

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6921

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF

Title: EARLY CHILDHOOD.

Vote Date: 3/28/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/19/2025

File No.: 705

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill aims to implement the Office of Early Childhood's recommendations by clarifying existing language. Currently, vague requirements and explanations create confusion in administration. By addressing these issues, the education and experiences provided to children in Connecticut will be improved.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood](#)

In Beth Bye's submitted testimony, she goes through multiple sections of the bill and explains their benefits. **Section 1** clarifies staffing requirements for staff working in the Office of Early Childhood's (OEC) contracted programs. **Section 2** establishes that youth camp licenses are non-transferrable. She explains that this adds an extra layer of protection for the children attending camp by ensuring that the license was issued for that specific camp. **Section 3** removes unclear language and **Section 4** states that members serving the Interagency Coordinating Council are not subject to term limits. **Section 5** removes a report requirement of the OEC Cabinet statute to avoid accidental duplication. **Sections 6 – 8** add clarifying language to prevent disorganization and provide the Commissioner discretion to determine administrative funding amounts.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Association of Public-School Superintendents](#)

The Connecticut Association of Public-School Superintendents (CAPSS) expresses support for this bill in their submitted testimony. One of CAPSS' main priorities for Connecticut's Public Education this year is improving pre-school programs. The Governor's proposed budget provides funding for around 12,000 new pre-school students and future rate reductions for low to moderate income families. This bill offers necessary clarifications to eliminate administration issues and help build a strong foundation.

Michelle Cunningham, Executive Director, Network for Children and Youth

The Connecticut Network for Children and Youth expresses support for this bill in their testimony. They explain how section 8 addresses an issue in the current way Early Start local governance partners receive funding. The bill will likely result in increased regionalization, according to her, which is very important to rural Connecticut. She also anticipates no state fiscal impact since the bill is within existing appropriations.

5 citizens expressed support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Phoebe Mann

Date: 4/17/2025