



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 533

February Session, 2000

Substitute House Bill No. 5319

House of Representatives, April 11, 2000

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning Education Aid.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (19) of section 10-262f of the general statutes
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (19) "Regional bonus" means, for any town which is a member of a
4 regional school district and has students who attend such regional
5 school district, an amount equal to [twenty-five] one hundred dollars
6 for each such student enrolled in the regional school district on
7 October first or the full school day immediately preceding such date
8 for the school year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be
9 paid multiplied by the ratio of the number of grades, kindergarten to
10 grade twelve, inclusive, in the regional school district to thirteen.

11 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-262j of the general statutes is
12 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

13 (b) For the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the amount of
14 the aid increase paid to a town shall be (1) for the fiscal year ending
15 June 30, 1990, the amount of aid to be paid to the town for the fiscal
16 year ending June 30, 1990, pursuant to section 10-262i, less the base aid
17 for the town, (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, the amount of
18 aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, pursuant
19 to said section, less the amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal
20 year ending June 30, 1990, pursuant to said section, (3) for the fiscal
21 year ending June 30, 1992, the amount of aid paid to the town for the
22 fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, pursuant to said section, less the
23 amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991,
24 pursuant to said section, (4) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, the
25 amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993,
26 less the amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June
27 30, 1992, pursuant to said section, (5) for the fiscal years ending June
28 30, 1994, and June 30, 1995, the amount of aid paid to the town for the
29 fiscal year pursuant to said section, less the amount of aid paid to the
30 town for the prior fiscal year pursuant to said section, (6) for the fiscal
31 year ending June 30, 1996, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal
32 year ending June 30, 1996, pursuant to said section less base revenue
33 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, (7) for the fiscal year ending
34 June 30, 1997, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year ending
35 June 30, 1997, less the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year
36 ending June 30, 1996, pursuant to said section, (8) for the fiscal year
37 ending June 30, 1998, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year
38 ending June 30, 1998, less the amount paid to the town for the fiscal
39 year ending June 30, 1997, pursuant to said section, [and] (9) for the
40 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, the amount paid to the town for the
41 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, less the amount paid to the town for
42 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, pursuant to said section, and (10)
43 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter,
44 the amount paid to the town for said fiscal year, less the amount paid
45 to the town for the year prior to said fiscal year, provided any amounts

46 paid pursuant to section 7 of public act 99-217, as amended by this act,
47 shall be included in the determination of the aid increase paid to the
48 town.

49 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as
50 amended by section 1 of public act 99-5 and section 1 of public act 99-
51 289, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

52 (f) The Department of Education shall provide grants to regional
53 educational service centers or local or regional boards of education for
54 the reasonable cost of transportation for students participating in the
55 program. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year
56 thereafter, the department shall provide such grants within available
57 appropriations, provided the state-wide average of such grants does
58 not exceed an amount equal to two thousand one hundred dollars for
59 each student transported. The regional education service centers shall
60 provide reasonable transportation services to high school students
61 who wish to participate in supervised extracurricular activities.

62 Sec. 4. Section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as amended by
63 section 1 of public act 99-5 and section 1 of public act 99-289, is
64 amended by adding subsection (l) as follows:

65 (NEW) (l) For purposes of the state-wide mastery examinations
66 under section 10-14n, students participating in the program
67 established pursuant to this section shall be considered residents of the
68 school district in which they attend school.

69 Sec. 5. Section 10-266cc of the general statutes, as amended by
70 section 10 of public act 99-289, is repealed and the following is
71 substituted in lieu thereof:

72 [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, the Department of
73 Education shall award a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred
74 thousand dollars to the Hartford school district to assist in the

75 development of a curriculum and the training of staff for a lighthouse
76 school.] For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1999, June 30, 2000, and
77 June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of
78 Education shall award, within available appropriations, competitive
79 grants to the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport school districts to
80 assist in the development of curricula and the training of staff for
81 lighthouse schools. Grants for such purpose shall not exceed one
82 hundred thousand dollars for any individual school in any year and
83 may be renewed for two additional years in such lesser amounts as the
84 department determines are reasonable for purposes of implementing
85 the lighthouse school program at a school. For purposes of this section
86 and section 10-285a, a "lighthouse school" is an existing public school
87 or a public school planned prior to July 1, 1997, in a priority school
88 district that (1) has a specialized curriculum, and (2) is designed to
89 promote intradistrict and interdistrict public school choice.

90 Sec. 6. Section 7 of public act 99-217 is repealed and the following is
91 substituted in lieu thereof:

92 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-262h of the general
93 statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 99-217, for the fiscal [years]
94 year ending June 30, 2000, [and June 30, 2001,] the education
95 equalization aid grant to the city of Hartford shall be increased by six
96 million dollars over the amount that the town would otherwise receive
97 pursuant to said section 10-262h.

