



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Amendment

LCO No. 8324

Offered by:

SEN. HERLIHY, 8th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 1134

File No. 686

Cal. No. 434

**"AN ACT ELIMINATING DUPLICATE HEALTH INSURANCE
COVERAGE FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE
MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM."**

1 After line 7 insert the following and renumber the remaining section
2 accordingly:

3 "Sec. 2. Section 10-239a of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 Sections 10-239a to 10-239h, inclusive, shall be known and may be
6 cited as the Demonstration Scholarship Program Authorization Act of
7 1972. It is the intent of the legislature to enable [up to six local or
8 regional boards of education] any school district that qualifies for a
9 grant as a priority school district under section 10-266p to participate
10 in a demonstration program designed to reduce racial isolation,
11 improve urban education and to develop and test the use of education
12 scholarships for school children. The purpose of this demonstration
13 scholarship program is to develop and test education scholarships as a
14 way to improve the quality of education by making schools, both

15 public and private, more responsive to the needs of children and
16 parents, to provide greater parental choice, and to determine the extent
17 to which the quality and delivery of educational services are affected
18 by economic incentives. The demonstration scholarship program
19 authorized by sections 10-239a to 10-239h, inclusive, shall aid students
20 and shall not be used to support or to benefit any particular schools.

21 Sec. 3. Section 10-239b of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

23 As used in sections 10-239a to 10-239h, inclusive, as amended by
24 this act:

25 (1) "Demonstration area" means the area designated by the
26 participating [local or regional board of education] priority school
27 district for the purposes of a demonstration scholarship program
28 defined in subsection (2) of this section, which area shall include a
29 substantial number of needy or disadvantaged students;

30 (2) "Demonstration scholarship program" means a program for
31 developing and testing the use of educational scholarships for [all] any
32 pupils eligible for free or reduced price meals and eligible to attend
33 public or private schools within the demonstration area, which
34 scholarships shall be made available to the parents or legal guardians
35 of a scholarship recipient in the form of a drawing right, negotiable
36 certificate or other document which may not be redeemed except for
37 educational purposes at schools fulfilling the requirements of
38 subsection (a) of section 10-239e;

39 [(3) "Demonstration board" means a board established by the local
40 or regional board of education to conduct the demonstration
41 scholarship program;]

42 [(4)] (3) "Contract" means the agreement entered into by (1) the local
43 or regional board of education, and (2) the Department of Education or
44 a federal governmental agency for the purpose of conducting a
45 demonstration scholarship program.

46 Sec. 4. Section 10-239c of the general statutes is repealed and the
47 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

48 (a) The [local or regional board of education] participating priority
49 school district may contract with a federal governmental agency for
50 funds or receive grants from the state to establish a demonstration
51 scholarship program to exist for a period of up to five years, such
52 [board] district to receive such state and local aid for any of its
53 students as would otherwise be provided by law regardless of whether
54 or not such students participate in a demonstration scholarship
55 program, which funds may be expended under the demonstration
56 scholarship program as the demonstration contract shall provide and
57 within the demonstration area.

58 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall award grants to
59 participating priority districts annually contingent upon available
60 funding. Participating priority school districts shall receive grants
61 based on their proportional share of the sum of the products obtained
62 by multiplying the number of resident students, as defined in section
63 10-262f, in each priority school district for the year prior to the year the
64 grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and
65 reduced price meals for all severe need schools, as defined in section
66 10-16p, in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for
67 severe need school eligibility.

68 Sec. 5. Section 10-239d of the general statutes is repealed and the
69 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

70 [The local or regional board of education may establish a
71 demonstration board and staff and may authorize it to administer the
72 demonstration project authorized by sections 10-239a to 10-239h,
73 inclusive, provided the costs of such organization shall be borne by the
74 contracting federal agency. The members of the demonstration board,
75 if it is not the local or regional board of education itself, shall serve for
76 the terms established by the appointing board.

