



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Amendment

LCO No. 3643

Offered by:

REP. BOUGHTON, 138th Dist.

REP. HEAGNEY, 16th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5319

File No. 533

Cal. No. 409

"An Act Concerning Education Aid."

1 After line 117, insert the following and renumber the remaining
2 section accordingly:

3 "Sec. 8. (a) There is established the Educational Funding 2000
4 Research Panel. The panel shall consist of one member appointed by
5 the Governor, who shall be a financial analyst and shall be the
6 chairperson of the panel; one member appointed by the speaker of the
7 House of Representatives, who shall be an attorney experienced in
8 constitutional law; one member appointed by the majority leader of
9 the House of Representatives, who shall be a professional educator;
10 one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives, who shall be a professional educator with experience
12 in education finance; one member appointed by the president pro
13 tempore of the Senate, who shall be an attorney with experience in
14 education law; one member appointed by the majority leader of the
15 Senate, who shall be an economist; one member appointed by the
16 minority leader of the Senate, who shall be an economist; and all the

17 members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
18 having cognizance of matters relating to education.

19 (b) The panel shall evaluate constitutional requirements with
20 respect to education funding, the component parts of the current
21 education equalization aid grant formula pursuant to section 10-262h
22 of the general statutes, as amended, and programmatic grants to
23 determine if they accurately gage the educational funding needs of
24 students, the distinct educational needs of students and the ability of
25 municipalities to provide for those needs. The panel shall also examine
26 (1) basic student needs and the extent to which such needs are
27 reflected in the foundation level and the minimum expenditure
28 requirement; (2) additional student needs related to poverty, language,
29 learning disability, and achievement; (3) economic disparities between
30 municipalities and indices that accurately reflect such disparities; (4)
31 the availability of collateral funding sources; and (5) any other factors
32 that the task force deems to be appropriate.

33 (c) The panel shall make findings of fact and develop
34 recommendations regarding a formula or formulas for education
35 equalization aid grants that fairly and equitably distribute funding to
36 municipalities. Such report shall identify means and methods of
37 providing a funding level for all students and additional funding
38 based upon student need and municipal wealth. The panel shall also
39 recommend methods and timing of grant distribution that would
40 ensure that all education equalization aid grants are used for the
41 intended educational purposes. In developing such recommendations
42 the panel shall conduct fact-finding, hold public hearings and regional
43 forums, and accept public comments.

44 (d) The panel shall report its findings and recommendations, in
45 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor
46 and the General Assembly by January 1, 2001, with recommendations
47 for full implementation of the formula for the fiscal year ending June
48 30, 2002."