



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 5003**

LCO No. 5268



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND  
EDUCATION FUND.**

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

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending  
2       June 30, 2025, after the accounts for the General Fund have been closed  
3       and the Comptroller has determined the amount of unappropriated  
4       surplus, if any, in said fund, the amount of such surplus to a maximum  
5       of one hundred million dollars shall be transferred by the Treasurer to  
6       the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund established pursuant to  
7       section 10-511 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.
- 8       (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, after the accounts for the  
9       General Fund have been closed and the Comptroller has determined the  
10      amount of unappropriated surplus, if any, in said fund, the amount of  
11      such surplus to a maximum of one hundred million dollars shall be  
12      transferred by the Treasurer to the Early Childhood Care and Education  
13      Fund established pursuant to section 10-511 of the general statutes, as  
14      amended by this act.
- 15      (c) Any amount transferred pursuant to this section shall be deducted

16 in determining the amount of unappropriated surplus to be transferred  
17 to the Budget Reserve Fund pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-30a  
18 of the general statutes.

19 Sec. 2. Section 10-511 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

21 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Care and Education  
22 Fund. Said fund may contain any moneys required or permitted by law  
23 to be deposited in the fund and shall receive and hold all payments and  
24 deposits for contributions intended for said fund, as well as gifts,  
25 bequests, endowments or federal, state or local grants and any other  
26 funds from any public or private source and all earnings until disbursed  
27 in accordance with the provisions of this section.

28 (b) The amounts on deposit in said fund shall not constitute property  
29 of the state and said fund shall not be construed to be a department,  
30 institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in said fund shall  
31 not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim to  
32 or against, or any interest in, such deposits. Any contract entered into  
33 by or any obligation of said fund shall not constitute a debt or obligation  
34 of the state and the state shall have no obligation to any person on  
35 account of said fund and all amounts obligated to be paid from said  
36 fund shall be limited to amounts available for such obligation on deposit  
37 in said fund. Said fund shall retain at the end of any fiscal year an  
38 amount not less than ten per cent of any transfers or deposits in said  
39 fund during such fiscal year. Said fund shall continue in existence as  
40 long as it holds any deposits or has any obligations and until its  
41 existence is terminated by law.

42 (c) The Treasurer shall invest the amounts on deposit in said fund in  
43 a manner reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of said  
44 fund, exercising the discretion and care of a prudent person in similar  
45 circumstances with similar objectives. The Treasurer shall give due  
46 consideration to rate of return, risk, term or maturity, diversification of  
47 the total portfolio within said fund, liquidity, the projected

48 disbursements and expenditures and the expected payments, deposits,  
49 contributions and gifts to be received. The Treasurer shall not require  
50 said fund to invest directly in obligations of the state or any political  
51 subdivision of the state or in any investment or other fund administered  
52 by the Treasurer. The assets of said fund shall be continuously invested  
53 and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of said fund  
54 until disbursed by the Comptroller in accordance with the provisions of  
55 this section.

56 (d) The Treasurer, on behalf of said fund and for purposes of said  
57 fund, may:

58 (1) Receive and invest moneys in said fund in any instruments,  
59 obligations, securities or property in accordance with this section;

60 (2) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including  
61 contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory,  
62 management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting  
63 services for said fund and pay for such services from the assets of said  
64 fund;

65 (3) Procure insurance in connection with said fund's property, assets,  
66 activities or deposits to said fund;

67 (4) Apply for and accept gifts, grants or donations from public or  
68 private sources to enable said fund to carry out its objectives;

69 (5) Adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for purposes of  
70 this section;

71 (6) Sue and be sued;

72 (7) Establish one or more accounts within said fund; and

73 (8) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
74 section and incidental to the duties imposed on the Treasurer pursuant  
75 to this section.

76 (e) The amounts on deposit in said fund shall be used for the  
77 purposes of supporting early childhood education in, and child care  
78 needs of, the state, including expansion of the child care subsidy  
79 program, established pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this  
80 act, salary increases for early childhood educators, subsidies for health  
81 care plans for employees of early care and education programs, in  
82 accordance with section 5 of this act, and providing administrative and  
83 technical assistance for the implementation of the competitive grant  
84 program to provide grants for capital expenses related to the  
85 construction and renovation of early childhood education and child care  
86 facilities established pursuant to section 8 of this act, and shall not be  
87 expended for any other purpose.

