



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6664

LCO No. 3033

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Connecticut Services for the Blind, in
2 collaboration with the Department of Education, shall support local
3 school districts in meeting the educational needs of children with
4 vision-related disabilities by providing, within available
5 appropriations, advice, assistance and resources, including the
6 specialized educational services and materials children require because
7 of their blindness or visual impairment.

8 Sec. 2. (a) There is established a Connecticut Services for the Blind
9 Advisory Board which shall consist of eight members. The
10 Commissioner of Social Services and an employee of the Department
11 of Education knowledgeable in the area of special education appointed
12 by the Commissioner of Education shall be members, ex officio. The
13 other six members, two of whom shall be blind persons, shall be
14 appointed by the Governor, and each shall be a resident of this state.

15 The Governor may, for reasonable cause, remove any appointive
16 member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the
17 unexpired portion of the term. Said board shall meet annually in the
18 month of September and may meet at any other time upon the call of
19 the executive director of the Connecticut Services for the Blind; and
20 said director shall call a meeting at the request of two members. Any
21 appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or
22 fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be
23 deemed to have resigned. A majority of the members in office shall
24 constitute a quorum.

25 (b) The advisory board shall advise and make recommendations to
26 the Connecticut Services for the Blind established under section 10-293
27 of the general statutes.

28 Sec. 3. Section 5-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

30 (a) Vending stand operators, operating stands under permits held
31 by the [State Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
32 Blind pursuant to section 10-303, shall be members of the state
33 employees retirement system, part A, exclusive of the Social Security
34 option and benefits in the state employees' retirement system
35 dependent thereon. Each such person shall annually, on or before June
36 thirtieth, pay five per cent of his adjusted gross income, arising out of
37 the operation of such stand, as determined under the Internal Revenue
38 Code, during the calendar year preceding to the [Board of Education
39 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind which shall, as the state
40 administering agency for such persons, certify such payment and pay
41 it over to the State Retirement Commission, provided membership of
42 such persons in said system shall be exclusive of disability retirement
43 upon the grounds of defects of vision.

44 (b) Any member of the state employees retirement system who
45 operated vending stands under permits held by the State Board of
46 Education and Services for the Blind pursuant to section 10-303, prior

47 to October 1, 1971, may obtain credit for such period or periods of
48 service for retirement purposes; provided he has been in the active
49 full-time employment of the state continuously for twelve months next
50 preceding his written request to the Retirement Commission for such
51 credit, and by making retirement contributions of five per cent of his
52 adjusted gross income arising out of the operation of such stands for
53 each of such years with interest thereon at the rate of five per cent per
54 year from the time of such operation to the date of payment, all as
55 certified by the State Board of Education and Services for the Blind.
56 Such payments may be made in twelve equal monthly installments but
57 such service credit shall not be granted unless payment of installments
58 is completed.

59 Sec. 4. Section 5-177 of the general statutes is repealed and the
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

61 Any person in the unclassified service employed full time by the
62 Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut, the State Board of
63 Education, the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
64 Blind, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the American
65 School for the Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, the
66 Newington Children's Hospital, the Board of Trustees of the
67 Connecticut State University System or the Board of Trustees of the
68 Community-Technical Colleges, as a teacher or administrator in a
69 position directly involved in educational activities in any state-
70 operated institution or the Board of Governors of Higher Education,
71 who served prior to his employment by the state in a full-time
72 teaching, administrative or research position in an educational
73 institution in or under the authority of a state department of education
74 or a department of education for the blind in the United States
75 approved by the Retirement Commission, or who was employed by
76 such institution but served all or part of such service time in a foreign
77 country, for which service he has received or will receive no retirement
78 benefit or pension, may gain credit for such prior service, not to exceed
79 ten years in the aggregate, by making retirement contributions for each

80 year of such prior service equal to six per cent of his annual rate of
81 compensation when he first became a full-time employee of this state;
82 provided such payment shall be made within one year of his first full-
83 time employment with the state, or before July 1, 1968, whichever is
84 later, but for the Board of Higher Education and Technical Colleges,
85 July 1, 1974. When a person who has gained credit for such prior
86 service retires, not more than one year of such service may be counted
87 for each two years of state service; provided, if such person has
88 purchased more of such service than can be counted, refund on the
89 amount paid on the extra years of service shall be made.

