



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2001

LCO No. 8976

Offered by:

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.
SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.
SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.
REP. STAPLES, 96th Dist.
REP. GREEN, 1st Dist.
REP. HORTON, 2nd Dist.
REP. GONZALEZ, 3rd Dist.

REP. MANTILLA, 4th Dist.
REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.
REP. FELTMAN, 6th Dist.
REP. CARTER, 7th Dist.
REP. MCCLUSKEY, 20th Dist.
REP. GUERRERA, 29th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 453

File No. 505

Cal. No. 349

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following
2 in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 1 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 (a) It is hereby found and declared that the Hartford school district
6 is in a state of crisis and that the continued existence of this crisis is
7 detrimental to the children of the city and in conflict with the
8 educational interests of the state and the resolution of the crisis is a
9 matter of paramount public interest and that to achieve this resolution
10 it is necessary, appropriate and an essential public purpose to provide

11 in this act for the dissolution of the Hartford Board of Education for a
12 period of at least thirty-seven months and for the creation of a State
13 Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools to be responsible for
14 the governance, management and fiscal operations of the Hartford
15 school district, all in order to increase student achievement, enhance
16 the quality, adequacy and equality of educational opportunities, and
17 allocate and manage resources efficiently and effectively.

18 (b) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools
19 requested and received an extension of time for its management of the
20 Hartford school district through the Monday preceding the first
21 Tuesday in December, 2002, in accordance with section 2 of special act
22 97-4, as amended by this act. Such extension was granted in order to
23 allow the State Board of Trustees additional time to: (1) Improve
24 student achievement; (2) address the Hartford Improvement Plan
25 developed by the Commissioner of Education and the
26 recommendations of the fiscal and operations audit of the school
27 district; (3) continue the accreditation process for the elementary and
28 middle schools; (4) implement a long-term school building program
29 based on the findings of the long-range facilities study; and (5)
30 implement revised policies for the school district. Accordingly, during
31 such extension period, the State Board of Trustees shall continue to
32 manage the Hartford school district in accordance with the provisions
33 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act.

34 (c) For purposes of this section and sections 4 and 6 to 9, inclusive,
35 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act, "reconstituted Hartford
36 Board of Education" means the Hartford Board of Education managing
37 the school district pursuant to subsection (b) of section 2 of special act
38 97-4, as amended by this act, from December 3, 2002 to December 5,
39 2005.

40 Sec. 2. Section 2 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

41 [The Hartford Board of Education in existence on the effective date
42 of this act shall dissolve on June 1, 1997.] (a) The State Board of

43 Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, established pursuant to
44 section 3 of [this act] special act 97-4, shall be solely responsible for the
45 management of the Hartford school district, as provided in [this act]
46 special act 97-4, as amended by this act, during the period from June 1,
47 1997, through June 30, 2000, except that the State Board of Trustees for
48 the Hartford Public Schools, on or before January 1, 2000, may request
49 the State Board of Education to extend the period [until June 30, 2002]
50 in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. Such request shall be
51 based on such factors as the need for additional time to improve
52 student achievement and sufficiently address the Hartford
53 Improvement Plan described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of
54 section 4 of [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act, and the
55 findings and recommendations of the fiscal and operations audit
56 conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of section 6 of [this act] special
57 act 97-4, as amended by this act. The State Board of Education shall act
58 on such a request by February 1, 2000. If the State Board of Education
59 grants such an extension, the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford
60 Public Schools shall continue to manage the Hartford school district
61 [through June 30, 2002] in accordance with subsection (b) of this
62 section. [In January, 2000 or, if an extension is granted pursuant to this
63 subsection, in January, 2002, the Governor shall issue a writ of election
64 directed to the municipal clerk of the city of Hartford ordering an
65 election to be held in Hartford on a date in March specified in the writ
66 for members of a new local board of education. Such members shall
67 take office on July 1, 2000, or July 1, 2002, as appropriate. The terms of
68 office of such members shall be in accordance with the charter of the
69 city of Hartford except that the terms of six members shall expire on
70 the Monday immediately preceding the first Tuesday in December in
71 2001 or 2003, as appropriate, and the terms of three members shall
72 expire on the Monday immediately preceding the first Tuesday in
73 December in 2003 or 2005, as appropriate. During the period from the
74 election of such members until June 30, 2000, or June 30, 2002, as
75 appropriate, the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public
76 Schools shall hold joint meetings with the reconstituted Hartford
77 Board of Education to provide for the transition in the management of

78 the Hartford school district from the State Board of Trustees of the
79 Hartford Public Schools to the reconstituted Hartford Board of
80 Education.]

