



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No.

624

LCO No. 3012



Referred to Committee on

EDUCATION

Introduced by:

(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL POLICY CONCERNING
SCHOOL READINESS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the
2 2006 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

4 (e) (1) Priority school districts and former priority school districts
5 shall receive grants based on their proportional share of the sum of the
6 products obtained by multiplying the average number of enrolled
7 kindergarten students in each priority school district and in each
8 former priority school district for the three years prior to the year the
9 grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and
10 reduced price meals for all severe need schools in such district to the
11 minimum percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility,
12 provided no such school district shall receive a grant that (A) is less
13 than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year, including any
14 supplemental grants received in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005,
15 (B) provides for fewer full-day or part-day spaces than the grant it
16 received for the prior fiscal year, or [a grant that] (C) is less than one

17 hundred fifty thousand dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
 18 subdivision, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the towns of
 19 Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Meriden, Hartford,
 20 Middletown, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Putnam, Stamford
 21 and West Haven shall each receive a grant that is no less than the grant
 22 it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, including any
 23 supplemental grants received in said fiscal year.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the 2006 supplement to
 25 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 26 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

27 (c) The grants shall be used to:

28 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National
 29 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such
 30 accreditation and to help accredited providers maintain their
 31 accreditation;

32 (2) Help directors and administrators to obtain training;

33 (3) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
 34 health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant, nutrition,
 35 family support services, parent education, literacy and parental
 36 involvement, and community and home and homeless shelter outreach
 37 programs; and provide information concerning access when needed to
 38 a speech and language therapist;

39 (4) Purchase educational equipment;

40 (5) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a credential in early
 41 childhood education or child development;

42 (6) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined
 43 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a
 44 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions
 45 are defined in such federal regulations;

46 (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and
47 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
48 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness
49 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

50 (8) Create a supportive network with family day care homes and
51 other providers of care for children;

52 (9) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

53 (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

54 (11) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to
55 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
56 and 17b-749i;

57 (12) Establish a single point of entry system;

58 (13) Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to
59 maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
60 years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children
61 served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used
62 for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives
63 to promote staff retention, preliteracy development, parent
64 involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.

65 Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2006) In addition to any grant
66 provided pursuant to section 17b-749c of the 2006 supplement to the
67 general statutes, as amended by this act, the Department of Social
68 Services shall provide, within available appropriations, grants to
69 school readiness programs, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection
70 (a) of section 10-16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, in
71 the amount of four per cent of the program's budget. Such grants shall
72 be used in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of said
73 section 17b-749c.

74 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2006) The Departments of Education

75 and Social Services shall require full-day and half-day pilot preschool
 76 programs that receive funds from the state to comply with the quality
 77 and oversight requirements for school readiness programs receiving
 78 funds pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16u, inclusive, of the 2006
 79 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.

80 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one hundred thousand
 81 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Education, from the
 82 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to address the
 83 reaccreditation needs of school readiness programs that will seek
 84 reaccreditation under the new National Association for the Education
 85 of Young Children accreditation standards. The Department of
 86 Education shall provide a grant of said sum to an established resource
 87 system of regional teams providing critical leadership and support for
 88 the achievement of quality standards and excellence in early childhood
 89 programs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-16p(e)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	17b-749c(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To address funding needs and reaccreditation concerns for school readiness programs.

[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.]



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 533

February Session, 2006

Substitute Senate Bill No. 626

Senate, April 18, 2006

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS.