98 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-262h of the general
99 statutes, as amended, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the
100 education equalization aid grant to the city of Hartford shall be
101 increased by three hundred thousand dollars over the amount that the
102 town would otherwise receive pursuant to said section 10-262h.

103 Sec. 7. (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, each school
104 district eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-266p
105 of the general statutes, as amended, shall receive a grant that is 25.27

106 per cent greater than the grant the school district would otherwise
107 receive pursuant to said subsection (a).

108 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, each school district
109 eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-266p of the
110 general statutes, as amended, shall receive a grant that is 25.27 per cent
111 greater than the grant the school district would otherwise receive
112 pursuant to said subsection (b).

113 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, each school district
114 eligible for a grant pursuant to section 10-263c of the general statutes,
115 as amended, shall receive a grant that is 25.27 per cent greater than the
116 grant the school district would otherwise be eligible to receive
117 pursuant to said section.

118 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

ED	Committee Vote:	Yea	30	Nay	0	JFS	C/R	APP
APP	Committee Vote	Yea	41	Nay	6	JFS		

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Education

Municipal Impact: Revenue Gain, Revenue Loss

Explanation

State and Municipal Impact:

This bill increases the regional bonus in the ECS formula from \$25 to \$100 for each weighted enrolled student. This results in a state cost (municipal revenue gain) of approximately \$70,000, which is contained in the amount appropriated for ECS in both versions of the budget in FY 01. This cost will rise to \$1.7 million in FY 04 when the cap on ECS increases is eliminated.

The bill increases the maximum per pupil allowance for transporting school choice students from \$2,000 to \$2,100, which results in a state cost of between \$125,000 and \$200,000, which is contained in the appropriation for such program in both versions of the budget.

Finally, the bill reduces from \$6.0 million to \$300,000 the additional funds provided to Hartford for ECS over and above their formula levels and distributes the difference of \$5.7 million proportionally amongst the priority school districts (including Hartford) and

transitional school districts. Neither version of the budgets is adjusted for this change.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5319

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION AID.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes several changes in education funding for local and regional school districts. It:

1. reduces, from \$6 million to \$300,000, a supplemental education grant appropriated to Hartford for FY 2000-01;
2. increases grants for priority and transitional school districts and phase-out grants for two former priority districts by 25.27% for FY 2000-01;
3. increases the K-12 regional school district bonus under the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant from \$25 to \$100 per pupil;
4. starting with FY 1999-00, requires towns to spend all of any increase in ECS aid they receive on education;
5. requires priority and transitional districts receiving additional grants under the bill to spend those grants on education;
6. increases the maximum state transportation grant for students participating in the interdistrict public school choice program by \$100 per student, from a statewide average of \$2,000 per student to a statewide average of \$2,100;
7. requires choice students to be counted for purposes of the state mastery exams as residents of the districts where they attend school (resident students who score below the remedial level on state mastery exams are weighted an extra 25% in a district's ECS student count);
8. makes permanent the competitive grant program for lighthouse

school development in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport; and

9. imposes limits on lighthouse grants available to individual schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000

PHASE-OUT GRANT INCREASE

Under PA 99-224, two former priority school districts, Bristol and Middletown, are having their priority district grants phased down to transitional district grants over three years. In FY 2000-01, they will receive their 1998-99 priority district grant minus 50% of the difference between that grant and the transitional grant. This bill increases that phase out grant by 25.27% and increases the regular FY 2000-01 priority and transitional district grants by the same percentage.

REGIONAL BONUS

Towns that are members of regional school districts receive a regional aid bonus under the ECS formula of \$25 for each student enrolled in a K-12 regional district or a proportionate share of that amount for regions with fewer grades. This bill increases the regional bonus for K-12 regions to \$100 per student and increases the bonuses for regions with fewer grades by a proportional amount.

LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS

A lighthouse school is an existing public school or one planned before July 1, 1997 that has (1) a specialized program and (2) is designed to promote intra and interdistrict public school choice.

The competitive grant program for lighthouse school development in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2001. This bill makes it permanent.

The bill limits the grant for any one school to \$100,000 in any year. But it allows the State Department of Education (SDE) to give a lower grant to a school for up to two additional years. SDE must set the lower grant amounts according to what is reasonably needed to implement a lighthouse school program at a school.

BACKGROUND

Priority Districts

The priority districts are the 14 most economically and educationally needy districts in the state based on various statutory criteria. Currently, the districts are Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Danbury, East Hartford, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Stamford, Waterbury, West Haven, and Windham.

Transitional Districts

The 12 transitional districts are Ansonia, Bristol, Derby, Groton, Hamden, Killingly, Manchester, Middletown, Norwich, Putnam, Stratford, and West Hartford.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 30 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 41 Nay 6