81 (b) The Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall
82 continue to manage the Hartford school district through December 2,
83 2002. From December 3, 2002, to December 5, 2005, the Hartford school
84 district shall be managed by a board of education consisting of four
85 elected members, and three members who are electors of the city of
86 Hartford and are appointed by the mayor of Hartford with the
87 approval of the Hartford City Council. The elected members shall be
88 elected at the election held in November, 2002, and they shall take
89 office on December 3, 2002. Except as provided in this subsection, on
90 and after December 6, 2005, the Hartford school district shall be
91 managed by a board of education that is determined in accordance
92 with the charter of the city of Hartford. The number of members of the
93 board of education shall be in accordance with the charter and the
94 length of the terms of individual members elected in 2005, may be
95 different in order to meet any provision of the charter requiring
96 staggered terms. Notwithstanding the provisions of the charter of the
97 city of Hartford concerning the election of members of the board of
98 education, commencing with the election held in November, 2002, and
99 for all subsequent elections, candidates for the board of education shall
100 be elected with party designation.

101 (c) The state monitors appointed pursuant to section 8 of [this act]
102 special act 97-4, as amended by this act, shall continue their duties
103 [under the newly elected board of education for one year] until
104 December 5, 2005. Notwithstanding any provision of the general
105 statutes, during the time that the State Board of Education monitors
106 the Hartford school district, the State Board of Education may reject,
107 for good cause, the appointment of any Hartford superintendent of
108 schools within thirty days of such appointment.

109 Sec. 3. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 4 of special act 97-4
110 are amended to read as follows:

111 (b) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools and
112 the Superintendent of Schools shall jointly appoint a seven-member
113 advisory council composed of parents, classroom teachers, school
114 principals and representatives from institutions of higher education.
115 The council shall advise the State Board of Trustees and the
116 superintendent on such matters as curriculum, student achievement,
117 parental and community involvement, and school safety and
118 discipline. [The advisory council shall terminate on the date the State
119 Board of Trustees transfers responsibility for the Hartford school
120 district to the newly elected Hartford Board of Education.] The
121 advisory council shall terminate on December 31, 2003.

122 (c) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall
123 ensure that all elementary and middle schools in Hartford join the
124 New England Association of Schools and Colleges through the
125 association's accreditation process. The reconstituted Hartford Board
126 of Education shall continue the accreditation process and shall
127 develop, implement and periodically report on a comprehensive
128 written strategy for achieving the accreditation of all elementary and
129 middle schools in Hartford. The strategy shall be developed in
130 consultation with the Commissioner of Education and the New
131 England Association of Schools and Colleges. Said board of education
132 shall ensure that the schools that have been accredited maintain such
133 accreditation.

134 (d) The city of Hartford shall remain financially responsible for any
135 liabilities or obligations, including contingent liabilities and
136 obligations, incurred by the city council, [or] the Hartford Board of
137 Education prior to June 1, 1997, or the State Board of Trustees for the
138 Hartford Public Schools.