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

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2 2006 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
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5 shall receive grants based on their proportional share of the sum of the
6 products obtained by multiplying the average number of enrolled
7 kindergarten students in each priority school district and in each
8 former priority school district for the three years prior to the year the
9 grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and
10 reduced price meals for all severe need schools in such district to the
11 minimum percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility,
12 provided no such school district shall receive a grant that (A) is less
13 than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year, including any
14 supplemental grants received in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005,
15 and any funds carried forward from the fiscal year ending June 30,

16 2004, (B) provides for fewer full-day or part-day spaces than the grant
17 it received for the prior fiscal year, or [a grant that] (C) is less than one
18 hundred fifty thousand dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
19 subdivision, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the towns of
20 Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford,
21 Meriden, Hartford, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New
22 London, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Stamford, Waterbury, West
23 Haven and Windham shall each receive a grant that is no less than the
24 grant it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, including any
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26 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the 2006 supplement to
27 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
28 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

29 (c) The grants shall be used to:

30 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National
31 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such
32 accreditation and to help accredited providers maintain their
33 accreditation;

34 (2) Help directors and administrators to obtain training;

35 (3) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
36 health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant, nutrition,
37 family support services, parent education, literacy and parental
38 involvement, and community and home and homeless shelter outreach
39 programs; and provide information concerning access when needed to
40 a speech and language therapist;

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43 childhood education or child development;

44 (6) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined
45 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a

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46 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions
47 are defined in such federal regulations;

48 (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and
49 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
50 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness
51 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

52 (8) Create a supportive network with family day care homes and
53 other providers of care for children;

54 (9) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

55 (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

56 (11) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to
57 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
58 and 17b-749i;

59 (12) Establish a single point of entry system;

60 (13) Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to
61 maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
62 years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children
63 served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used
64 for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives
65 to promote staff retention, preliteracy development, parent
66 involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.

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68 provided pursuant to section 17b-749c of the 2006 supplement to the
69 general statutes, as amended by this act, the Department of Social
70 Services shall provide, within available appropriations, grants to
71 school readiness programs, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection
72 (a) of section 10-16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, in
73 the amount of four per cent of the program's budget. Such grants shall
74 be used in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of said
75 section 17b-749c.

76 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Departments of Education
77 and Social Services shall require full-day and half-day pilot preschool
78 programs that receive funds from the state to comply with the quality
79 and oversight requirements for school readiness programs receiving
80 funds pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16u, inclusive, of the 2006
81 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.

82 Sec. 5. Section 10-10a of the general statutes is amended by adding
83 subsections (d) and (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

84 (NEW) (d) Local and regional boards of education and preschool
85 programs which receive state and federal funding shall participate, in
86 a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the state-
87 wide public school information system described in subsection (a) of
88 this section. Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include,
89 but not be limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool
90 by program type and by numbers of months in each such program,
91 and (2) the readiness of students for kindergarten and student progress
92 in kindergarten. Such reporting shall be done by October 1, 2007, and
93 annually thereafter.

94 (NEW) (e) Not later than April 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter, the
95 Department of Education shall prepare a report on the readiness of
96 students for kindergarten and their progress in kindergarten. Such
97 report shall include information on (1) student readiness and progress
98 in reading, language development, number concepts and other areas
99 as may be determined by the Commissioner of Education, (2) the
100 relationship between such readiness and progress and the number of
101 months and type of preschool experience of such students, and (3) the
102 characteristics of such students with respect to race, English
103 proficiency, special education and economic status as determined by
104 free and reduced lunch eligibility. The commissioner shall submit such
105 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
106 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
107 of matters relating to education.

108 Sec. 6. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the 2006

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109 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
110 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

111 (3) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
112 this section does not submit, by October first, a plan which is
113 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
114 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to
115 seventy per cent of any amounts] funds that such town has not
116 earmarked for expenditure, to provide supplemental grants to other
117 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
118 section, [and the remaining thirty per cent of any amounts such town
119 has not earmarked for expenditure,] for school readiness professional
120 development, including, but not limited to, scholarship assistance for
121 school readiness staff to attain early childhood education certification
122 and staff training to enhance literacy teaching skills, and to conduct
123 activities related to preschool and kindergarten student developmental
124 evaluations or assessments.

