



Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

Public Act No. 24-74

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCES.

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

Section 1. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 17b-749 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker who (1) is (A) working or attending high school, or (B) subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, is enrolled or participating in (i) a public or independent institution of higher education, (ii) a private career school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o, inclusive, (iii) a job training or employment program administered by a regional workforce development board, (iv) an apprenticeship program administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship training, (v) an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education, (vi) an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, or (vii) a local Even Start program or other adult education program approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood; [or] (2) receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the Department of

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

Social Services and is participating in an education, training or other job preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d; or (3) is the parent or legal guardian of a child who is enrolled in Medicaid. Services available under the child care subsidy program shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The Commissioner of Early Childhood may institute a protective service class in which the commissioner may waive eligibility requirements for at-risk populations that meet the guidelines prescribed by the commissioner, and subject to review by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Such at-risk populations are children placed in a foster home by the Department of Children and Families and for whom the parent or legal guardian receives foster care payments, adopted children for one year from the date of adoption and homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time. The Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms, except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

(b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner; (1) [may] May increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

under federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) shall establish a two-tiered income eligibility threshold in accordance with 45 CFR 98.21(b), as amended from time to time. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational requirements for such waiver of income standards.

(c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First" program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency, (G) parents or caretakers participating in an apprenticeship program administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship training, (H) parents or caretakers enrolled in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, (I) parents or caretakers participating in a job training or employment program administered by a regional workforce development board, [and] (J) parents or caretakers enrolled in a public or independent institution of higher education, and (K) parents or legal guardians of children enrolled in Medicaid; (2) health and safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

child care services which account for differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise discretion in prioritizing within and between existing priority groups, including, but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler, and (B) reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-266aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection. (1)

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

For the school year commencing in 1998, and for each school year thereafter, the program shall be in operation in the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport regions. The Hartford program shall operate as a continuation of the program described in section 10-266j. Students who reside in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in another school district in the region and students who reside in such other school districts may attend school in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport, provided, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not minority students to the total number of students leaving Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of students who were not minority students in the prior school year to the total number of students enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven in the prior school year. The regional educational service center operating the program shall make program participation decisions in accordance with the requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school year commencing in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the program shall be in operation in New London, provided beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not minority students to the total number of students leaving New London to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total number of students enrolled in New London in the prior school year. The regional educational service center operating the program shall make program participation decisions in accordance with this subdivision. (3) The Department of Education may provide, within available appropriations, grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, to the remaining regional educational service centers to assist school districts in planning for a voluntary program of student enrollment in every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, which is interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the school year commencing in 2003, and for each school year thereafter, the voluntary enrollment program may be in operation in every priority

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

school district in the state. Students from other school districts in the area of a priority school district, as determined by the regional educational service center pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, may attend school in the priority school district, provided such students bring racial, ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district and do not increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the priority school district. (4) For the school year commencing July 1, [2022] 2024, and each school year thereafter, there shall be a pilot program in operation in Danbury and Norwalk. The pilot program shall serve (A) up to fifty students who reside in Danbury, and such students may attend school in the school districts for the towns of New Fairfield, Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Redding, and (B) up to fifty students who (i) reside in Norwalk, and such students may attend school in the school districts for the towns of Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston and Westport, and (ii) reside in Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston and Westport, and such students may attend school in the school district for the town of Norwalk. School districts which receive students [from Danbury and Norwalk] under this subdivision as part of the pilot program [during the school year commencing July 1, 2022,] shall allow such students to attend school in the district until they graduate from high school. (5) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, the town of Guilford shall be eligible to participate in the program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of section 10-266aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(3) [(A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the department shall provide a grant to the local or regional board of education for each receiving district described in subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this section in an amount of four thousand dollars for each out-of-district

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

student who resides in Danbury or Norwalk and attends school in the receiving district under the pilot program.]

[(B)] (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2024] 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall provide an annual grant to the local or regional board of education for each receiving district described in subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this section for each out-of-district student who [resides in Danbury or Norwalk and] attends school in the receiving district under the pilot program in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

[(C)] (B) Not later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report on the pilot program in operation in Danbury and Norwalk, pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this section, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, the total number of students participating in the pilot program, the number of students from each town participating in the pilot program, the total amount of the grant paid under the pilot program and the amount of the grant paid to each town participating in the pilot program.

