392 provisions of section 11 of this act. The office shall award grants to the  
393 local and regional boards of education for such towns and nonprofit  
394 agencies located in such towns which meet the criteria established  
395 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to maintain the programs  
396 established or expanded with funds provided pursuant to this  
397 subsection in the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997.  
398 Any funds remaining in the allocation to such a town after grants are so  
399 awarded shall be used to increase allocations to other such towns. Any  
400 funds remaining after grants are so awarded to boards of education and  
401 nonprofit agencies in all such towns shall be available to local and  
402 regional boards of education and nonprofit agencies in other towns in  
403 the state for grants for such purposes.

404 Sec. 15. Subsection (l) of section 19a-87b of the 2024 supplement to the  
405 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
406 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

407 (l) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, to June 30, [2026] 2028,  
408 inclusive, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may issue a license to  
409 maintain a family child care home in New Britain, New Haven,  
410 Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, Danbury, [or] Waterbury or a town in  
411 New London County in accordance with the provisions of this chapter

412 to a person or group of persons who have partnered with an association,  
 413 organization, corporation, institution or agency, public or private, to  
 414 provide child care services in a space provided by such association,  
 415 organization, corporation, institution or agency, provided such space  
 416 has been approved by the commissioner and is not in a private family  
 417 home. The commissioner shall not approve more than one facility in  
 418 each such city to be used for licenses issued under this subsection. An  
 419 application for a license under this subsection shall include a copy of the  
 420 current fire marshal certificate of compliance with the Fire Safety Code,  
 421 and written verification of compliance with the State Building Code,  
 422 local zoning and building requirements and local health ordinances. The  
 423 commissioner may require an applicant for a license under this  
 424 subsection to comply with additional conditions relating to the health  
 425 and safety of the children who will be served in such facility. The  
 426 commissioner may waive any requirement that does not apply to such  
 427 facility. Any license issued under this subsection shall expire on June 30,  
 428 2026, except that the commissioner may suspend or revoke any such  
 429 license at any time in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-87e.

430 Sec. 16. Sections 8-210, 10-16n to 10-16r, inclusive, 10-16t, 10-16u, 10-  
 431 16aa, 10-520b, 17b-749a and 17b-749d of the general statutes are  
 432 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2026*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 6	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 9	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 10	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 11	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 12	July 1, 2024	8-210(b)

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Sec. 13	July 1, 2024	10-16q(b)(1)
Sec. 14	July 1, 2024	10-16n(b)
Sec. 15	July 1, 2024	19a-87b(l)
Sec. 16	July 1, 2026	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Sections 5 and 8, references to "local governance partner" were changed to "local or regional governance partner" for consistency.

**ED** Joint Favorable C/R APP  
**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.