125 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2006 supplement to the
126 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
127 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

128 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of
129 the Department of Education school readiness component of the
130 program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
131 thousand six hundred fifty dollars.

132 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
133 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education school
134 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
135 provider shall not exceed six thousand nine hundred twenty-five
136 dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-
137 16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this
138 act, the per child cost of the Department of Education school readiness
139 component of the program offered by a school readiness provider shall
140 be reduced by ten per cent for any provider that is not accredited on or
141 before January 1, 2007.

142 (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care services
 143 and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject to such
 144 per child cost limitation.

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

Section 1	July 1, 2006	10-16p(e)(1)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2006	17b-749c(c)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2006	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2006	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2006	10-10a
Sec. 6	July 1, 2006	10-16p(e)(3)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2006	10-16q(b)

ED Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

APP Joint Favorable

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The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill's requirement that certain school districts receive a grant at least equal to what they received in FY 05, including any supplemental aid, results in a potential cost to the State Department of Education and a potential revenue gain to local and regional school districts. There are sufficient funds in the existing FY 07 budget and the proposed FY 07 budget of both the governor and the Appropriations Committee to satisfy this requirement.

All other portions of the bill are technical and/or have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 626*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS.*****SUMMARY:**

For FY 07, this bill requires certain priority and former priority districts to receive a grant of at least what it received in FY 05, including any supplemental grants received in that year. For every other year, the bill requires funds carried forward from FY 04 to count as part of the previous year's school readiness grant in determining the hold harmless amount for current and former priority school districts and prohibits them from receiving a grant that provides for fewer full- or part-day spots than the previous year. The bill also imposes a penalty on unaccredited programs by reducing by 10% the per child cost for the State Department of Education's (SDE) school readiness program component.

The bill creates additional uses for Department of Social Services (DSS) quality enhancement grants and requires the agency to provide additional funds to school readiness programs. It requires SDE and DSS to require state-funded full- and half-day pilot preschool programs to comply with the existing quality enhancement and oversight requirements for school readiness programs.

It requires state-funded preschool programs to provide information to the statewide information network and requires SDE to prepare a report on students' readiness for and progress in kindergarten. It also changes allowable uses and amounts of school readiness funds by SDE that programs have not earmarked for expenditure by a certain date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

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SCHOOL READINESS GRANTS FOR PRIORITY AND FORMER PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Grant Distribution Provisions

By law, school readiness funds for priority and former priority districts are distributed according to (1) their relative average kindergarten enrollment for three years prior to the grant and (2) the ratio of the average number of free and reduced-price school lunches served in their severe-need schools to the minimum percentage needed for severe-need school designation. Under current law, no district can receive a grant less than the statutory grant it received in the previous year, including any supplemental grants it received for FY 05, or \$150,000. The bill requires any funds carried forward from FY 04 to also count as part of the previous year's grant when determining the hold-harmless level. It also prohibits districts from receiving a grant that provides for fewer full- or part-day spaces than the grant it received in the prior year.

However, for FY 07, the bill sets a different minimum grant for certain current and former priority school districts. It entitles these districts to a FY 07 grant that at least equals their FY 05 grant, including any supplemental grants, rather than what they received in FY 06 (the prior fiscal year) or \$150,000, as required under current law. The districts are: Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford, Meriden, Hartford, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Stamford, Waterbury, West Haven, and Windham.

Penalty for Lack of Accreditation

The law imposes a \$6,925 per child limit on the cost of the SDE's school readiness program component. Despite the statutory grant distribution provisions, the bill reduces this amount by 10% for any provider not accredited by January 1, 2007. According to current law, the grants are already limited to providing spaces in accredited programs.

DSS GRANTS

Quality Enhancement Grants

Child day care and school readiness service providers must use DSS supplemental quality enhancement grants for statutorily prescribed purposes. The bill allows providers to use the funds to maintain, rather than just to obtain, National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation. The law allows the grants to be used for comprehensive services, including community and home outreach programs. The bill includes homeless shelter outreach programs.