88 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Early  
89 Childhood shall develop a report on the cost to increase provider  
90 payment rates under the child care subsidy program, established  
91 pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
92 act, to cover the cost of care, as described in the Connecticut Narrow  
93 Cost Analysis prepared for the Office of Early Childhood in June 2024,  
94 (1) using the current registry salary levels noted within the analysis and  
95 to provide bonuses of ten per cent to programs operating in a child care  
96 desert, as determined by the office, and twenty-five per cent to  
97 programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of  
98 Young Children or the National Association for Family Child Care, and  
99 (2) using the workforce compensation schedule mid-career levels noted  
100 within the analysis and to provide bonuses of ten per cent to programs  
101 operating in a child care desert, as determined by the office, and twenty-  
102 five per cent to programs accredited by the National Association for the  
103 Education of Young Children or the National Association for Family  
104 Child Care. Such report shall include a proposal for an implementation  
105 plan and timeline that phases in such increased provider payment rates  
106 over a five-year period, commencing in the fiscal year ending June 30,  
107 2026.

108 (b) Not later than September 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit

109 such report on its findings and recommendations to the Early  
110 Childhood Care and Education Fund Advisory Commission,  
111 established pursuant to section 10-511a of the general statutes, as  
112 amended by this act, and the joint standing committees of the General  
113 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, education,  
114 finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of  
115 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
116 general statutes.

117       Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-511a of the general statutes is  
118 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
119 *2025*):

120       (c) The commission shall:

121       (1) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, submit a  
122 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint  
123 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
124 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
125 finance, revenue and bonding, education and children, on the financial  
126 health and status of the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund,  
127 including, but not limited to, (A) the amounts on deposit in said fund,  
128 (B) disbursements made or expected to be made from said fund for the  
129 applicable fiscal year, (C) the rates of return on investments made by the  
130 Treasurer pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (D) a statement as to  
131 the sufficiency of the amounts on deposit in said fund to achieve the  
132 purposes of said fund, and (E) any recommendations for policy changes  
133 and amendments to the general statutes necessary to further the  
134 purposes of said fund, including recommendations for implementing  
135 the findings in the report developed pursuant to section 3 of this act to  
136 increase provider payment rates under the child care subsidy program,  
137 established pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this act;

138       (2) Not later than January 1, 2026, submit a five-year plan, in  
139 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
140 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

141 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, finance,  
142 revenue and bonding, education and children, of recommendations of  
143 expenditures from said fund that would best support early childhood  
144 education in, and child care needs of, the state. The commission shall, in  
145 developing such plan, consider reports on (A) the state of [(A)] (i) early  
146 childhood care and education in the state, and [(B)] (ii) kindergarten  
147 readiness in the state, as well as best practices in other states, and (B)  
148 increasing provider payment rates developed pursuant to section 3 of  
149 this act under the child care subsidy program, established pursuant to  
150 section 17b-749, as amended by this act. The commission shall update  
151 such plan at least annually and submit such updated plan annually to  
152 said committees; and

153 (3) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, hold a  
154 public hearing annually on the state of the fund and of early childhood  
155 education and child care in the state.

156 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

157 (1) "Early care and education program" means a program providing  
158 child care services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes,  
159 that is licensed by the Office of Early Childhood;

160 (2) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in section  
161 38a-1080 of the general statutes; and

162 (3) "Partnership plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-  
163 123aaa of the general statutes.

164 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
165 thereafter, the Comptroller shall establish a program to provide a  
166 subsidy, within available appropriations, to an individual who (1) opens  
167 a health savings account, pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal  
168 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal  
169 revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, or is  
170 eligible for Medicare and enrolls in a high deductible health plan, and

171 (2) is employed by an early care and education program. Such subsidy  
172 shall be in an amount up to a certain percentage, as specified by the  
173 Comptroller, of the deductible for the health plan in which such  
174 individual is enrolled, minus the amount of any employer contributions  
175 to a health savings account or health reimbursement account, and not  
176 exceeding an amount specified by the Comptroller. No individual may  
177 receive more than one subsidy in any fiscal year pursuant to this section.  
178 The Comptroller may work with the provider of an early care and  
179 education program that employs such individual to distribute such  
180 subsidy.