90 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

92 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
93 (1) vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state
94 employee's retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a, shall be
95 eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical and
96 surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the cost
97 for such operators' insurance coverage shall be paid by the [Board of
98 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind from vending
99 machine income pursuant to section 10-303 and (2) blind persons
100 employed in workshops established pursuant to section 10-298a, shall
101 be eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical
102 and surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the
103 cost for such persons' insurance coverage shall be paid by the [Board of
104 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind.

105 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-76y of the general statutes is
106 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

107 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, school
108 districts, regional educational service centers, the [Board of Education
109 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, and all other state and local
110 governmental agencies concerned with education may loan, lease or
111 transfer an assistive device for the use and benefit of a student with a

112 disability to such student or the parent or guardian of such student or
113 to any other public or private nonprofit agency providing services to
114 or on behalf of individuals with disabilities including, but not limited
115 to, an agency providing educational, health or rehabilitative services.
116 Such device may be sold or transferred pursuant to this section
117 regardless of whether the device was declared surplus. The sale or
118 transfer shall be recorded in an agreement between the parties and
119 based upon the depreciated value of the device. For the purposes of
120 this section, "assistive device" means any item, piece of equipment or
121 product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf,
122 modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve
123 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

124 Sec. 7. Section 10-293 of the general statutes is repealed and the
125 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

126 [(a) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall consist
127 of seven members. The Commissioner of Social Services shall be a
128 member, ex officio. The other six members, two of whom shall be blind
129 persons, shall be appointed by the Governor, and each shall be a
130 resident of this state. The Governor may, for reasonable cause, remove
131 any appointive member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy
132 for the unexpired portion of the term. Said board shall meet annually
133 in the month of September and may meet at any other time upon the
134 call of its director; and the director shall call a meeting at the request of
135 two members. Any appointed member who fails to attend three
136 consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings held during any
137 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. A majority of the
138 members in office shall constitute a quorum.]

139 (a) There shall be a Connecticut Services for the Blind. The [board]
140 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall adopt rules for its own action
141 and regulations for determining [what] those persons who shall
142 receive benefits under the provisions of this chapter.

143 (b) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind

144 shall be within the Department of Social Services for administrative
145 purposes only.

146 Sec. 8. Section 10-294b of the general statutes is repealed and the
147 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

148 The Governor shall appoint an executive director of the [board]
149 Connecticut Services for the Blind in accordance with the provisions of
150 section 4-9a. The compensation of said director shall be determined in
151 the manner provided in section 4-40. [No member of the board shall
152 receive compensation for services rendered unless such services are
153 special and specially requested by the board, in which case a moderate
154 allowance may be made for the time actually spent. The certificate of
155 the director of the amount of any bill for such services and expenses
156 shall be sufficient warrant to the Comptroller for the payment of the
157 same.]

158 Sec. 9. Section 10-294b of the general statutes is repealed and the
159 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

160 (a) There is established [a Braille Literacy] an Advisory Council on
161 Vision Education Services which shall (1) review Braille literacy and
162 [assess the availability of services for visually impaired children of
163 school age] evaluate and assess the array of education services
164 available to children with vision-related disabilities, access to such
165 services, materials, equipment, technology and outcomes of the
166 services provided, (2) collect data on the frequency with which an
167 individualized education plan contains a recommendation or
168 determination that a visually impaired child should not be taught
169 Braille and the reasons therefore, (3) evaluate the learning media
170 assessments for visually impaired children and the need for a common
171 standard for such assessments which shall be periodically reviewed,
172 (4) develop a plan to attract qualified teachers for visually impaired
173 children, (5) assess methods to improve coordination between the
174 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind and local
175 education agencies which employ teachers of visually impaired

176 children relative to Braille instruction and the teaching of such children
177 and the expansion of professional development programs for teachers
178 of visually impaired children employed by said board and such
179 agencies, (6) encourage local school districts to require vendors of
180 school textbooks to provide electronic or Braille versions of such books
181 in the American Standard Code for Information Interchange format or
182 other text-based computer accessible format in a timely fashion, and
183 (7) review the caseloads and direct service time for teachers of visually
184 impaired children employed by the [Board of Education and]
185 Connecticut Services for the Blind and teachers of such children
186 employed by local education agencies, and assess the literacy of such
187 children attending schools with such teachers.