Sec. 4. (Effective July 1, 2024) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social Services and the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of sharing, to the extent permissible under federal law, Medicaid enrollment data between the Department of Social Services and the Office of Early Childhood for individuals enrolled in Medicaid and seeking enrollment in the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such Medicaid enrollment data shall be used by the Office of Early Childhood for the limited purpose of assisting such individuals in the application process for the child care subsidy program by minimizing

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

the amount of information that such individuals are required to submit to the Office of Early Childhood during such application process.

Sec. 5. Section 6 of public act 23-167 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu there (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, [2024] 2025, to June 30, [2026] 2027, inclusive, the Department of Education shall administer a wholesome school meals pilot program that awards a grant to an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 23-167, for the purpose of embedding a professional chef in such alliance district to assist school meal programs in building the capacity of food service staff, improving school meal quality, increasing diner satisfaction, streamlining operations and establishing a financially viable school meal program. [The department shall partner with an organization that specializes in the placement of chefs for the purposes described in this subsection.]

(b) [Not later than October 1, 2023, a] A local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district may apply to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, for a grant under this section.

(c) The department shall review each application submitted under subsection (b) of this section and award up to five grants under this section. Each grant recipient shall receive an annual grant of one hundred fifty thousand dollars in each year of the pilot program. Such grant shall be expended for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Not later than January 1, [2027] 2028, the department shall submit a report on the wholesome school meals pilot program to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 6. Section 370 of public act 22-118, as amended by section 42 of public act 23-167, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a working group to study and make recommendations related to indoor air quality within school buildings. Such recommendations shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The optimal humidity and temperature ranges to ensure healthy air and promote student learning;

(2) Threshold school air quality emergency conditions warranting temporary school closures based on the presence of insufficient heat, an excessive combination of indoor temperature and humidity levels, or some other thresholds;

(3) Criteria for rating the priority of heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair and remediation needs, including the public health condition and needs of the students attending a school;

(4) Optimal heating, ventilation and air conditioning system performance benchmarks for minimizing the spread of infectious disease;

(5) Protocols to be used by school districts to receive, investigate and address complaints or evidence of mold, pest infestation, hazardous odors or chemicals and poor indoor air-quality;

(6) The frequency with which local and regional boards of education should be providing for a uniform inspection and evaluation program of the indoor air quality within school buildings, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program, and whether such program should be provided for at

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

all schools or only at those constructed before or after a certain date;

(7) Best practices and guidance for (A) the proper maintenance of heating, ventilation and air conditions systems in school buildings, including the frequency and scope of such maintenance, (B) conducting the uniform inspection and evaluation of such systems pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, including (i) the addition of appropriate professionals who may perform such uniform inspection and evaluation, (ii) which professionals may perform certain portions of such uniform inspection and evaluation, and (iii) the timing and manner of how such uniform inspection and evaluation may be performed, and (C) the procurement of services for such uniform inspection and evaluation;

(8) A system of equitable distribution of funds, based on need, under the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system grant program pursuant to section 10-265r of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(9) Ways to make the reports and results of the uniform inspections and evaluations of the indoor air quality and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems of school buildings, conducted pursuant to section 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as amended by public act 22-118 and this act, accessible and searchable;

(10) A model request for proposals that local and regional boards of education may use when procuring services for the uniform inspection and evaluation of such systems pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

[(10)] (11) Any other criteria affecting school indoor air quality; and

[(11)] (12) Proposals for legislation to carry out any of the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

recommendations of the working group.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of ConnectiCOSH, one of whom is a representative of the [Associated Sheet Metal and Roofing Contractors of Connecticut] Connecticut Chapter of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association, and one of whom is a member of the Senate;

(2) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a specialist in the field of children's health, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council, and one of whom is a member of the House of Representatives;

(3) [~~Two~~] Three appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, [and] one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents and one of whom is a school building official with experience in operations and finance, infrastructure renewal and project management;

(4) [~~Two~~] Three appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association, [and] one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and one of whom is a representative of the Capitol Region Council of Governments;