181 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
182 thereafter, the Comptroller shall establish a program to provide a  
183 subsidy, from any funds appropriated for such purpose, to providers of  
184 early care and education programs that provide coverage to its  
185 employees and their dependents under a health benefit plan or a  
186 partnership plan for such fiscal year or any portion thereof. Such  
187 subsidy shall be (1) in an amount of not more than ten per cent of the  
188 aggregate premium cost, inclusive of the employee and employer shares  
189 of such cost, paid by such provider for coverage under such health  
190 benefit plan or partnership plan, divided by the number of employees  
191 of such provider who are enrolled in health coverage, and (2) used to  
192 offset the employee's share of such premium cost that is deducted from  
193 the payroll check of each employee of such provider during any pay  
194 period during such fiscal year. The provisions of this subsection shall  
195 not apply to any early care and education program provider that  
196 provides coverage under a high deductible health plan, as such term is  
197 described in subsection (f) of section 38a-520 of the general statutes.

198 (d) The Comptroller and the Early Childhood Care and Education  
199 Fund Advisory Commission, established pursuant to section 10-511a of  
200 the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall enter into a  
201 memorandum of understanding, in accordance with the provisions of  
202 section 4-97b of the general statutes, to allow the Comptroller to utilize  
203 the sum of \_\_\_\_ that is appropriated to the Early Childhood Care and

204 Education Fund, established pursuant to section 10-511 of the general  
205 statutes, as amended by this act, to implement the provisions of this  
206 section.

207 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is  
208 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
209 *2025*):

210 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants  
211 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to  
212 [fifty] eighty-five per cent of the state-wide median income, except the  
213 commissioner: (1) May increase the income level up to the maximum  
214 level allowed under federal law, (2) upon the request of the  
215 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income  
216 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after  
217 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are  
218 eligible for the child care subsidy program, [and] (3) shall establish a  
219 two-tiered income eligibility threshold in accordance with 45 CFR  
220 98.21(b), as amended from time to time, and (4) shall permit recipients  
221 whose gross income subsequently exceeds eighty-five per cent of the  
222 state-wide median income to continue to receive prorated benefits until  
223 such recipients' gross income meets or exceeds one hundred per cent of  
224 the state median income. The commissioner may adopt regulations in  
225 accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational  
226 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

227 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,  
228 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood  
229 shall exempt from the family fee requirement of the child care subsidy  
230 program, established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes,  
231 as amended by this act, any person or family who is (1) an active  
232 participant in the child care subsidy program, and (2) employed by a  
233 licensed early care and education program providing child care  
234 services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes.

235 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June

236 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood  
237 shall design and administer a competitive grant program to provide  
238 grants for capital expenses related to the construction and renovation of  
239 early childhood education and child care facilities. An operator of an  
240 early care and education program that provides child care services, as  
241 described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, may submit an  
242 application for a grant to the office, in accordance with the provisions of  
243 subsection (b) of this section.

244 (b) On and after July 1, 2025, an operator of an early care and  
245 education program may apply, at such time and in such manner as the  
246 commissioner prescribes, to the office for a capital grant for the purposes  
247 described in subsection (a) of this section. To be eligible to receive a  
248 grant under this section, an applicant operator shall (1) demonstrate that  
249 it has a need for constructing a new or renovating an existing child care  
250 facility, using information requested by the commissioner on a form  
251 prescribed by the commissioner, and (2) submit a plan for the  
252 expenditure of grant funds received under this section that outlines how  
253 such operator will use such funds, including, but not limited to, how the  
254 construction or renovation of the child care facility may increase access  
255 to child care for families in the community. The commissioner shall give  
256 priority to those operators that demonstrate the greatest need for the  
257 construction or renovation of a child care facility.

258 (c) Each operator of an early care and education program receiving a  
259 grant under this section shall submit an annual report, on a form and in  
260 a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to the Office of Early  
261 Childhood regarding the enrollment and operation of the early care and  
262 education program.

263 (d) The commissioner may contract with nongovernmental entities,  
264 including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations, lending  
265 institutions and technical assistance providers, to carry out the  
266 provisions of this section.

267 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) There is established an account

268 to be known as the "early care and education program competitive  
269 capital grant account" which shall be a capital projects fund. The account  
270 shall contain the amounts authorized by the State Bond Commission in  
271 accordance with section 10 of this act and any other moneys required by  
272 law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be  
273 expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the  
274 competitive grant program established pursuant to section 8 of this act.

