

**S.56: An act relating to child care and early childhood education**

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Counsel

**\*\*\* AGENCY OF EDUCATION STRUCTURE AND PREKINDERGARTEN \*\*\***

Secs. 1-11:

- Establishes a second Deputy Secretary position w/in AOE
- Replaces universal prekindergarten program with public prekindergarten education program beginning in FY25 for children 4 year of age
- Conforming changes throughout V.S.A.
- Requires AOE and DCF, in consultation with BBF, to amend rules to reflect programmatic prekindergarten changes

**\*\*\* PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION; PROPERTY USED BY A CHILD CARE PROVIDER \*\*\***

Secs. 12-14:

- Establishes a property tax exemption for property used to provide child care services

**\*\*\* DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RESTRUCTURE AND CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT \*\*\***

Secs. 15-68:

- Divides the DCF into two separate departments, DCF and the Department of Economic Empowerment (DEE) as provided below:

<b>Department for Children and Families</b>	<b>Department of Economic Empowerment</b>
Child Development Division (Child Care Licensing, Child Care Financial Assistance Program)	Economic Services Division (Reach Up, General Assistance)
Children with Special Health Needs	Disability Determination Services
Family Services Division (Foster Care, CHINS)	Office of Economic Opportunity
Maternal and Child Health (currently in VDH)	Office of Child Support

- Reorganizes DCF and establishes DEE
- Makes conforming changes throughout the V.S.A. to align each statutory responsibility to the appropriate department
- Requires transfer of rulemaking authority between DCF, DEE, and VDH

\* \* \* CHILD CARE AND CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES \* \* \*

Secs. 69-80:

- Expands CCFAP eligibility in FY24 and FY25
- Creates a tiered professional compensation standard for child care workforce in FY25
- Adopts a total cost of care model within CCFAP in FY25
- Prohibits child care waitlist and application fees for children eligible for CCFAP
- Establishes a noncitizen child care assistance program
- Provides child care workforce retention grants

\* \* \* EFFECTIVE DATES \* \* \*

Sec. 81:

- Outlines multiple effective dates