188 (b) Said advisory council shall consist of the following members: (1)
189 The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee; (2)
190 the executive director of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
191 Services for the Blind or said director's designee; (3) one representative
192 of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, appointed by
193 the president pro tempore of the Senate; (4) one teacher of visually
194 impaired children employed by the [Board of Education and]
195 Connecticut Services for the Blind and one teacher who specializes in
196 providing vision-related education services to students with multiple
197 disabilities, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one
198 teacher of visually impaired children employed by a local education
199 agency, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (6) one public
200 school administrator, appointed by the speaker of the House of
201 Representatives; (7) one visually impaired public high school student
202 who reads and writes braille, appointed by the majority leader of the
203 House of Representatives; (8) one representative of the Connecticut
204 Council of the Blind, appointed by the minority leader of the House of
205 Representatives; and (9) one parent of a visually impaired child of
206 school age enrolled in a public school and one parent of a blind or
207 visually impaired child with additional disabilities, appointed by the
208 Governor.

209 (c) All appointments to the advisory council shall be made no later
210 than sixty days after May 26, 2000. Any vacancy shall be filled by the
211 appointing authority.

212 (d) The advisory council shall elect a chairperson from among its
213 members, except that the speaker of the House of Representatives and
214 the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons
215 for the first meeting of the advisory council. Such chairpersons shall
216 schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held
217 no later than ninety days after May 26, 2000.

218 (e) Any member who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings
219 held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from
220 office. Members of the advisory council shall serve without
221 compensation.

222 (f) Not later than January 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the
223 advisory council shall submit a report on its findings and
224 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
225 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, human
226 services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

227 Sec. 10. Section 10-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the
228 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

229 (a) All residents of this state, regardless of age, who, because of
230 blindness or impaired vision, require special educational programs, on
231 the signed recommendation of the director of the [Board of Education
232 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, shall be entitled to receive
233 such instruction and for such length of time as is deemed expedient by
234 said director. The director shall annually submit to the [board]
235 Connecticut Services for the Blind the list of names of persons so
236 recommended. Upon the petition of any parent or guardian of a blind
237 educable child or a child with impaired vision, a local board of
238 education may provide such instruction within the town or it may
239 provide for such instruction by agreement with other towns as

240 provided in subsection (d) of section 10-76d. The expense of such
241 instruction shall be paid by the state to an amount not exceeding six
242 thousand four hundred dollars for each of such persons in any one
243 state fiscal year. When the parents or guardians of any such blind
244 person or person with impaired vision are not able to provide clothing
245 for such person, an additional sum not to exceed one hundred dollars
246 per year may be allowed for such expenses. Where a local or regional
247 board of education reimburses parents or legal guardians of a blind or
248 visually impaired child for transportation to and from a specialized
249 residential facility serving the blind, [such board] the Connecticut
250 Services for the Blind shall be reimbursed by the state for such
251 validated actual cost up to a maximum of three hundred dollars per
252 pupil per school year. Determination of reimbursable transportation
253 costs and payment therefore shall be the responsibility of the [State
254 Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind. All
255 educational privileges prescribed in part V of chapter 164, not
256 inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, shall apply to the
257 pupils covered by this subsection. The [Board of Education and]
258 Connecticut Services for the Blind may provide any of the educational
259 services described in this section to a child whose vision may be
260 greater than as defined in section 10-294a upon written referral by the
261 local or regional board of education responsible for providing special
262 education and related services pursuant to section 10-76d. A request
263 from a local or regional board of education for reimbursement of such
264 expenses to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
265 Blind shall not be eligible for such reimbursement unless such request
266 is received by the first of June for such expenses incurred during the
267 preceding first of July through the thirty-first of December and by the
268 first of December for expenses incurred during the preceding first of
269 January through the thirtieth of June.

