



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 4355

SB0002604355SR0

Offered by:
SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 26

File No. 662

Cal. No. 302

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION."

1 Strike subsection (b) of section 501 in its entirety and insert the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "(b) On and after July 1, 2014, local and regional boards of
4 education, individually or cooperatively, pursuant to section 10-158a
5 of the general statutes, may apply, at such time and in such manner as
6 the commissioner prescribes, to the office for a capital grant and an
7 operating grant for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this
8 section. To be eligible to receive such grants under this section, an
9 applicant board of education shall (1) demonstrate that it has a need
10 for establishing or expanding a preschool program using information
11 requested by the commissioner on a form prescribed by the
12 commissioner, such as data collected from the preschool experience
13 survey, described in section 502 of this act, (2) submit a plan for the
14 expenditure of grant funds received under this section that outlines

15 how such board of education will use such funds to establish or
16 expand a preschool program, including the amount that such board
17 will contribute to the operation of such preschool program, and (3)
18 submit a letter of support for establishing or expanding a preschool
19 program by the local or regional school readiness council, described in
20 section 10-16r of the general statutes, if any, for the school district. The
21 commissioner shall give priority to boards of education (A) that
22 demonstrate the greatest need for the establishment or expansion of a
23 preschool program, (B) whose plan allocates at least sixty per cent of
24 the spaces in such preschool program to children who are members of
25 families that are at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median
26 income, or fifty per cent of the spaces in such preschool program to
27 children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches, and (C)
28 that are located in the Sheff region, as defined in subdivision (2) of
29 subsection (k) of section 10-264l of the general statutes. The
30 commissioner, in reviewing applications submitted under this
31 subsection, shall also take into consideration (i) whether an applicant
32 board of education (I) currently offers a full-day kindergarten
33 program, (II) will be cooperating and coordinating with other
34 governmental and community programs to provide services during
35 periods when the preschool program is not in session, or (III) will
36 collaborate with other boards of education, as part of a cooperative
37 arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of the general statutes, to
38 offer a regional preschool program, and (ii) current community
39 capacity for preschool programs and current opportunities for
40 preschool for children in the community."