Other existing required uses for the funds include training, equipment, scholarships to obtain credentials, staff positions, repairs, creating a supportive network with family day care home and other childcare providers, technical assistance, providing a single point of entry system, and quality enhancement for birth to three programs.

Additional DSS Grants

The bill requires DSS to provide, within available appropriations, grants to school readiness programs in the amount of four percent of that program's budget. The funds must be used for the same purposes as the quality enhancement grants and are in addition to those funds. A school readiness program is one that (1) is non sectarian; (2) meets SDE standards; and (3) unless it meets a limited exception, provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of at least 450 hours and 180 days for eligible children.

REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION

SDE is required by law to maintain a statewide public school information system. The bill requires boards of education and state-funded preschool programs to participate in this information system by reporting on at least the following subjects in a manner prescribed by the education commissioner: (1) student experiences in preschools by program type and number of months in each such program and (2) student readiness for and progress in kindergarten. The reporting must be done annually beginning by October 1, 2007.

The bill also requires SDE, by April 1, 2010 and every two years

thereafter, to (1) prepare a report on students' readiness for and progress in kindergarten and (2) submit it to the Education Committee. The report must include information on the following:

1. student readiness and progress in reading, language development, number concepts, and other areas the education commissioner determines;
2. the relationship between such students' readiness and progress and the duration and type of their preschool program; and
3. the students' race, English proficiency, special education requirements, and economic status as determined by free and reduced lunch eligibility.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS NOT EARMARKED FOR EXPENDITURE

By law, a town must submit a plan to SDE by October 1 for spending all the non-competitive grant funds for which it is eligible. Otherwise, under current law, SDE can use 70% of the unallocated funds to provide supplemental grants to other eligible towns and 30% of those funds for school readiness professional development. The bill allows SDE to determine the distribution of funds between these purposes and allows it also to use the funds to conduct activities related to preschool and kindergarten student development evaluations or assessments.

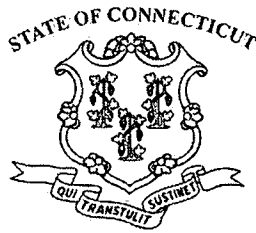
COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/22/2006)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 52 Nay 0 (03/31/2006)



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SECTION

Substitute Bill No. 626



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15 and any funds carried forward from the fiscal year ending June 30,
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45 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a
46 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions
47 are defined in such federal regulations;

48 (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and
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50 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness
51 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

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53 other providers of care for children;

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57 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
58 and 17b-749i;

59 (12) Establish a single point of entry system;

60 (13) Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to
61 maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
62 years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children
63 served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used
64 for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives
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71 school readiness programs, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection
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73 the amount of four per cent of the program's budget. Such grants shall
74 be used in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of said
75 section 17b-749c.

76 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Departments of Education
77 and Social Services shall require full-day and half-day pilot preschool
78 programs that receive funds from the state to comply with the quality
79 and oversight requirements for school readiness programs receiving

80 funds pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16u, inclusive, of the 2006
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83 subsections (d) and (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

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85 programs which receive state and federal funding shall participate, in
86 a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the state-
87 wide public school information system described in subsection (a) of
88 this section. Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include,
89 but not be limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool
90 by program type and by numbers of months in each such program,
91 and (2) the readiness of students for kindergarten and student progress
92 in kindergarten. Such reporting shall be done by October 1, 2007, and
93 annually thereafter.

94 (NEW) (e) Not later than April 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter, the
95 Department of Education shall prepare a report on the readiness of
96 students for kindergarten and their progress in kindergarten. Such
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99 as may be determined by the Commissioner of Education, (2) the
100 relationship between such readiness and progress and the number of
101 months and type of preschool experience of such students, and (3) the
102 characteristics of such students with respect to race, English
103 proficiency, special education and economic status as determined by
104 free and reduced lunch eligibility. The commissioner shall submit
105 such report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to
106 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
107 cognizance of matters relating to education.

