



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**Raised Bill No. 354**

LCO No. 1247

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) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) The Connecticut Services  
2 for the Blind, in collaboration with the Department of Education, shall  
3 support local school districts in meeting the educational needs of  
4 children with 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. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) There is established a  
9 Connecticut Services for the Blind Advisory Board which shall consist  
10 of eight members. The Commissioner of Social Services and an  
11 employee of the Department of Education knowledgeable in the area  
12 of special education appointed by the Commissioner of Education  
13 shall be members, ex officio. The other six members, two of whom  
14 shall be blind persons, shall be appointed by the Governor, and each

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

28 Sec. 3. Section 5-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

45 (b) Any member of the state employees retirement system who  
46 operated vending stands under permits held by the [State Board of

47 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind pursuant to section  
48 10-303, as amended by this act, prior to October 1, 1971, may obtain  
49 credit for such period or periods of service for retirement purposes;  
50 provided he or she has been in the active full-time employment of the  
51 state continuously for twelve months next preceding his or her written  
52 request to the Retirement Commission for such credit, and by making  
53 retirement contributions of five per cent of his or her adjusted gross  
54 income arising out of the operation of such stands for each of such  
55 years with interest thereon at the rate of five per cent per year from the  
56 time of such operation to the date of payment, all as certified by the  
57 [State Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind. Such  
58 payments may be made in twelve equal monthly installments but such  
59 service credit shall not be granted unless payment of installments is  
60 completed.

61 Sec. 4. Section 5-177 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

63 Any person in the unclassified service employed full time by the  
64 Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut, the State Board of  
65 Education, the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the  
66 Blind, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the American  
67 School for the Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, the  
68 Newington Children's Hospital, the Board of Trustees of the  
69 Connecticut State University System or the Board of Trustees of the  
70 Community-Technical Colleges, as a teacher or administrator in a  
71 position directly involved in educational activities in any state-  
72 operated institution or the Board of Governors of Higher Education,  
73 who served prior to his or her employment by the state in a full-time  
74 teaching, administrative or research position in an educational  
75 institution in or under the authority of a state department of education  
76 or a department of education for the blind in the United States  
77 approved by the Retirement Commission, or who was employed by  
78 such institution but served all or part of such service time in a foreign  
79 country, for which service he or she has received or will receive no

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

93 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is  
94 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
95 *October 1, 2002*):

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

110 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-76y of the general statutes is  
111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

112 *October 1, 2002*):

113 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, school  
114 districts, regional educational service centers, the [Board of Education  
115 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, and all other state and local  
116 governmental agencies concerned with education may loan, lease or  
117 transfer an assistive device for the use and benefit of a student with a  
118 disability to such student or the parent or guardian of such student or  
119 to any other public or private nonprofit agency providing services to  
120 or on behalf of individuals with disabilities including, but not limited  
121 to, an agency providing educational, health or rehabilitative services.  
122 Such device may be sold or transferred pursuant to this section  
123 regardless of whether the device was declared surplus. The sale or  
124 transfer shall be recorded in an agreement between the parties and  
125 based upon the depreciated value of the device. For the purposes of  
126 this section, "assistive device" means any item, piece of equipment or  
127 product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf,  
128 modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve  
129 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

130 Sec. 7. Section 10-293 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

144 members in office shall constitute a quorum.]

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

149 (b) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
150 shall be within the Department of Social Services for administrative  
151 purposes only.

152 Sec. 8. Section 10-294 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
153 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

164 Sec. 9. Section 10-294b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

166 (a) There is established [a Braille Literacy] an Advisory Council on  
167 Vision Education Services which shall (1) review Braille literacy and  
168 [assess the availability of services for visually impaired children of  
169 school age] evaluate and assess the array of education services  
170 available to children with vision-related disabilities, access to such  
171 services, materials, equipment, technology and outcomes of the  
172 services provided, (2) collect data on the frequency with which an  
173 individualized education plan contains a recommendation or

174 determination that a visually impaired child should not be taught  
175 Braille and the reasons therefore, (3) evaluate the learning media  
176 assessments for visually impaired children and the need for a common  
177 standard for such assessments which shall be periodically reviewed,  
178 (4) develop a plan to attract qualified teachers for visually impaired  
179 children, (5) assess methods to improve coordination between the  
180 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind and local  
181 education agencies which employ teachers of visually impaired  
182 children relative to Braille instruction and the teaching of such children  
183 and the expansion of professional development programs for teachers  
184 of visually impaired children employed by said board and such  
185 agencies, (6) encourage local school districts to require vendors of  
186 school textbooks to provide electronic or Braille versions of such books  
187 in the American Standard Code for Information Interchange format or  
188 other text-based computer accessible format in a timely fashion, and  
189 (7) review the caseloads and direct service time of teachers of visually  
190 impaired children employed by the [Board of Education and]  
191 Connecticut Services for the Blind and teachers of such children  
192 employed by local education agencies, and assess the literacy of such  
193 children attending schools with such teachers.

