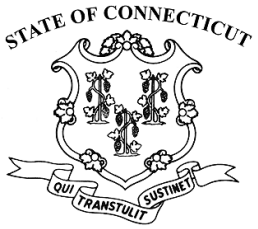

Senate Bill No. 1286

Public Act No. 25-8

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.

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

Section 1. Subsection (k) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(k) For the purposes of this section, "supervisory agent" means the superintendent of schools or the principal, administrator or supervisor designated by such superintendent to provide direct supervision to a provisional certificate holder.

Sec. 2. Subsection (i) of section 10-265r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(i) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the commissioner shall reconsider any application for a grant under this section that was submitted by a local or regional board of education or regional educational service center prior to July 1, 2024, and which the commissioner had denied. Such board or center shall not be required to submit a new application for such reconsideration, unless the reason for

such denial was that such application was incomplete or the commissioner determines that additional information or revision to such application is necessary to be able to award a grant. The commissioner shall provide technical assistance during such reconsideration period to such boards and centers in order to assist such boards and centers in being able to be awarded a grant under this section.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) All applications submitted prior to July first shall be reviewed promptly by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall estimate the amount of the grant for which such project is eligible, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-285a, provided an application for a school building project determined by the Commissioner of Education to be a project that will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, shall have until September first to submit an application for such a project and may have until December first of the same year to secure and report all local and state approvals required to complete the grant application. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall annually prepare a listing of all such eligible school building projects with the amount of the estimated grants for such projects and shall submit the same to the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the General Assembly on or before the fifteenth day of December, except as provided in section 10-283a, with a request for authorization to enter into grant commitments. On or before December thirty-first annually, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may submit comments and recommendations regarding

each eligible project on such listing of eligible school building projects to the school construction committee, established pursuant to section 10-283a. Each such listing shall include a report on the following factors for each eligible project: **[**(i)**]** (A) An enrollment projection and the capacity of the school, including who conducted the enrollment projection for the school and the cost of conducting such enrollment projection, **[**(ii)**]** (B) a substantiation of the estimated total project costs, **[**(iii)**]** (C) the readiness of such eligible project to begin construction, **[**(iv)**]** (D) efforts made by the local or regional board of education to redistrict, reconfigure, merge or close schools under the jurisdiction of such board prior to submitting an application under this section, **[**(v)**]** (E) enrollment and capacity information for all of the schools under the jurisdiction of such board for the five years prior to application for a school building project grant, **[**(vi)**]** (F) enrollment projections and capacity information for all of the schools under the jurisdiction of such board for the eight years following the date such application is submitted, including who conducted the enrollment projection for the school and the cost of conducting such enrollment projection, **[**(vii)**]** (G) the state's education priorities relating to reducing racial and economic isolation for the school district, and **[**(viii)**]** (H) an estimation of the total ineligible costs and an itemization of such ineligible costs for such project. On and after July 1, 2022, each such listing shall include an addendum that contains all grants approved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during the prior fiscal year. For the period beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2012, no project may appear on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than twice. On and after July 1, 2012, no project, other than a project for a technical education and career school, may appear on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than once, except the Commissioner of Administrative Services may allow a project to appear on such separate schedule of authorized projects a second time if the town or regional school district for such project can demonstrate that exigent circumstances require such project to appear a second time on

such separate schedule of authorized projects. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, no projects which have changed in scope or cost to the degree determined by the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall be eligible for reimbursement under this chapter unless it appears on such list. The percentage determined pursuant to section 10-285a at the time a school building project on such schedule was originally authorized shall be used for purposes of the grant for such project. On and after July 1, 2006, a project that was not previously authorized as an interdistrict magnet school shall not receive a higher percentage for reimbursement than that determined pursuant to section 10-285a at the time a school building project on such schedule was originally authorized. The General Assembly shall annually authorize the Commissioner of Administrative Services to enter into grant commitments on behalf of the state in accordance with the commissioner's categorized listing for such projects as the General Assembly shall determine. The Commissioner of Administrative Services may not enter into any such grant commitments except pursuant to such legislative authorization. Any regional school district which assumes the responsibility for completion of a public school building project shall be eligible for a grant pursuant to subdivision (5) or (6), as the case may be, of subsection (a) of section 10-286 when such project is completed and accepted by such regional school district.

Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) Notwithstanding the application date requirements of this section, at any time within the limit of available grant authorization and within the limit of appropriated funds, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, may approve applications for grants and make payments for

such grants, for any of the following reasons: **[**(A)**]** (1) To assist school building projects to remedy damage from fire and catastrophe, **[**(B)**]** (2) to correct safety, health and other code violations, **[**(C)**]** (3) to replace roofs, including the replacement or installation of skylights as part of the roof replacement project, **[**(D)**]** (4) to remedy a certified school indoor air quality emergency, **[**(E)**]** (5) to install insulation for exterior walls and attics, or **[**(F)**]** (6) to purchase and install a limited use and limited access elevator, windows, photovoltaic panels, wind generation systems, building management systems or portable classroom buildings, provided portable classroom building projects shall not create a new facility or cause an existing facility to be modified so that the portable buildings comprise a substantial percentage of the total facility area, as determined by the commissioner.

Sec. 5. Subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 10-550g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) On and after July 1, 2030, sixty per cent of the designated qualified staff members at each Office of Early Childhood funded child care program shall be designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's degree level. If the Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is a family child care home, the designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall have achieved or be working toward an early childhood associate degree or bachelor's degree.

Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 17a-101e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and 17a-103 shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not

more than one year, or both.

Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(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; (2) receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the Department of 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 (A) 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, (B) adopted through the Department of Children and Families, (C) **[**who are**]** homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, and (D) under the care of a caregiver who is a recipient of subsidies under the subsidized guardianship program pursuant to section 17a-126. Any child described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall be eligible for a subsidy under this section for a period not to exceed one year from the date of adoption and any child described in subparagraph (D) of this subdivision shall be eligible for a subsidy under this section for a period not to exceed one year from the date that such child is approved for a subsidy under this section. 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.

Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 22a-226e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) On and after January 1, 2022, each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles

from either an authorized source-separated organic material composting facility or an authorized transfer station, or any collection location authorized to receive source-separated organic materials, and that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.

Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 19a-430 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later than September 15, 2024. The members of the council shall elect the **[**chairpersons**]** chairperson of the council from among the members of the council at the first meeting of the council.

Governor's Action:
Approved May 29, 2025