139 Sec. 4. Section 6 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

140 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
141 public or special act, the Hartford City Council shall allocate funds to
142 the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools and

143 provide in-kind services to said State Board of Trustees in accordance
144 with this [subsection. (1)] subdivision. (A) For the fiscal year ending
145 June 30, 1998, and each subsequent fiscal year that the Hartford school
146 district is under the management of the State Board of Trustees for the
147 Hartford Public Schools, the Hartford City Council shall: [(A)] (i)
148 Allocate to the State Board of Trustees all state and federal aid, except
149 amounts received pursuant to chapter 173 of the general statutes,
150 tuition revenues and revenues from private sources received by the
151 city of Hartford for educational purposes in said fiscal years, and [(B)]
152 (ii) provide to said State Board of Trustees at least the same type and
153 amount of in-kind services as were provided to the Hartford Board of
154 Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997. [(2)] (B) For the
155 fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, and June 30, 1999, the Hartford City
156 Council shall allocate to the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford
157 Public Schools the amount of local funds it allocated to the Hartford
158 Board of Education for educational purposes in the fiscal year ending
159 June 30, 1997, plus any additional amount needed to satisfy the
160 requirements of section 10-262j of the general statutes. Such allocation
161 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, shall be based on estimates
162 approved by the Commissioner of Education, provided an adjustment
163 based on final audited revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year
164 ending June 30, 1997, shall be made by the Hartford City Council no
165 later than March 1, 1998. [(3)] (C) The State Board of Trustees for the
166 Hartford Public Schools shall determine the amount of local funds
167 needed to meet the needs of the school district for the fiscal year
168 ending June 30, 2000, and any subsequent fiscal year the Hartford
169 school district is under its management and shall provide such
170 information to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of
171 Education for purposes of the report required under section 9 of [this
172 act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act. The Hartford City
173 Manager shall be responsible for the prompt disposition of all
174 purchasing requests made by the Superintendent of Schools. For
175 purposes of this [subsection] subdivision and subdivision (2) of this
176 subsection, "local funds" means the funds allocated by the Hartford
177 City Council in excess of the funds described in subparagraph (A) (i) of

178 this subdivision [(1) of this subsection] or subparagraph (A) (i) of
179 subdivision (2) of this subsection, as the case may be.

180 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
181 public or special act, the Hartford City Council shall allocate funds to
182 the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education in accordance with this
183 subdivision. (A) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, and June 30,
184 2004, shall: (i) Allocate to the reconstituted Hartford Board of
185 Education all state and federal aid, except amounts received pursuant
186 to chapter 173 of the general statutes, tuition revenues and revenues
187 from private sources received by the city of Hartford for educational
188 purposes in said fiscal years, and (ii) provide to said board of
189 education at least the same type and amount of in-kind services as
190 were provided to the State Board of Trustees for the fiscal year ending
191 June 30, 2002. (B) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, and June 30,
192 2004, the Hartford City Council shall allocate to the reconstituted
193 Hartford Board of Education at least the amount of local funds it
194 allocated to the State Board of Trustees for educational purposes in the
195 fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, plus any additional amount needed to
196 satisfy the requirements of section 10-262j of the general statutes. (C)
197 The reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall determine the
198 amount of local funds needed to meet the needs of the school district
199 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, and shall provide such
200 information to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of
201 Education for purposes of the report required under section 9 of
202 special act 97-4, as amended by this act.

203 (b) (1) The State Board of Trustees, in consultation with the
204 Commissioner of Education, shall contract for a fiscal and operations
205 audit of the Hartford school district by a certified public accounting
206 firm. The audit shall be paid for by the city and the contract shall
207 require a report by January 1, 1998. The State Board of Trustees shall
208 develop a plan to address the findings of the audit and to implement
209 the recommendations in the report. (2) The reconstituted Hartford
210 Board of Education shall continue to implement the recommendations
211 from the fiscal and operations audit of the Hartford school district

212 pursuant to this subsection. The audit steering committee created
213 under the State Board of Trustees or such other entity with similar
214 responsibilities created under the reconstituted Hartford Board of
215 Education shall continue until December 6, 2005, unless reauthorized
216 by the Hartford Board of Education, and shall meet monthly to
217 accomplish the following actions: (A) Prioritize and recommend
218 projects necessary to address the recommendations in both the fiscal
219 and operations audit and more recent annual financial audits; (B) help
220 to ensure that financial and operational controls for completed
221 recommendations are established; (C) assist the Hartford district to
222 formalize an internal audit function for the Hartford Public Schools;
223 and (D) assess and report on progress and concerns. Each member of
224 the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall receive a copy of
225 the monthly status reports distributed to the audit steering committee.
226 The reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall hold at least semi-
227 annual informational meetings devoted to providing the board and the
228 general public with a full progress report on the status of audit
229 improvement efforts. The Hartford City Council shall maintain its
230 support and provision of in-kind services to the audit steering
231 committee through December 5, 2005.

