
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 266

AN ACT LIMITING THE ACCESS OF PRIVATE EQUITY TO FUNDS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill limits the early childhood commissioner's ability to give funds from the Early Childhood Education Endowment to an otherwise qualified child care or preschool program owned by a private equity entity unless available funds were already given to all other qualified child care or preschool programs. Under the bill, a private equity entity is an individual or publicly traded or nonpublicly traded company that (1) collects capital investments from individuals or entities; and (2) buys a direct or indirect ownership share of an early care and education program.

Under PA 25-93, §§ 3 & 4, each year the early childhood commissioner must spend the funds released from the endowment for purposes specified in law, including early childhood care and education program expansion and health insurance subsidies for program employees.

Qualified programs include any (1) state-licensed early care and education program providing child care services or (2) local or regional school board preschool programs (a) receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT program; (b) participating in the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) quality improvement system; and (c) participating in a federal food subsidy program, unless the OEC commissioner waives the requirement or the program is a public school offering free and reduced price lunches under federal law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 5 (03/03/2026)