270 (b) [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the Blind may expend
271 funds up to eleven thousand dollars per fiscal year per child for the
272 purpose of sending children who are both blind or visually impaired
273 and deaf, or blind or visually impaired with other severe physical

274 handicaps, to specialized facilities within or outside the state
275 furnishing proper facilities for education of such children; provided
276 blind children or children with visual impairment who are mentally
277 retarded or emotionally maladjusted who can reasonably profit by
278 special training, facilities and services may be included in the
279 provisions of this section. Such funds may be spent outside the state
280 for room, board, tuition and other items necessarily relevant to the
281 education of such children. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for
282 the Blind may determine if such children should be sent to such out-of-
283 state places and may promulgate such regulations as it deems
284 necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this subsection. To be
285 eligible for aid under this subsection, the child and either of such
286 child's parents or guardian shall be bona fide residents of this state.

287 (c) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
288 may provide for the instruction of the adult blind in their homes,
289 expending annually for this purpose such sums as the General
290 Assembly may appropriate.

291 (d) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
292 may expend up to ten thousand dollars per fiscal year per person
293 twenty-one years of age or over who is both blind or visually impaired
294 and deaf for the purpose of sending such person to a specialized public
295 or private facility within the state furnishing programs from which
296 such person can profit. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the
297 Blind may determine the criteria by which a person is sent to a
298 specialized public or private facility and may adopt regulations
299 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

300 (e) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
301 may, within available appropriations, purchase adaptive equipment
302 for persons receiving services pursuant to this chapter. The cost of
303 such purchases shall not exceed, and shall be included in, the
304 maximum amount authorized for instructional expenses under
305 subsection (a) of this section.

306 Sec. 11. Section 10-297a of the general statutes is repealed and the
307 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

308 The executive director of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
309 Services for the Blind may make grants, within available
310 appropriations, to the Connecticut Radio Information Service, Inc., for
311 the purchase of receivers and for costs related to the operation of said
312 service.

313 Sec. 12. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
314 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

315 (a) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
316 shall, annually, as provided in section 4-60, submit to the Governor its
317 report, containing a statement of [the] its activities [of the board]
318 during the preceding year. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for
319 the Blind shall prepare and maintain a register of the blind in this state
320 which shall describe their condition, cause of blindness and capacity
321 for education and industrial training. The [board] Connecticut Services
322 for the Blind may register cases of persons whose eyesight is seriously
323 defective and who are liable to become visually handicapped or blind,
324 and may take such measures in cooperation with other authorities as it
325 deems advisable for the prevention of blindness or conservation of
326 eyesight and, in appropriate cases, for the education of children and
327 for the vocational guidance of adults having seriously defective sight
328 but who are not blind.

329 (b) The [board] Connecticut Services for the Blind may accept and
330 receive any bequest or gift of personal property and, subject to the
331 consent of the Governor and Attorney General as provided in section
332 4b-22, any devise or gift of real property made to [said board] the
333 Connecticut Services for the Blind, and may hold and use such
334 property for the purposes, if any, specified in connection with such
335 bequest, devise or gift.

336 Sec. 13. Section 10-298a of the general statutes is repealed and the

337 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

338 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is
339 authorized (1) to maintain and develop workshops for training and
340 employing blind persons in trades and occupations suited to their
341 abilities, for the purpose of producing suitable products and services
342 used by departments, agencies and institutions of the state and its
343 political subdivisions, including, but not limited to towns, cities,
344 boroughs and school districts; (2) to aid blind persons in securing
345 employment, in developing home industries and in marketing their
346 products and services; and (3) to develop and implement rules and
347 guidelines to guarantee that the dignity and rights of citizens involved
348 in such workshops and work training programs shall be maintained.

