



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court
Cranston, RI 02920-3049
[voice] (401) 462-0110 [tty] via RI Relay 711 [fax] 462-0106
[e-mail] elisabeth.hubbard@gcd.ri.gov [website]
www.disabilities.ri.gov

Legislative Impact Statement

To: Senator Dipalma, Chair
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 26 SENATE 2834 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MATERNAL
AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE
NEEDS -- EARLY INTERVENTION EXTENSION--BRIDGE TO PRESCHOOL

May 5, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

Legislation Committee finds this bill Beneficial

This bill would allow the extension of Early Intervention Services to children who turn 3 between May 1 and August 31.

Children receive Early Intervention (EI) Services due a disability or delay so that they can improve their skills, independence and be ready for pre-school. The Federal Law requires that EI Services be provided to eligible children from birth until age 3. The services are provided because this is a crucial developmental stage and supports at this age has a great impact on a child's development.

At age 3, children would be provided special education services if preschool is available in their district. However, children cannot start pre-school over the summer. Children who turn 3 between May 1, and August 31 age out of EI before they are eligible to start pre-school. They stop receiving services and wait potentially months until they could start preschool.

Without the continuation of services, these children may regress in the developmental progress that they have made. They will also be less prepared than their peers to start preschool. A continuity of services will prevent regression and allow the children to build on the progress they have already made.