232 Sec. 5. Section 7 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

233 (a) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, in
234 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall develop a
235 long-term school building program pursuant to section 10-220 of the
236 general statutes for the Hartford school district. The State Board of
237 Trustees or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as
238 appropriate, and the Hartford City Council shall expeditiously
239 implement the program. All school construction projects shall be
240 managed by a school building committee, three members of which
241 shall be appointed by the State Board of Trustees or the reconstituted
242 Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate, three members of which
243 shall be appointed by the Hartford City Council and one member of
244 which shall be chosen by a vote of the other members. The members of
245 the appointing authorities may be appointed to the building

246 committee. The building committee may delegate management
247 responsibilities to an external entity approved by the Commissioner of
248 Education. The Hartford City Council shall continue to pay the
249 municipal costs of school construction projects. To the extent that a
250 Hartford bond referendum is required for the authorization of school
251 construction projects, the Hartford City Council shall present to the
252 voters projects that have been determined by the State Board of
253 Trustees or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as
254 appropriate, to be in accordance with the long-term building program,
255 provided, in the case of projects approved by the State Board of
256 Trustee or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as
257 appropriate, the City Treasurer has determined that such projects are
258 within the fiscal capabilities of the city.

259 (b) The audit steering committee, in consultation with the State
260 Board of Trustees and the Hartford City Council, shall recommend a
261 mechanism to effectively and efficiently complete facilities projects
262 authorized prior to the effective date of this act and to implement the
263 long-term school building program. The audit steering committee or
264 such other entity with similar responsibilities created under the
265 reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall provide semi-annual
266 reports, until December 5, 2005, on school building projects to the
267 Hartford City Council and the State Board of Trustees or the
268 reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate.

269 Sec. 6. Section 8 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

270 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint, within available
271 appropriations, two state monitors for the Hartford school district. The
272 state monitors shall report directly to the Commissioner of Education.
273 The monitors shall consult with and assist the State Board of Trustees
274 for the Hartford Public Schools, [and] the Superintendent of Schools
275 and the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education in assessing the
276 progress and the needs of the school district and securing outside
277 assistance from corporations and universities for meeting such needs.

278 (b) The state monitors, the Superintendent of Schools and the
279 Commissioner of Education shall meet regularly to review the
280 progress and needs of the school district.

281 [(c) The state monitors shall prepare a monthly written report to the
282 Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education on the
283 progress and needs of the Hartford school district. The report shall
284 include information on any additional assistance required by the
285 school district. The state monitors shall submit copies of the report to
286 the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools and the
287 Superintendent of Schools.]

288 Sec. 7. Section 9 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

289 (a) On or before October 1, 1997, the Commissioner of Education
290 and the State Board of Education shall report to the Governor, and the
291 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
292 of matters relating to education on the operation of the Hartford school
293 district and progress made under the management of the State Board
294 of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools. Such a report shall be
295 made on a quarterly basis until the management of the Hartford school
296 district is returned to the control of the Hartford Board of Education
297 pursuant to section 2 of [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this
298 act. The report submitted pursuant to this section in January, 1999,
299 shall contain a recommendation on the amount of local funds
300 necessary for the operation of the Hartford school district for the
301 subsequent years that the school district is under the management of
302 the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools.

303 (b) On or before December 31, 2002, the Commissioner of Education
304 and the State Board of Education shall report, in accordance with
305 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the joint standing
306 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
307 relating to education, the Hartford City Council and the reconstituted
308 Hartford Board of Education on the operation of the Hartford school
309 district and its progress. Such report shall be made on a semi-annual

310 basis until June 30, 2005."