349 Sec. 14. Section 10-298b of the general statutes is repealed and the
350 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

351 Whenever any of the products made or manufactured or services
352 provided by blind persons under the direction or supervision of the
353 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind meet the
354 requirements of any department, institution or agency supported in
355 whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and price such
356 products shall have preference, except over articles produced or
357 manufactured by Department of Correction industries as provided in
358 section 18-88, and except for emergency purchases made under section
359 4-98. All departments, institutions and agencies supported in whole or
360 in part by the state shall purchase such articles and services from the
361 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind. Any
362 political subdivision of the state may purchase such articles made or
363 manufactured and services provided by the blind through the [Board
364 of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind. [Said board] The
365 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall issue at sufficiently frequent
366 intervals for distribution to the Commissioner of Administrative
367 Services, the Comptroller and the political subdivisions of the state, a
368 catalog showing styles, designs, sizes and varieties of all products

369 made by blind persons pursuant to this section or handicapped
370 persons pursuant to section 17b-656 and describing all available
371 services provided by the blind or handicapped.

372 Sec. 15. Section 10-298c of the general statutes is repealed and the
373 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

374 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) fix a fair
375 market price, based on the cost of materials, labor and overhead, for all
376 articles and services offered for sale and described in the most recent
377 catalog issued by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services
378 for the Blind pursuant to section 10-298b, provided that the cost of
379 labor on which such fair market price is based shall conform to federal
380 minimum wage regulations for handicapped workers; (2) determine
381 whether or not products produced or services provided by blind
382 persons or handicapped persons meet the reasonable requirements of
383 state departments, agencies and institutions; and (3) authorize state
384 departments, agencies and institutions to purchase articles and
385 services elsewhere when requisitions cannot be complied with through
386 the products and services listed in the most current catalog issued by
387 the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
388 pursuant to section 10-298b.

389 Sec. 16. Section 10-300a of the general statutes is repealed and the
390 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

391 (a) No goods, wares or merchandise shall be labeled, designated or
392 represented as having been manufactured or produced in whole or in
393 part by any blind person or by any public or private institute, agency
394 or corporation serving the blind unless at least seventy-five per cent of
395 the total hours of labor performed on such goods, wares or
396 merchandise shall have been rendered by a blind person, as defined in
397 section 10-294a. Any person, institute, agency or nonprofit corporation
398 which so manufactures or produces such goods shall register annually,
399 on July first, with the [board of education and services] Connecticut
400 Services for the [blind] Blind and may affix or cause to be affixed to

401 such goods a stamp or label which identifies such goods as the
402 products of blind persons.

403 (b) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
404 shall adopt regulations pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54 to
405 carry out the provisions of this section.

406 (c) Any person, institute, agency or nonprofit corporation which
407 violates any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not more
408 than one hundred dollars for each violation.

409 Sec. 17. Section 10-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the
410 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

411 (a) The authority in charge of any building or property owned,
412 operated or leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant
413 to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind a
414 permit to operate in such building or on such property a food service
415 facility, a vending machine or a stand for the vending of newspapers,
416 periodicals, confections, tobacco products, food and such other articles
417 as such authority approves when, in the opinion of such authority,
418 such facility, machine or stand is desirable in such location. Any
419 person operating such a stand in any such location on October 1, 1945,
420 shall be permitted to continue such operation, but upon such person's
421 ceasing such operation such authority shall grant a permit for
422 continued operation to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
423 Services for the Blind. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the
424 Blind may establish a training facility at any such location.

425 (b) Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, 49 Stat.
426 1559 (1936), 20 USC 107, as amended from time to time, the [Board of
427 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is authorized to
428 maintain a savings account and to accrue interest thereon for nonstate
429 vending machine income which, in accordance with federal
430 regulations, shall be used for the payment of fringe benefits to the
431 vending facility operators by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut

432 Services for the Blind.

433 Sec. 18. Section 10-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the
434 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

435 The sales and service account for the [Board of Education and]
436 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall be established as a separate
437 account within the General Fund for the purpose of aiding the blind by
438 providing sales and service opportunities. Any money received by the
439 [board] Connecticut Services for the Blind from refunds for materials
440 advanced for manufacture by the blind, and from the sales of articles
441 or goods manufactured by the blind, and from the sale of other articles
442 or goods, or from sales held to assist the blind, shall be deposited in
443 the General Fund and credited to the account. Payments shall be made
444 from the account for labor or services rendered in connection with the
445 manufacture of articles for resale, for the purchase of materials used in
446 such manufacture, for the purchase of merchandise for resale and for
447 labor, supplies and other operating expenses connected with the
448 operation of vending stands and sales and service opportunities. Bills
449 contracted by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for
450 the Blind for the purposes specified in this section shall be paid by
451 order of the Comptroller against the account in the manner provided
452 by law for the payment of all claims against the state. At the end of
453 each fiscal year, any surplus as of June thirtieth determined by
454 including cash, accounts receivable and inventories less accounts
455 payable over the sum of three hundred thousand dollars derived from
456 sales of manufactured goods or articles or other sales, in excess of such
457 cost of labor or services, materials, merchandise, supplies and other
458 such operating expenses, shall revert to the General Fund of the state.