(5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom is a specialist in the field of medicine on respiratory health and one of whom is a representative of the Council of Small Towns;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House, one of whom is an industrial hygienist from The University of Connecticut Health

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

Center and one of whom is a representative of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut;

(7) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a school nurse and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

(8) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

(9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(11) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

(12) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(13) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee; and

(14) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The member of the Senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall serve as the chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) (1) Not later than ~~[July 1, 2024]~~ January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter until January 1, 2030, the working group shall submit [a] an interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, labor and public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(2) Not later than January 1, 2031, the working group shall submit a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, labor and public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(3) The working group shall terminate on July 1, [2024] 2030, or on the submission of the final report, whichever is later.

Sec. 7. Subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(3) [Prior to January 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter, a] (A) For the period commencing July 1, 2026, and ending and including June 30, 2031, each local or regional board of education shall provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system within each school building under its jurisdiction. During such period, the board shall provide such inspection for at least twenty per cent of the schools under its jurisdiction in each year until each such school has been inspected. Each such school shall be so inspected every five years thereafter. The Department of Administrative Services may, upon request of a local or regional board of education, grant a waiver of the provisions of this subparagraph if the department

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

finds that (i) there is an insufficient number of certified testing, adjusting and balancing technicians, industrial hygienists certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing, or mechanical engineers to perform such inspection and evaluation, or (ii) such board has scheduled such inspection and evaluation for a date in the subsequent year. Such waiver shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year.

(B) Such inspection and evaluation shall be performed by a certified testing, adjusting and balancing technician, an industrial hygienist certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing, or a mechanical engineer. Such heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems inspection and evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to: [(A)] (i) Testing for maximum filter efficiency, [(B)] (ii) physical measurements of outside air delivery rate, [(C)] (iii) verification of the appropriate condition and operation of ventilation components, [(D)] (iv) measurement of air distribution through all system inlets and outlets, [(E)] (v) verification of unit operation and that required maintenance has been performed in accordance with the most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, [(F)] (vi) verification of control sequences, [(G)] (vii) verification of carbon dioxide sensors and acceptable carbon dioxide concentrations indoors, and [(H)] (viii) collection of field data for the installation of mechanical ventilation if none exist. The ventilation systems inspection and evaluation shall identify to what extent each school's current ventilation system components, including any existing central or noncentral mechanical ventilation system, are operating in such a manner as to provide appropriate ventilation to the school building in accordance with most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The inspection and evaluation shall result in a written report, and such report shall include

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

any corrective actions necessary to be performed to the mechanical ventilation system or the heating, ventilation and air conditioning infrastructure, including installation of filters meeting the most optimal level of filtration available for a given heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, installation of carbon dioxide sensors and additional maintenance, repairs, upgrades or replacement. Any such corrective actions shall be performed, where appropriate, by a contractor, who is licensed in accordance with chapter 393. Any local or regional board of education conducting an inspection and evaluations pursuant to this subsection shall [(i)] (I) make available for public inspection the results of such inspection and evaluation at a regularly scheduled meeting of such board and on the Internet web site of such board and on the Internet web site, if any, of each individual school, and [(ii)] (II) submit the report and results of such inspection and evaluation to the Department of Administrative Services using the form developed pursuant to section 10-231h. A local or regional board of education shall not be required to provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision for any school building that will cease to be used as a school building within the three years from when such inspection and evaluation is to be performed. Any local or regional board of education that has provided for an inspection that was performed in a different format, but is deemed equivalent by the department, may use such inspection in lieu of a uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision. [The Department of Administrative Services may, upon request of a local or regional board of education, grant a waiver of the January 1, 2025, deadline for the provision of a uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision if the department finds that (I) there is an insufficient number of certified testing, adjusting and balancing technicians, industrial hygienists certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing or mechanical engineers to perform such inspection and evaluation, or (II) such board has scheduled such inspection and evaluation for a date after January 1, 2025. Such waiver shall be valid for one year.]

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 10-265r of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(3) The commissioner shall not award a grant under the program to any applicant that, on or after July 1, [2024] 2026, has not certified compliance with the uniform inspection and evaluation of an existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning system pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-220, as amended by this act.