275       Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described  
276 in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
277 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
278 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in  
279 the aggregate one hundred million dollars, provided twenty million  
280 dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2025, twenty  
281 million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2026,  
282 twenty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1,  
283 2027, twenty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July  
284 1, 2028, and twenty million dollars of said authorization shall be  
285 effective July 1, 2029. The amount authorized for the issuance and sale  
286 of such bonds in each of the following fiscal years shall not exceed the  
287 corresponding amount for each such fiscal year, provided, to the extent  
288 the Office of Early Childhood does not provide for the use of all or a  
289 portion of such amount in any such fiscal year, such amount not  
290 provided for shall be carried forward and added to the authorized  
291 amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and provided further, the  
292 costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be added to the  
293 capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the authorized amounts  
294 shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year indicated.

295       (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount  
296 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of Early  
297 Childhood for the purposes of the competitive grant program  
298 established pursuant to section 8 of this act.

299       (c) The State Bond Commission shall approve a memorandum of

300 understanding between the Commissioner of Early Childhood and the  
301 state, acting by and through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
302 Management and the Treasurer, providing for the issuance of said  
303 bonds for the purposes of the competitive grant program established  
304 pursuant to section 8 of this act, including provisions regarding the  
305 extent to which federal, private or other moneys then available or  
306 thereafter to be made available for costs should be added to the proceeds  
307 of the bonds authorized pursuant to this section for such project or  
308 program. The memorandum of understanding shall be deemed to  
309 satisfy the provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes and the  
310 exercise of any right or power granted thereby that is not inconsistent  
311 with the provisions of this section.

312 (d) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the  
313 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not  
314 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and  
315 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission  
316 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the  
317 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may  
318 be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time  
319 renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding  
320 twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or  
321 pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission  
322 authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except  
323 upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed  
324 with it a request for such authorization which is signed by or on behalf  
325 of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such  
326 terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.  
327 Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations  
328 of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are  
329 pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds  
330 as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of  
331 the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts  
332 necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby  
333 made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as

334 the same become due.

335       Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the  
336 Office of Early Childhood shall develop and administer a system of  
337 presumptive eligibility for applicants to the child care subsidy program,  
338 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as  
339 amended by this act. Such system shall (1) include a screening tool that  
340 will permit applicants to determine presumptive eligibility under the  
341 child care subsidy program, (2) provide applicants who have been  
342 determined to be presumptively eligible for the child care subsidy  
343 program to receive services for a sixty-day trial period, (3) require  
344 applicants who receive services under such sixty-day trial period to  
345 complete the full application for participation in the child care subsidy  
346 program in order to continue to be eligible, and (4) require the office to  
347 make a final eligibility determination for such applicant prior to the  
348 expiration of such sixty-day trial period.

349       Sec. 12. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Office of  
350 Early Childhood shall implement a prospective payment system for the  
351 child care subsidy program, established pursuant to section 17b-749 of  
352 the general statutes, as amended by this act, in accordance with federal  
353 law.

354       Sec. 13. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 17b-749 of the general  
355 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
356 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

357       (f) A provider under the child care subsidy program that qualifies for  
358 eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child care services for  
359 recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for such services until  
360 informed by the office of the recipient's ineligibility. For the fiscal year  
361 ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner  
362 shall (1) limit the total amount of payments under this section to any  
363 provider that operates, directly or through an affiliate, more than ten  
364 child care centers, as described in section 19a-77, to not more than one  
365 per cent of the total appropriation under this section for that fiscal year,

366 unless the commissioner determines that making payments to such  
367 provider in an amount greater than one per cent of such total annual  
368 appropriation is in the best interests of the state, and (2) require any such  
369 provider to (A) demonstrate a willingness to enroll more children of  
370 families who are recipients under the child care subsidy program at each  
371 child care center location operated by such provider or its affiliate, and  
372 (B) annually provide the office with an audited financial statement  
373 detailing how payments received under this section have been  
374 expended during that fiscal year.