459 Sec. 19. Section 10-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
460 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

461 Each physician and optometrist shall report in writing to the [Board
462 of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind within thirty days
463 each blind person coming under his or her private or institutional care

464 within this state. The report of such blind person shall include the
465 name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, date of diagnosis
466 of blindness and degree of vision. Such reports shall not be open to
467 public inspection.

468 Sec. 20. Section 10-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
469 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

470 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
471 may maintain a rehabilitation service for the vocational rehabilitation
472 and placement in remunerative employment of persons whose
473 capacity to earn a living has been lost or impaired by reason of
474 lessened visual acuity. For the purpose of this section and sections 10-
475 307 and 10-308: "Vocational rehabilitation" means any services,
476 provided directly or through public or private instrumentalities, found
477 to be necessary to compensate a person whose visual acuity has been
478 impaired for his or her employment handicap and to enable such
479 person to engage in a remunerative occupation, including, but not
480 limited to, medical and vocational diagnosis, vocational guidance,
481 counseling and placement, rehabilitation training, physical restoration,
482 transportation, occupational licenses, customary occupational tools
483 and equipment, maintenance and training books and materials;
484 "rehabilitation training" means all necessary training provided for a
485 person whose visual acuity has been impaired to compensate for his or
486 her employment handicap, including, but not limited to, manual,
487 preconditioning, prevocational, vocational and supplementary training
488 and training provided for the purpose of achieving broader and more
489 remunerative skills and capacity; and "physical restoration" means any
490 medical, surgical or therapeutic treatment necessary to correct or
491 substantially reduce within a reasonable length of time the
492 employment handicap of a person whose visual acuity has been
493 impaired, including, but not limited to, medical, psychiatric, dental
494 and surgical treatment, nursing service, hospital care, convalescent
495 home care, drugs, medical and surgical supplies and prosthetic
496 appliances, but excluding curative treatment for acute or transitory

497 conditions.

498 Sec. 21. Section 10-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the
499 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

500 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is
501 empowered to receive any federal funds made available to this state
502 under which vocational rehabilitation is provided for a person whose
503 visual acuity has been impaired and to expend such funds for the
504 purpose or purposes for which they are made available. The State
505 Treasurer shall be the custodian of such funds.

506 Sec. 22. Section 10-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the
507 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

508 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
509 may cooperate, pursuant to agreements, with the federal government
510 in carrying out the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to
511 vocational rehabilitation, and is authorized to adopt such methods of
512 administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary
513 for the proper and efficient operation of such agreements or plans for
514 vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as may
515 be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes.

516 Sec. 23. Section 10-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the
517 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

518 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
519 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to determine
520 the order to be followed in selecting those eligible persons to whom
521 vocational rehabilitation services will be provided, in accordance with
522 federal regulations.

523 Sec. 24. Section 10-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the
524 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

525 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind

526 may place in remunerative occupations persons whose capacity to earn
527 a living has been lost or impaired by lessened visual acuity and who,
528 in [the] its opinion, [of the board,] are susceptible of placement, and
529 may make such regulations as are necessary for the administration of
530 the provisions of sections 10-306 to 10-310, inclusive.

531 Sec. 25. Section 10-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the
532 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

533 The limitations on expenditures for a blind person provided in this
534 chapter shall not apply to the expenditures for vocational
535 rehabilitation of a person of lessened visual acuity as set forth in
536 sections 10-306 to 10-309, inclusive, provided the combined biennial
537 expenditures under this chapter and under said sections shall not
538 exceed the biennial appropriation to the [Board of Education and]
539 Connecticut Services for the Blind by the General Assembly.