77 (1) The demonstration board may: (a) Employ a staff for the

78 demonstration board, (b)]

79 (a) The participating priority school district may (1) receive and
80 expend funds to support the [demonstration board and] scholarships
81 for children in the demonstration area, [(c)] (2) contract with other
82 government agencies and private persons or organizations to provide
83 or receive services, supplies, facilities and equipment, [(d)] (3)
84 determine rules and regulations for use of scholarships in the
85 demonstration area, [(e)] (4) adopt rules and regulations for its own
86 government, [(f)] (5) receive and expend funds from the state or any
87 federal governmental agency necessary to pay for the costs incurred in
88 administering the program, [(g)] (6) otherwise provide the specified
89 programs, services and activities.

90 [(2) The demonstration board shall award a scholarship to each
91 school child residing in the demonstration area, subject only to such
92 age and grade restrictions which it may establish.]

93 (b) The participating priority school district shall, within the funds
94 available, determine the annual scholarship amounts and the criteria
95 and requirements for such scholarships, provided each student
96 participating in the program shall be allowed to participate for the
97 length of the program. The scholarship funds shall be made available
98 to the parents or legal guardian of a scholarship recipient in the form
99 of a drawing right, certificate or other document which may not be
100 redeemed except for educational purposes.

101 [(3) The demonstration board shall establish the amount of the
102 scholarship in a fair and impartial manner as follows: There shall be a
103 basic scholarship equal in amount to every other basic scholarship for
104 every eligible student in the demonstration area. In no case shall the
105 amount of the basic scholarship fall below the level of average current
106 expense per pupil for corresponding grade levels in the public schools
107 in the demonstration area in the year immediately preceding the
108 demonstration program.

109 (4) In addition to each base scholarship, compensatory scholarships

110 shall be given to disadvantaged children. The amount of such
111 compensatory scholarships and the manner by which children may
112 qualify for them shall be established by the demonstration board.]

113 [(5)] (c) Adequate provision for the pro rata or incremental
114 redemption of scholarships shall be made.

115 [(6) The contract shall provide sufficient money to pay all actual and
116 necessary transportation costs incurred by parents in sending their
117 children to the school of their choice within the demonstration area,
118 subject to distance limitations imposed by existing law.

119 (7) The contract shall specify that the contracting federal
120 governmental agency shall hold harmless the participating board from
121 any possible decreased economies of scale or increased costs per pupil
122 caused by the transition to a demonstration program.]

123 Sec. 6. Section 10-239e of the general statutes is repealed and the
124 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

125 (a) The [demonstration board] participating priority school district
126 shall authorize the parents or legal guardian of scholarship recipients
127 to use the demonstration scholarships at any public or private school
128 in which the scholarship recipient is enrolled provided such public or
129 private school: (1) Meets all educational, fiscal, health and safety
130 standards required by law, (2) does not discriminate against the
131 admission of students and the hiring of teachers on the basis of race,
132 color or economic status and has filed a certificate with the State Board
133 of Education that the school is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil
134 Rights Act of 1964, [(3) in no case levies or requires any tuition, fee or
135 charge above the value of the education scholarship, (4)] (3) is free
136 from sectarian control or influence except as provided in subsection (b)
137 of this section, [(5)] (4) provides public access to all financial and
138 administrative records and provides to the parent or guardian of each
139 eligible child in the demonstration area comprehensive information, in
140 written form, on the courses of study offered, curriculum, materials
141 and textbooks, the qualifications of teachers, administrators and

142 paraprofessionals, the minimum school day, the salary schedules,
143 financial reports of money spent per pupil and such other information
144 as may be required by the [demonstration board, (6)] participating
145 priority school district, (5) provides periodic reports to the parents on
146 the average progress of the pupils enrolled, [(7)] (6) meets any
147 additional requirements established for all participating schools by the
148 [demonstration board] participating priority school district.

149 (b) In compliance with the constitutional guarantee of free exercise
150 of religion, schools may be exempted from subdivision [(4)] (3) of
151 subsection (a) of this section if they meet all other requirements for
152 eligibility.

153 Sec. 7. Section 10-239g of the general statutes is repealed and the
154 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

155 The [demonstration board] participating priority school district
156 shall provide for a valid test for judging the quality of education and
157 satisfaction with schools resulting from the demonstration scholarship
158 program as compared to the present system of public and private
159 schools. All evaluations done shall be reported in detail to the State
160 Board of Education and the joint standing committee of the General
161 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education."