



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8279



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 6

File No. 199

Cal. No. 149

***"AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS FOR
INFANTS, TODDLERS AND DISCONNECTED YOUTHS."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-511a of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
5 *2025*):

6 (c) The commission shall:

7 (1) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, submit a
8 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
9 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
10 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
11 finance, revenue and bonding, education and children, on the financial
12 health and status of the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund,

13 including, but not limited to, (A) the amounts on deposit in said fund,
14 (B) disbursements made or expected to be made from said fund for the
15 applicable fiscal year, (C) the rates of return on investments made by the
16 Treasurer pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (D) a statement as to
17 the sufficiency of the amounts on deposit in said fund to achieve the
18 purposes of said fund, [and] (E) any recommendations for policy
19 changes and amendments to the general statutes necessary to further
20 the purposes of said fund, and (F) on and after January 1, 2027, and in
21 consultation with the Office of Early Childhood, the number of (i) early
22 care and education programs receiving financial assistance under Early
23 Start CT pursuant to section 10-550b that are eligible for participation in
24 the Child and Adult Care Food Program, 42 USC 1766, as amended from
25 time to time, (ii) such eligible early care and education programs that
26 are participating in and receiving reimbursement under the Child and
27 Adult Care Food Program, and (iii) waivers from participation in the
28 Child and Adult Care Food Program issued by the Commissioner of
29 Early Childhood pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section
30 10-215h, as amended by this act;

31 (2) Not later than January 1, 2026, submit a five-year plan, in
32 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
33 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
34 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, finance,
35 revenue and bonding, education and children, of recommendations of
36 expenditures from said fund that would best support early childhood
37 education in, and child care needs of, the state. The commission shall, in
38 developing such plan, consider reports on the state of (A) early
39 childhood care and education in the state, and (B) kindergarten
40 readiness in the state, as well as best practices in other states. The
41 commission shall update such plan at least annually and submit such
42 updated plan annually to said committees; and

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

46 Sec. 2. Section 10-215h of the general statutes is repealed and the
47 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

48 (a) The Department of Education shall administer, within available
49 appropriations and in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood,
50 a child nutrition outreach program to increase (1) participation in the
51 federal School Breakfast Program, federal Summer Food Service
52 Program and federal Child and Adult Care Food Program, 42 USC 1766,
53 as amended from time to time; and (2) federal reimbursement for such
54 programs.

55 (b) The child nutrition outreach program shall:

56 (1) Encourage schools to (A) participate in the federal School
57 Breakfast Program; (B) employ innovative breakfast service methods
58 where students eat their breakfast in their classrooms or elsewhere after
59 school starts, rather than only before school and only in the cafeteria;
60 and (C) apply to the in-classroom breakfast grant program pursuant to
61 section 10-215g;

62 (2) (A) Encourage local and regional school districts to sponsor
63 Summer Food Service Program sites; (B) recruit other sponsors of such
64 sites; and (C) make grants to site sponsors to assist them in increasing
65 child participation;

66 (3) Encourage child care centers, group child care homes and family
67 child care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77, to
68 participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, including, but
69 not limited to, through the sharing of relevant data between the
70 department and the office, except, on and after July 1, 2026, any early
71 care and education program that is receiving financial assistance under
72 Early Start CT pursuant to section 10-550b and eligible for participation
73 in the Child and Adult Care Food Program shall participate in the Child
74 and Adult Care Food Program unless the early care and education
75 program receives a waiver from such participation from the
76 Commissioner of Early Childhood; and

77 (4) Publicize the availability of federally funded child nutrition
78 programs throughout the state.

79 Sec. 3. Section 22 of public act 24-45 is repealed and the following is
80 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

81 (a) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
82 executive board of the Connecticut Preschool Through Twenty and
83 Workforce Information Network, established pursuant to section 10a-
84 57g of the general statutes, shall submit [an annual] a report on
85 disconnected youth. In developing such report, the executive board
86 shall use the data model established through the data sharing agreement
87 0043 regarding Research on Disengaged and Disconnected Youth in
88 Connecticut. The executive board shall submit such report to the (1) joint
89 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
90 matters relating to education, children, the judiciary, labor, human
91 services, public health and appropriations, (2) Connecticut Advisory
92 Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established pursuant to
93 section 2-79a of the general statutes, and (3) Two-Generational Advisory
94 Board, established pursuant to section 17b-112/ of the general statutes,
95 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
96 On or after January first, and prior to February first, of the year
97 following the submission of the report, the joint standing committees
98 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall hold a hearing on
99 the report. As used in this section, "disconnected youth" has the same
100 meaning as provided in section 21 of [this act] public act 24-25.