375 (g) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt from  
376 licensing shall provide the office with the following information in order  
377 to maintain eligibility for reimbursement: (1) The name, address,  
378 appropriate identification, Social Security number and telephone  
379 number of the provider and all adults who work for or reside at the  
380 location where care is provided; (2) the name and address of the child's  
381 doctor, primary care provider and health insurance company; (3)  
382 whether the child is immunized and has had health screens pursuant to  
383 the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment  
384 Services Program under 42 USC 1396d; [and] (4) the number of children  
385 cared for by the provider; (5) the type of business entity of the provider;  
386 and (6) the names of all officers, directors and owners of the provider  
387 or, in the case of an affiliate of the provider that is receiving payments  
388 under this section, the names of all officers, directors and owners of such  
389 affiliate.

390 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the fiscal year ending  
391 June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each provider of child care  
392 services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, shall  
393 annually submit to the Office of Early Childhood the tuition rates being  
394 charged to families during the fiscal year and the amount of any change  
395 in such tuition rates from the previous fiscal year.

396 (b) The Office of Early Childhood shall annually publish on its  
397 Internet web site the information collected pursuant to subsection (a) of

398 this section regarding tuition rates and changes in tuition amounts.

399       Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025, the  
400 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall enter into a data sharing  
401 agreement with the Children's Funding Project for the purpose of the  
402 creation of a fiscal map that shows a comprehensive view of state  
403 funding and spending for children in the state. The commissioner shall  
404 not be required to enter into such agreement under this section if the  
405 Children's Funding Project requires a direct fee for its services.

406       Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Early Childhood, in  
407 collaboration with the Insurance Department and the Attorney General,  
408 shall conduct a joint study regarding the prevalence, appropriateness  
409 and affordability of liability insurance for child care centers and family  
410 child care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the  
411 general statutes. Such joint study shall include, but need not be limited  
412 to, an assessment of the factors that have given rise to increasing liability  
413 insurance costs. Not later than January 1, 2026, the office shall submit a  
414 report on the findings of such joint study, and any recommendations, to  
415 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
416 cognizance of matters relating to children, education and insurance, in  
417 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

418       Sec. 17. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Early Childhood shall  
419 conduct a study concerning the prevalence of men in the child care and  
420 early childhood education workforce. Such study shall include, but  
421 need not be limited to, an analysis of the factors affecting and reasons  
422 why so few men are employed in child care or early childhood  
423 education and recommendations for ways to increase the representation  
424 of men in such fields. Not later than January 1, 2026, the office shall  
425 submit a report on the findings of such study, and any  
426 recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the General  
427 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, education  
428 and labor, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
429 general statutes.

430 Sec. 18. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Early Childhood, in  
 431 consultation with the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
 432 Protection, shall develop a report on background checks for early  
 433 childhood educators. Such report shall include, but need not be limited  
 434 to, (1) an examination of (A) the average processing time for background  
 435 checks for early childhood educators, (B) strategies to improve the speed  
 436 at which background checks are processed, and (C) strategies to  
 437 improve the convenience and ease with which early childhood  
 438 educators are able to be fingerprinted and to submit background check  
 439 materials for processing, and (2) an assessment of whether it is possible  
 440 for an early childhood educator to share his or her fingerprint and  
 441 background check results with multiple prospective employers. Not  
 442 later than January 1, 2026, the office shall submit a report on its findings,  
 443 and any recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the  
 444 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
 445 education and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section  
 446 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

|           |                     |                    |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 2    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 10-511             |
| Sec. 3    | <i>from passage</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 4    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 10-511a(c)         |
| Sec. 5    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 6    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 17b-749(b)         |
| Sec. 7    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 8    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 9    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 10   | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 11   | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 12   | <i>from passage</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 13   | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 17b-749(f) and (g) |
| Sec. 14   | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 15   | <i>from passage</i> | New section        |
| Sec. 16   | <i>from passage</i> | New section        |

|         |                     |             |
|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| Sec. 17 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 18 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

***Statement of Purpose:***

To make use of the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund to fund early care and education programs and initiatives in the state.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors:    REP. RITTER, 1st Dist.; REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.  
                         REP. CONCEPCION, 4th Dist.; REP. REYES, 75th Dist.  
                         REP. PARIS, 145th Dist.; REP. GAUTHIER, 38th Dist.  
                         REP. MARTINEZ, 22nd Dist.; REP. MCGEE T., 116th Dist.  
                         REP. COMEY, 102nd Dist.; REP. NOLAN, 39th Dist.  
                         REP. BROWN M., 127th Dist.

H.B. 5003