540 Sec. 26. Section 10-311 of the general statutes is repealed and the
541 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

542 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
543 shall annually file with the comptroller a balance sheet as of June
544 thirtieth and a statement of operations for the fiscal year ending on
545 that date. A copy of such statement shall be filed with the Auditors of
546 Public Accounts.

547 Sec. 27. Section 10-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the
548 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

549 The case records of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
550 Services for the Blind maintained for the purposes of this chapter shall
551 be confidential and the names and addresses of recipients of assistance
552 under this chapter shall not be published nor used for purposes not
553 directly connected with the administration of this chapter, except as
554 necessary to carry out the provisions of section 17b-6.

555 Sec. 28. Subdivision (9) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is

556 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

557 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
558 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
559 and Families and Mental Retardation, the Insurance Department, the
560 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, the
561 Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Office of
562 Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

563 Sec. 29. Section 17b-656 of the general statutes is repealed and the
564 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

565 Whenever any products made or manufactured by or services
566 provided by persons with disabilities through community
567 rehabilitation programs described in subsection (b) of section 17b-655
568 or in any workshop established, operated or funded by nonprofit and
569 nonsectarian organizations for the purpose of providing persons with
570 disabilities training and employment suited to their abilities meet the
571 requirements of any department, institution or agency supported in
572 whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and price such
573 products shall have preference over products or services from other
574 providers, except (1) articles produced or manufactured by blind
575 persons under the direction or supervision of the [Board of Education
576 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind as provided in section 10-298a,
577 (2) articles produced or manufactured by Department of Correction
578 industries as provided in section 18-88 and (3) emergency purchases
579 made under section 4-98. All departments, institutions and agencies
580 supported in whole or in part by the state shall purchase such articles
581 made or manufactured and services provided by persons with
582 disabilities from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services of the
583 Department of Social Services. Any political subdivision of the state
584 may purchase such articles and services through the Bureau of
585 Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Social Services. A list
586 describing styles, designs, sizes and varieties of all such articles made
587 by persons with disabilities and describing all available services

588 provided by such persons shall be prepared by the Connecticut
589 Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. The Bureau of Rehabilitation
590 Services of the Department of Social Services shall cooperate with the
591 [State Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind by
592 submitting necessary information concerning such products and
593 services to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
594 Blind at frequent intervals.

595 Sec. 30. Subsection (e) of section 2c-2b of the general statutes is
596 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

597 (e) The following governmental entities and programs are
598 terminated, effective July 1, 2007, unless reestablished in accordance
599 with the provisions of section 2c-10:

600 (1) Regional advisory councils for children and youth center
601 facilities, established under section 17a-30;

602 (2) Repealed by P.A. 93-262, S. 86, 87;

603 (3) Advisory Council on Children and Families, established under
604 section 17a-4;

605 (4) [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind,
606 established under section 10-293;

607 (5) Repealed by P.A. 84-361, S. 6, 7;

608 (6) Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, established
609 under section 46a-27;

610 (7) Advisory and planning councils for regional centers for the
611 mentally retarded, established under section 17a-273;

612 (8) Board for State Academic Awards, established under section 10a-
613 143;

614 (9) Repealed by P.A. 94-245, S. 45, 46;

- 615 (10) Repealed by P.A. 85-613, S. 153, 154;
- 616 (11) State Library Board, established under section 11-1;
- 617 (12) Advisory Council for Special Education, established under
618 section 10-76i;
- 619 (13) State Commission on the Arts, established under section 10-369;
- 620 (14) Connecticut Historical Commission, established under section
621 10-320b;
- 622 (15) Repealed by P.A. 89-362, S. 4, 5;
- 623 (16) Repealed by June Sp. Sess. P.A. 91-14, S. 28, 30;
- 624 (17) Repealed by P.A. 90-230, S. 100, 101;
- 625 (18) State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration,
626 established under section 4b-60;
- 627 (19) Repealed by P.A. 90-230, S. 100, 101; and
- 628 (20) Examining Board for Crane Operators, established under
629 section 29-222.

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee relative to educational services for children who are blind or visually impaired.

[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.]