101 (b) In developing the report for January 1, 2027, the executive board
102 shall include a plan to incorporate data provided by the Office of Early
103 Childhood, the Department of Developmental Services, the Connecticut
104 State Colleges and Universities and the Office of Health Strategy
105 through an enterprise memorandum of understanding, as defined in
106 section 10a-57g of the general statutes. Such data provided by the Office
107 of Early Childhood may include, but need not be limited to, child-level
108 data regarding the child care subsidy program established pursuant to
109 section 17b-749 of the general statutes, the birth-to-three program

110 established pursuant to section 17a-248b of the general statutes, Early
111 Start CT administered pursuant to section 10-550a of the general
112 statutes, the family bridge program administered, in part, by the Office
113 of Early Childhood, early childhood home visiting programs, as
114 described in section 17b-751b of the general statutes, and early care and
115 education programs. Such data provided by the Office of Health
116 Strategy may include, but need not be limited to, data from the all-payer
117 claims database program established pursuant to section 19a-755a of the
118 general statutes.

119 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-506 of the general statutes is
120 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
121 *2025*):

122 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2025] 2026, and each fiscal year
123 thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with the
124 Department of Education, shall design and administer the Connecticut
125 Smart Start competitive grant program to provide grants to local and
126 regional boards of education for capital and operating expenses related
127 to establishing or expanding a preschool program under the jurisdiction
128 of the board of education for the town. A local or regional board of
129 education may submit an application to the office, in accordance with
130 the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and may receive (1) a
131 grant for capital expenses in an amount not to exceed [seventy-five] one
132 hundred five thousand dollars per classroom for costs related to the
133 renovation of an existing public school to accommodate the
134 establishment or expansion of a preschool program, and (2) an annual
135 grant for operating expenses (A) in an amount not to exceed [five] seven
136 thousand dollars per child served by such grant, or (B) in an amount not
137 to exceed [seventy-five] one hundred five thousand dollars for each
138 preschool classroom. Each local or regional board of education that
139 establishes or expands a preschool program under this section shall be
140 eligible to receive an annual grant for operating expenses for a period of
141 five years, provided such preschool program meets standards
142 established by the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Such local or

143 regional board of education may submit an application for renewal of
144 such grant to the office.

145 Sec. 5. Subdivision (3) of section 19a-420 of the general statutes is
146 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective May 1,*
147 *2026*):

148 (3) "Day camp" means any youth camp which is established,
149 conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land on which there
150 are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate five
151 or more children who are at least three years of age and under sixteen
152 years of age during daylight hours for at least three days a week with
153 the campers eating and sleeping at home, except for one meal per day;
154 [, but does not include programs operated by a municipal agency;]

155 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 19a-421 of the general statutes is
156 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective May 1,*
157 *2026*):

158 (a) No person or municipal agency shall establish, conduct or
159 maintain a youth camp without a license issued by the office.
160 Applications for such license shall be made in writing at least thirty days
161 prior to the opening of the youth camp on forms provided and in
162 accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and shall
163 be accompanied by a fee of eight hundred fifteen dollars or, if the
164 applicant is a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a fee of
165 three hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated
166 with a nonprofit organization, for no more than five days duration and
167 for which labor and materials are donated, no fee. All such licenses shall
168 be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance unless
169 surrendered for cancellation or suspended or revoked by the
170 commissioner for violation of this chapter or any regulations adopted
171 under section 19a-428 and shall be renewable upon payment of an eight-
172 hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the licensee is a nonprofit,
173 nonstock corporation or association, a three-hundred-fifteen-dollar
174 license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit

175 organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor
176 and materials are donated, no fee.

177 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective May 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the provisions
178 of chapter 368r of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Early
179 Childhood shall not require any person who establishes, conducts or
180 maintains a youth camp, as defined in section 19a-420 of the general
181 statutes, as amended by this act, to retain an on-call physician or
182 advanced practice registered nurse, if such youth camp is operated by a
183 municipal agency.

184 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-16z of the general statutes is
185 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
186 *2025*):

187 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet
188 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the
189 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the
190 commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
191 commissioner's designee, (4) the chancellor of the Connecticut State
192 Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's designee, (5) the
193 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the
194 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's
195 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
196 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission
197 on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity or the executive
198 director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start
199 State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child who
200 attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the
201 minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative of
202 a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the minority
203 leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family
204 Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House
205 of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care
206 center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two
207 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom

