



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6633

LCO No. 2943

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
AND CHARTER SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 10-66ee of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 [(e) The local or regional board of education of the school district in
4 which the charter school is located shall provide transportation
5 services for students of the charter school who reside in such school
6 district pursuant to section 10-273a unless the charter school makes
7 other arrangements for such transportation. Any local or regional
8 board of education may provide transportation services to a student
9 attending a charter school outside of the district in which the student
10 resides and, if it elects to provide such transportation, shall be
11 reimbursed pursuant to section 10-266m for the reasonable costs of
12 such transportation.]

13 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall provide
14 transportation services for students of a state charter school who reside
15 in its school district. Each local and regional board of education shall

16 be eligible to receive a grant for the full cost of such transportation. The
17 Department of Education shall provide such grants within available
18 appropriations. Grants under this subsection shall be contingent on
19 documented costs of providing such transportation. Local and regional
20 boards of education shall submit applications for such grants to the
21 Commissioner of Education in such form and at such times as the
22 commissioner prescribes. Grants under this subsection shall be paid as
23 follows: In October one-half of the estimated transportation cost and
24 the balance in May. Each local and regional board of education shall
25 prepare a financial statement of expenditures which shall be submitted
26 to the Department of Education on or before September first of the
27 fiscal year immediately following each fiscal year in which the board
28 of education provides transportation services pursuant to this
29 subsection. Based on such statement, any underpayment or
30 overpayment may be calculated and adjusted by the department in the
31 grant for any subsequent year. Any local or regional board of
32 education providing transportation services under this subsection may
33 suspend such services in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
34 233c. The parent or guardian of any student denied the transportation
35 services required to be provided pursuant to this subsection may
36 appeal such denial in the manner provided in sections 10-186 and 10-
37 187.

38 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-266m of the general statutes is
39 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

40 (a) A local or regional board of education providing transportation
41 in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-54, [10-66ee,] 10-97,
42 10-158a, 10-273a, 10-277 and 10-281 shall be reimbursed for a
43 percentage of such transportation costs as follows:

44 (1) The percentage of pupil transportation costs reimbursed to a
45 local board of education shall be determined by (A) ranking each town
46 in the state in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine
47 according to such town's adjusted equalized net grand list per capita,

48 as defined in section 10-261; (B) based upon such ranking, and
49 notwithstanding the provisions of section 2-32a, (i) except as otherwise
50 provided in this subparagraph, a percentage of zero shall be assigned
51 to towns ranked from one to thirteen and a percentage of not less than
52 zero nor more than sixty shall be determined for the towns ranked
53 from fourteen to one hundred sixty-nine on a continuous scale, except
54 that any such percentage shall be increased by twenty percentage
55 points in accordance with section 10-97, where applicable and (ii) for
56 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and for each fiscal year thereafter,
57 a percentage of zero shall be assigned to towns ranked from one to
58 seventeen and a percentage of not less than zero nor more than sixty
59 shall be determined for the towns ranked from eighteen to one
60 hundred sixty-nine on a continuous scale.

61 (2) The percentage of pupil transportation costs reimbursed to a
62 regional board of education shall be determined by its ranking. Such
63 ranking shall be determined by (A) multiplying the total population, as
64 defined in section 10-261, of each town in the district by such town's
65 ranking, as determined in subdivision (1) of this section, (B) adding
66 together the figures determined under subparagraph (A) of this
67 subdivision, and (C) dividing the total computed under subparagraph
68 (B) of this subdivision by the total population of all towns in the
69 district. The ranking of each regional board of education shall be
70 rounded to the next higher whole number and each such board shall
71 receive the same reimbursement percentage as would a town with the
72 same rank, provided such percentage shall be increased in the case of a
73 secondary regional school district by an additional five percentage
74 points and, in the case of any other regional school district by an
75 additional ten percentage points.

76 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of
77 this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and for each fiscal
78 year thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall receive a
79 grant of less than one thousand dollars.

80 Sec 3. (NEW) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each
81 fiscal year thereafter, the governing council of a state charter school, as
82 defined in subdivision (3) of section 10-66aa of the general statutes,
83 may be eligible for a grant for a percentage of the reasonable costs of a
84 school building project for such state charter school. Grants pursuant
85 to this section shall be subject to the requirements established in
86 chapter 173 of the general statutes. The percentage of school building
87 project grant money a state charter school may be eligible to receive
88 shall be the same as the percentage determined pursuant to section
89 10-285a of the general statutes, for the town in which the state charter
90 school is located. The commissioner shall only approve applications
91 for grants under this section that the commissioner finds will reduce
92 racial, ethnic and economic isolation.

93 (b) If the school building ceases to be used for the purposes for
94 which the grant was provided within twenty years of the date of
95 approval by the General Assembly of the project, the Commissioner of
96 Education shall determine whether (1) title to the building and any
97 legal interest in appurtenant land shall revert to the state, or (2) the
98 governing council of the state charter school shall reimburse the state
99 for the amount of the grant.

100 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To require local and regional boards of education to provide transportation to students who reside in their school districts and attend a state charter school. To provide state grants, within available appropriations, for the full cost of such transportation. To allow state charter schools to receive school construction grants.

[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.]