



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**Raised Bill No. 5040**

LCO No. 113

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE BEGINNING EDUCATOR SUPPORT AND TRAINING PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2002*):

4 (d) Any person who is first issued a certificate valid after July 1,  
5 1989, or who is reissued a certificate after July 1, 1989, shall, except as  
6 otherwise provided in this subsection, be required to achieve a  
7 satisfactory evaluation on a professional knowledge clinical  
8 assessment within two years after commencing [teaching in a public  
9 school] participation in the beginning educator support and training  
10 program in order to retain the certificate. The commissioner (1) may  
11 waive the requirement that such satisfactory evaluation on a  
12 professional knowledge clinical assessment be achieved upon a  
13 determination that such assessment is not valid for the person's  
14 teaching assignment, or (2) upon a showing of good cause, may extend  
15 the time limit for the assessment [by one year] for a period of time not  
16 exceeding two years. The requirement of a clinical assessment shall not

17 apply to any such person who has completed at least three years of  
18 successful teaching in a public school or a nonpublic school approved  
19 by the appropriate state board of education during the ten years  
20 immediately preceding the date of application or who successfully  
21 taught with a provisional teaching certificate during the year  
22 immediately preceding an application for a provisional educator  
23 certificate as an employee of a local or regional board of education or  
24 facility approved for special education by the State Board of Education.  
25 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, [to the contrary,]  
26 the State Board of Education may reissue an initial educator certificate  
27 to a person who held such certificate and did not achieve a satisfactory  
28 evaluation on a professional knowledge clinical assessment provided  
29 the person submits evidence demonstrating significant intervening  
30 study and experience, in accordance with standards established by the  
31 State Board of Education.

32 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
34 *1, 2002*):

35 (d) The state Department of Education may fund, within available  
36 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
37 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut  
38 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special  
39 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at  
40 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the  
41 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes  
42 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school  
43 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,  
44 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut  
45 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut  
46 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and  
47 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and  
48 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education  
49 and certified teachers at such private special education and other

50 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning  
51 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning  
52 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to  
53 assessors. Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly  
54 to school districts for the provision of substitute teachers when  
55 cooperating teachers, teacher mentors, beginning teachers and  
56 assessors are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for  
57 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating  
58 and student teachers, teacher mentors, assessors and beginning  
59 teachers. The cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and  
60 assessment programs shall operate in accordance with regulations  
61 which shall be adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to  
62 chapter 54. Student teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating  
63 teachers. Beginning teachers shall participate in a beginning teacher  
64 support and assessment program as made available by the board.  
65 School districts shall be responsible for providing support to beginning  
66 teachers which shall include, but not be limited to, the placement of  
67 beginning teachers with trained teacher mentors who may be full or  
68 part-time teachers in the same or a different building than the  
69 beginning teacher and provision of trained assessors to conduct  
70 assessments of beginning teachers. Cooperating teachers, teacher  
71 mentors and assessors may serve concurrently in more than one  
72 capacity and may be assigned more than one student teacher or  
73 beginning teacher in each such capacity. The assessment of each  
74 beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not limited to, data  
75 obtained from observations conducted by assessors using an  
76 assessment instrument. [Notwithstanding any regulation to the  
77 contrary, the State Board of Education may require less than six  
78 observations as part of such assessment for the fiscal year ending June  
79 30, 1992, and may establish different assessment standards for use  
80 during such fiscal year. Notwithstanding any regulation to the  
81 contrary, a] A beginning teacher need not be assessed by a certified  
82 teacher who holds a certification endorsement in the same general  
83 subject area as such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers and

84 teacher mentors who are Connecticut public school teachers and  
85 assessors who are employed by school districts shall be selected by  
86 local and regional boards of education. Cooperating teachers and  
87 teacher mentors and assessors at such private special education and  
88 other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible  
89 for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to  
90 identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions,  
91 the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed  
92 by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations  
93 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience  
94 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-  
95 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, as amended, shall not be applicable to the  
96 selection, placement and compensation of persons participating in the  
97 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment  
98 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section and to the hours  
99 and duties of such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect  
100 and save harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235,  
101 any cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in  
102 such capacity.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide that the timeframe for completing the Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) assessment begins when the person commences participation in the BEST program, to allow the commissioner to extend the timeframe for completion of the BEST program for not more than two years, and to eliminate an obsolete provision concerning assessments of beginning teachers done during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992.

*[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.]*