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

208 who reads and writes braille, appointed by the majority leader of the  
209 House of Representatives; (8) one representative of the Connecticut  
210 Council of the Blind, appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
211 Representatives; and (9) one parent of a visually impaired child of  
212 school age enrolled in a public school and one parent of a blind or  
213 visually impaired child with additional disabilities, appointed by the  
214 Governor.

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

218 (d) The advisory council shall elect a chairperson from among its  
219 members, except that the speaker of the House of Representatives and  
220 the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons  
221 for the first meeting of the advisory council. Such chairpersons shall  
222 schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held  
223 no later than ninety days after May 26, 2000.

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

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

233 Sec. 10. Section 10-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
234 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

235 (a) All residents of this state, regardless of age, who, because of  
236 blindness or impaired vision, require special educational programs, on  
237 the signed recommendation of the director of the [Board of Education

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

272 such expenses incurred during the preceding first of July through the  
273 thirty-first of December and by the first of December for expenses  
274 incurred during the preceding first of January through the thirtieth of  
275 June.

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

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

297 (d) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
298 may expend up to ten thousand dollars per fiscal year per person  
299 twenty-one years of age or over who is both blind or visually impaired  
300 and deaf for the purpose of sending such person to a specialized public  
301 or private facility within the state furnishing programs from which  
302 such person can profit. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the  
303 Blind may determine the criteria by which a person is sent to a

304 specialized public or private facility and may adopt regulations  
305 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

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

312 Sec. 11. Section 10-297a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
313 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

314 The executive director of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut  
315 Services for the Blind may make grants, within available  
316 appropriations, to the Connecticut Radio Information Service, Inc., for  
317 the purchase of receivers and for costs related to the operation of said  
318 service.

319 Sec. 12. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
320 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

335 (b) The [board] Connecticut Services for the Blind may accept and  
336 receive any bequest or gift of personal property and, subject to the  
337 consent of the Governor and Attorney General as provided in section  
338 4b-22, any devise or gift of real property made to [said board] the  
339 Connecticut Services for the Blind, and may hold and use such  
340 property for the purposes, if any, specified in connection with such  
341 bequest, devise or gift.

342 Sec. 13. Section 10-298a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
343 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

355 Sec. 14. Section 10-298b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
356 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

357 Whenever any of the products made or manufactured or services  
358 provided by blind persons under the direction or supervision of the  
359 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind meet the  
360 requirements of any department, institution or agency supported in  
361 whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and price such  
362 products shall have preference, except over articles produced or  
363 manufactured by Department of Correction industries as provided in  
364 section 18-88, as amended, and except for emergency purchases made  
365 under section 4-98, as amended. All departments, institutions and  
366 agencies supported in whole or in part by the state shall purchase such

367 articles and services from the [Board of Education and] Connecticut  
368 Services for the Blind. Any political subdivision of the state may  
369 purchase such articles made or manufactured and services provided  
370 by the blind through the [Board of Education and] Connecticut  
371 Services for the Blind. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the  
372 Blind shall issue at sufficiently frequent intervals for distribution to the  
373 Commissioner of Administrative Services, the Comptroller and the  
374 political subdivisions of the state, a catalog showing styles, designs,  
375 sizes and varieties of all products made by blind persons pursuant to  
376 this section or handicapped persons pursuant to section 17b-656, as  
377 amended by this act, and describing all available services provided by  
378 the blind or handicapped.

379       Sec. 15. Section 10-298c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
380 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

381       The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) fix a fair  
382 market price, based on the cost of materials, labor and overhead, for all  
383 articles and services offered for sale and described in the most recent  
384 catalog issued by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services  
385 for the Blind pursuant to section 10-298b, as amended by this act,  
386 provided that the cost of labor on which such fair market price is based  
387 shall conform to federal minimum wage regulations for handicapped  
388 workers; (2) determine whether or not products produced or services  
389 provided by blind persons or handicapped persons meet the  
390 reasonable requirements of state departments, agencies and  
391 institutions; and (3) authorize state departments, agencies and  
392 institutions to purchase articles and services elsewhere when  
393 requisitions cannot be complied with through the products and  
394 services listed in the most current catalog issued by the [Board of  
395 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind pursuant to section  
396 10-298b, as amended by this act.

397       Sec. 16. Section 10-300a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
398 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

399 (a) No goods, wares or merchandise shall be labeled, designated or  
400 represented as having been manufactured or produced in whole or in  
401 part by any blind person or by any public or private institute, agency  
402 or corporation serving the blind unless at least seventy-five per cent of  
403 the total hours of labor performed on such goods, wares or  
404 merchandise shall have been rendered by a blind person, as defined in  
405 section 10-294a. Any person, institute, agency or nonprofit corporation  
406 which so manufactures or produces such goods shall register annually,  
407 on July first, with the [board of education and services] Connecticut  
408 Services for the [blind] Blind and may affix or cause to be affixed to  
409 such goods a stamp or label which identifies such goods as the  
410 products of blind persons.

