



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 42**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6840

*House of Representatives, March 5, 2025*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. PARIS of the 145th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO STUDY THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS INFANT AND TODDLER CHILD CARE SERVICES NEEDS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than January 1,
- 2 2026, and annually thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood shall
- 3 conduct a study of the availability of licensed and license-exempt child
- 4 care services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, in the
- 5 state. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the total
- 6 number of child care centers, group child care homes and family child
- 7 care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general
- 8 statutes, in the state, (2) the number of such centers and homes in each
- 9 municipality and region of the state, (3) the total number of slots at such
- 10 centers and homes, including how many of such slots are (A) designated
- 11 for infants, toddlers and preschool-age children, (B) filled or open, and
- 12 (C) subsidized and unsubsidized, (4) an identification of the supply and

13 demand for child care services on a municipal, regional and state-wide  
14 basis, and (5) an analysis of the unmet need for child care services on a  
15 municipal, regional and state-wide basis.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the office  
17 shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint  
18 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
19 matters relating to children and appropriations, in accordance with the  
20 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

21 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the  
22 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall develop a plan to address  
23 shortages in the availability of infant and toddler child care services, as  
24 described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, in the state for low-  
25 income families. In developing such plan, the commissioner shall utilize  
26 the findings in the child care services availability study conducted  
27 pursuant to section 1 of this act. Such plan shall include, but need not be  
28 limited to, strategies for (1) identifying low-income families who may  
29 be in need of such child care services, (2) increasing the availability and  
30 number of subsidized slots at child care centers, group child care homes  
31 and family child care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-  
32 77 of the general statutes, and (3) ensuring that such low-income  
33 families have access to such slots.

34 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit the  
35 plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
36 cognizance of matters relating to children and appropriations, in  
37 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(2), "of the state" was inserted after region for clarity, and in Section 1(b), "committee" was changed to "committees" for accuracy.

***KID***      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
Office of Early Childhood	GF - Cost	Up to \$2 million	Up to \$1 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill results in a cost of up to \$2 million in FY 26 and up to \$1 million in FY 27 for the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to conduct an annual study of licensed and license-exempt child care services throughout the state, as well as to create a plan that addresses shortages in infant and toddler child care availability for low-income families, due by January 1, 2026.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future for each year the report is required.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6840*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO STUDY THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS INFANT AND TODDLER CHILD CARE SERVICES NEEDS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to conduct an annual study of licensed and license-exempt child care services throughout the state. The study must include (1) the total number, and a breakdown by municipality and region, of child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes; (2) the total number of child care slots, including details on whether these slots are designated for certain age groups (infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children), filled, and subsidized; and (3) an analysis of child care supply and demand, including details on where there is unmet need on a municipal, regional, and state-wide level.

The bill also requires the OEC commissioner to create a plan, using information collected from this study, that addresses shortages in infant and toddler child care availability for low-income families. The plan must include approaches for (1) identifying low-income families in need of child care services, (2) increasing the availability and number of subsidized child care slots, and (3) ensuring that low-income families can access these slots.

Both the OEC study and the commissioner's plan must be submitted to the Appropriations and Children committees by January 1, 2026. The OEC study must be redone annually and submitted each year after.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea    14    Nay   3    (02/18/2025)