

# Education Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-930

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM FOR AN

**Title:** EARLY CHILDHOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR MODEL.

**Vote Date:** 3/15/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/6/2019

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill allows OEC Commissioner, for FYS 20-24, to issue family child care licenses to persons, group who wishes to offer child care services. This pilot program would allow family child care homes to exist outside of a home in a shared space to partner with an association, organization, corporation, institution or agency, public or private. Pilot program would increase child care slots in New Britain, New Haven, Bridgeport and Stamford.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE LCO NO. 6155:

The substitute language removed provision which allowed the OEC Commissioner to also issue group child care home licenses to them, requires the OEC Commissioner to approve the facility space, being used; limits approval to only one facility in each of the four eligible cities; requires application for this license to include written verification of compliance with the fire safety code, state building code, local zoning and building requirements, and local health ordinances and gives the OEC commissioner authority to create more licensure conditions, waive certain requirements, and suspend/revoke such licenses.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood:** Supported the concept with several suggested language revisions. The Commissioner seeks to limit the pilot program to one facility per the specified cities, an end date of June 30, 2024 for the pilot program and

approvals by local officials that the facilities pass inspection for health and safety of the children.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Maegan Adams**: In support of pilot program to increase more available slots in high need areas for infants and toddlers in a safe, nurturing and regulated environment.

**Kenneth G. House, Jr., ROSS Program Coordinator, New Britain Housing Authority**: Strongly supports the pilot program as it will help his clients that struggle with finding affordable and trustworthy childcare in order to give them the security they need to work, pay rent and contribute to the local economy.

**Merrill Gay, Executive Director, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance**: In strong support of small scale pilot program to study feasibility of family child care in a business incubator model. Currently, child care licenses can only be issued as a Child Care Center or as a family Child Care Home.

**Candace Kilduff**: Supports the bill as it will provide more quality and affordable childcare in New Britain.

**David Kulick, Co-President of Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEYC)**: Supports “a time limited pilot, allowing home day care providers to be licensed while being housed out of a business incubator shared space.”

**Robin Lamott Sparks, Executive Director of the Coalition for New Britain’s Youth**: In support of the pilot program to address an innovative approach to childcare that current regulations do not permit.

**Tracey Madden-Hennessey, Associate Director, YWCA New Britain**: In support of this innovative concept that does not exist anywhere in the country. The pilot program will test the “concept’s viability”.

**Dorca Morales**: Supports the pilot program because she would like to start her own childcare business. Ms. Morales is a renter and cannot open a business at her residence. This program would allow women to better support themselves and help women with children enter the workforce.

**Natalia Sashchenko**: Supports the bill because daycare for babies and very young children is difficult to find and it’s expensive in New Britain. It will help people in her community who want to start their own business.

**Natalie Vieira, Policy Associate, All Our Kin**: Strongly supports the bill to provide much needed service to reduce barriers to child care in CT. “The idea is that these family child care providers would be able to start their businesses and build capital in an incubator space, allowing them to save enough money to transition to a housing arrangement that will support their family child care program.”

**Stacey Zimmerman, SEIU:** In support of the bill and the efforts to increase access and quality in early education and child care.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**KinderCare Education:** Opposes the bill as written, details are not provided regarding which set of regulations would apply and ratios and size permitted.

**Reported by: Kathy K. Shea**

**Date: [Type Date]**