108 Sec. 6. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the 2006
109 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
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112 this section does not submit, by October first, a plan which is
 113 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
 114 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to
 115 seventy per cent of any amounts] funds that such town has not
 116 earmarked for expenditure, to provide supplemental grants to other
 117 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
 118 section, [and the remaining thirty per cent of any amounts such town
 119 has not earmarked for expenditure,] for school readiness professional
 120 development, including, but not limited to, scholarship assistance for
 121 school readiness staff to attain early childhood education certification
 122 and staff training to enhance literacy teaching skills, and to conduct
 123 activities related to preschool and kindergarten student developmental
 124 evaluations or assessments.

125 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2006 supplement to the
 126 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 127 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

128 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of
 129 the Department of Education school readiness component of the
 130 program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
 131 thousand six hundred fifty dollars.

132 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
 133 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education school
 134 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
 135 provider shall not exceed six thousand nine hundred twenty-five
 136 dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-
 137 16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this
 138 act, the per child cost of the Department of Education school readiness
 139 component of the program offered by a school readiness provider shall
 140 be reduced by ten per cent for any provider that is not accredited on
 141 or before January 1, 2007.

142 (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care services
 143 and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject to such

[106]

144 per child cost limitation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2006	10-16p(e)(1)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2006	17b-749c(c)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2006	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2006	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2006	10-10a
Sec. 6	July 1, 2006	10-16p(e)(3)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2006	10-16q(b)

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SENATE

SSB
626

Thomas P. Steedman

MAR 28 2006

FAVORABLE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON EDUCATION
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

ON APPROPRIATIONS

REPORT ON BILLS FAVORABLY REPORTED BY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: Education Committee

File No.:

Bill No.: SB-626

PH Date: 3/13/2006

Action/Date: 3/22/06

Reference Change: Appropriations Committee

TITLE OF BILL:

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL POLICY CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS.

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To address the needs for funding and reaccreditation concerns for school readiness programs.

Substitute language added a section on public school information systems. Language was also added concerning the reallocation of unused funds from priority school districts. Another section was added which would cut the funding by 10% for unaccredited school readiness programs if they do not become accredited by 1/1/07.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Commissioner of Education, recognizes the problem when one-time re-allocated funds are used to develop additional early childhood slots in needy towns. She also noted that there are no funds in the Governor's budget for these purposes.

Elaine Zimmerman, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Children, believes this will allow the quality of enhancement dollars to be used for homeless shelters and cited data showing a large decline in grade retention, a decrease in special education and higher skills in numeric and literacy.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Barbara Tacchi, Chairwoman, Connecticut School Readiness Network, believes the increase in funds is critical in the light of the standards and requirements to maintain NAEYC Accreditation. She also feels that it is a considerable effort that will keep school readiness gathering momentum.

Helene Alisberg, Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children, feels this bill warrants support because it will support high quality enhancements of Early Care & Education in school readiness.

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[S 3626, 106]

City of Stamford, believes it is important that the State adopt quality enhancement strategies that ensure that more pre-school teachers complete degrees in early childhood education to meet the rigorous accreditation standards.

Christine Fahey, Coordinator, Middletown School Readiness Council, believes this bill closes the achievement gap and gives Connecticut's neediest children the opportunity to succeed in school.

Dr. Sue Tenorio, Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance, stated that this bill means that there's continuity and consistency of relationships between school and families.

Merrill Gay, Co-Chair, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, believes this bill addresses the losses incurred by creating more slots and stated that this bill impacts every child in the classroom.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No opposition stated.

William Cortese 3/23/06

Reported by

Date

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SECTION

626

[7067]

motion Gidby 2nd Abernethy

~~AF amendment motion Rehus 2nd Helying~~

Consent

2nd yeas

Fritz-absent