208 is a member of a board of education for a town designated as an alliance
209 district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who
210 has a child attending a school in an educational reform district, as
211 defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the president pro
212 tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of an association
213 of early education and child care providers and one of whom is a
214 representative of a public elementary school with a prekindergarten
215 program, (16) ten appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a
216 representative of the Connecticut Head Start Association, one of whom
217 is a representative of the business community in this state, one of whom
218 is a representative of the philanthropic community in this state, one of
219 whom is a representative of the Connecticut State Employees
220 Association, one of whom is an administrator of the child care
221 development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development
222 Block Grant Act of 1990, one of whom is responsible for administering
223 grants received under section 1419 of Part B of the Individuals with
224 Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended from time to time,
225 one of whom is responsible for administering the provisions of Title I of
226 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., one
227 of whom is responsible for coordinating education services to children
228 and youth who are homeless, one of whom is a licensed family child
229 care home provider and a member of a staffed family child care network
230 identified by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, and one of whom
231 is a parent recommended by a parent advisory group that has been
232 appointed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, (17) the Secretary
233 of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (18)
234 the Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, (19)
235 the Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, [and]
236 (20) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the
237 commissioner's designee, and (21) the executive director of the
238 Connecticut Library Consortium, or a cooperating library service unit,
239 as defined in section 11-9e, or the executive director's designee.

240 Sec. 9. Section 10-514 of the general statutes is repealed and the
241 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

242 (a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Office of Early Childhood shall
243 create, and update as necessary, a one-page document that (1) lists
244 important developmental milestones experienced by children ages birth
245 to five years, and (2) contains notice that any parent or guardian who is
246 concerned that such parent or guardian's child has not met one or more
247 such developmental milestones may access the Office of Early
248 Childhood Child Development Infoline for information concerning
249 appropriate services, and the Help Me Grow program under the Office
250 of Early Childhood, pursuant to section 17b-751d, for information
251 concerning (A) access to developmental screening and evaluation
252 programs at no cost to parents and guardians for children ages birth to
253 five years, (B) connections to community and in-home programs and
254 services, (C) support for parenting and healthy child development, and
255 (D) early intervention and special education services for children ages
256 birth to five years. The office shall make such document available on its
257 Internet web site.

258 (b) On and after July 1, 2024, each operator of a child care center,
259 group child care home or family child care home, as described in section
260 19a-77, other than those centers or homes that serve school-age children
261 exclusively, shall post a copy of the document developed pursuant to
262 subsection (a) of this section in a conspicuous place on the premises of
263 such child care center, group child care home or family child care home.

264 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Office of Early Childhood
265 shall conduct a quarterly review to determine the number of children
266 who were referred to the birth-to-three program, established pursuant
267 to section 17a-248b of the general statutes, and who were subsequently
268 determined to be ineligible for the birth-to-three program, and the
269 reasons for such children's ineligibility. The office shall provide notice
270 to the parents or guardians for each such child determined to be
271 ineligible for the birth-to-three program that such child may receive
272 additional supports and services under the Help Me Grow program that
273 is under said office pursuant to section 17b-751d of the general statutes.
274 The office shall collect information for any such child that receives

275 supports and services under the Help Me Grow program, including, but
276 not limited to, the types of supports and services received by such child
277 and any information relating to additional referrals for such child.

278 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Office of Early Childhood
279 shall provide, through the Help Me Grow program that is under said
280 office pursuant to section 17b-751d of the general statutes, trainings and
281 other social, educational and workforce support to teenage parents in
282 those communities with teen birth rates greater than ten per cent,
283 according to the most recent data collected by the Department of Public
284 Health.

285 Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Office of Early Childhood shall
286 develop a report on the office's utilization and parental usage of the
287 mobile application that provides parents and guardians with children
288 ages birth to five years with mobile developmental screening,
289 promotion and linkage to supports. Such report shall examine (1) the
290 total capacity and usage of such mobile application based on the
291 contract and appropriation amounts for the office's utilization of such
292 mobile application, (2) the actual usage of such mobile application each
293 year since the office began utilizing such mobile application, (3) the
294 number of Ages and Stages Questionnaires completed through such
295 mobile application and the aggregate scores of such questionnaires, (4)
296 the number of children enrolled in the birth-to-three program,
297 established pursuant to section 17a-248b of the general statutes, after
298 completing the Ages and Stages Questionnaire through such mobile
299 application, (5) the number of families whose score is (A) one standard
300 deviation below average on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire
301 completed through the mobile application, (B) one and one-half
302 standard deviations below average on the Ages and Stages
303 Questionnaire completed through the mobile application, (C) two
304 standard deviations below average on the Ages and Stages
305 Questionnaire completed through the mobile application, and (D) two
306 and one-half or greater standard deviations below average on the Ages
307 and Stages Questionnaire completed through the mobile application,

308 and (6) the number of families whose initial interaction with the 2-1-1
 309 support program was through such mobile application. Not later than
 310 January 1, 2026, the office shall submit such report to the joint standing
 311 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 312 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
 313 of the general statutes."

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-511a(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-215h
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	PA 24-45, Sec. 22
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-506(a)
Sec. 5	<i>May 1, 2026</i>	19a-420(3)
Sec. 6	<i>May 1, 2026</i>	19a-421(a)
Sec. 7	<i>May 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-16z(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-514
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section