



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5537

LCO No. 3089

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-223c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the] The Commissioner
4 of Education shall provide grants, within available appropriations, to
5 local and regional boards of education that have one or more schools
6 in need of improvement on the most recent list prepared pursuant to
7 section 10-223b. Eligible boards of education shall use grant funds for
8 costs related to the implementation of improvement plans for such
9 schools, partnership programs between such schools and public
10 libraries in the school district and actions necessary for such schools to
11 become accredited by the New England Association of Schools and
12 Colleges. An eligible board of education shall submit a plan for the
13 expenditure of grant funds, in accordance with subsection (b) of this
14 section, to the Department of Education, at such time and in such
15 manner as the commissioner prescribes.

16 (b) The plan for the expenditure of grant funds shall be approved by
17 the department, after consultation with the State Librarian for
18 purposes of the partnership programs, and shall include: (1) Methods
19 and school-based programs identified pursuant to section 10-223d that
20 address the specific subject areas, by grade level, in which students
21 attending the school were most deficient on the state-wide mastery
22 examinations pursuant to section 10-14n, [and] (2) actions that are
23 necessary for the school to be accredited, and (3) partnership programs
24 with public libraries in the school district that are designed to improve
25 family literacy and parent involvement. The plan may include a
26 quality after school program.

27 (c) A quality after school program shall include: (1) Criteria for
28 student participation in the program; (2) leisure activities that facilitate
29 social and cognitive development; (3) safe indoor and outdoor
30 environments; (4) trained staff skilled in child development; (5) specific
31 strategies and interventions for children with demonstrated academic
32 weaknesses to improve academic performance and reduce social
33 promotion; (6) family involvement and an assessment of
34 transportation needs for families to utilize the program; and (7)
35 program evaluation.

36 (d) Each board of education receiving a grant pursuant to this
37 section shall set aside an amount equal to at least ten per cent of the
38 grant for partnership programs with public libraries in the school
39 district.

40 (e) The Department of Education may retain up to one per cent of
41 the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination,
42 program evaluation and administration.

43 (f) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to
44 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of
45 education for such schools.

46 (g) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of

47 Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall
48 refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for
49 which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in
50 accordance with the approved grant application.

51 (h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Hartford school
52 district shall not receive grants pursuant to this section but shall use a
53 portion of the supplemental aid provided in section 35 of special act
54 00-13 to implement improvement plans and partnership programs in
55 accordance with this section.

56 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To extend the grant program for schools on the list of schools in need of improvement and to require boards of education to plan the actions necessary for such schools to obtain accreditation.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. STAPLES, 96th
REP. MARTINEZ, 95th
REP. DYSON, 94th
REP. SCIPIO, 93rd
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REP. MEGNA, 97th