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

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

417 Sec. 17. Section 10-303 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
418 35 of public act 01-9 of the June special session, is repealed and the  
419 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

420 (a) The authority in charge of any building or property owned,  
421 operated or leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant  
422 to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind a  
423 permit to operate in such building or on such property a food service  
424 facility, a vending machine or a stand for the vending of newspapers,  
425 periodicals, confections, tobacco products, food and such other articles  
426 as such authority approves when, in the opinion of such authority,  
427 such facility, machine or stand is desirable in such location. Any  
428 person operating such a stand in any such location on October 1, 1945,  
429 shall be permitted to continue such operation, but upon such person's  
430 ceasing such operation such authority shall grant a permit for

431 continued operation to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut  
432 Services for the Blind. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the  
433 Blind may establish a training facility at any such location.

434 (b) Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, 49 Stat.  
435 1559 (1936), 20 USC 107, as amended from time to time, the [Board of  
436 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is authorized to  
437 maintain a nonlapsing account and to accrue interest thereon for  
438 federal vending machine income which, in accordance with federal  
439 regulations, shall be used for the payment of fringe benefits to the  
440 vending facility operators by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut  
441 Services for the Blind.

442 (c) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
443 may maintain a nonlapsing account and accrue interest thereon for  
444 state and local vending machine income which shall be used for the  
445 payment of fringe benefits, training and support to vending facilities  
446 operators, and to provide entrepreneurial and independent-living  
447 training and equipment to children who are blind or visually impaired  
448 and adults who are blind.

449 (d) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
450 may disburse state and local vending machine income to student or  
451 client activity funds, as defined in section 4-52.

452 Sec. 18. Section 10-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
453 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

454 The sales and service account for the [Board of Education and]  
455 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall be established as a separate  
456 account within the General Fund for the purpose of aiding the blind by  
457 providing sales and service opportunities. Any money received by the  
458 [board] Connecticut Services for the Blind from refunds for materials  
459 advanced for manufacture by the blind, and from the sales of articles  
460 or goods manufactured by the blind, and from the sale of other articles  
461 or goods, or from sales held to assist the blind, shall be deposited in

462 the General Fund and credited to the account. Payments shall be made  
463 from the account for labor or services rendered in connection with the  
464 manufacture of articles for resale, for the purchase of materials used in  
465 such manufacture, for the purchase of merchandise for resale and for  
466 labor, supplies and other operating expenses connected with the  
467 operation of vending stands and sales and service opportunities. Bills  
468 contracted by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for  
469 the Blind for the purposes specified in this section shall be paid by  
470 order of the Comptroller against the account in the manner provided  
471 by law for the payment of all claims against the state. At the end of  
472 each fiscal year, any surplus as of June thirtieth determined by  
473 including cash, accounts receivable and inventories less accounts  
474 payable over the sum of three hundred thousand dollars derived from  
475 sales of manufactured goods or articles or other sales, in excess of such  
476 cost of labor or services, materials, merchandise, supplies and other  
477 such operating expenses, shall revert to the General Fund of the state.

478 Sec. 19. Section 10-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
479 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

480 Each physician and optometrist shall report in writing to the [Board  
481 of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind within thirty days  
482 each blind person coming under his or her private or institutional care  
483 within this state. The report of such blind person shall include the  
484 name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, date of diagnosis  
485 of blindness and degree of vision. Such reports shall not be open to  
486 public inspection.

487 Sec. 20. Section 10-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
488 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

489 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
490 may maintain a rehabilitation service for the vocational rehabilitation  
491 and placement in remunerative employment of persons whose  
492 capacity to earn a living has been lost or impaired by reason of  
493 lessened visual acuity. For the purpose of this section and sections 10-

494 307, as amended by this act, and 10-308, as amended by this act:  
495 "Vocational rehabilitation" means any services, provided directly or  
496 through public or private instrumentalities, found to be necessary to  
497 compensate a person whose visual acuity has been impaired for his or  
498 her employment handicap and to enable such person to engage in a  
499 remunerative occupation, including, but not limited to, medical and  
500 vocational diagnosis, vocational guidance, counseling and placement,  
501 rehabilitation training, physical restoration, transportation,  
502 occupational licenses, customary occupational tools and equipment,  
503 maintenance and training books and materials; "rehabilitation training"  
504 means all necessary training provided for a person whose visual acuity  
505 has been impaired to compensate for his or her employment handicap,  
506 including, but not limited to, manual, preconditioning, prevocational,  
507 vocational and supplementary training and training provided for the  
508 purpose of achieving broader and more remunerative skills and  
509 capacity; and "physical restoration" means any medical, surgical or  
510 therapeutic treatment necessary to correct or substantially reduce  
511 within a reasonable length of time the employment handicap of a  
512 person whose visual acuity has been impaired, including, but not  
513 limited to, medical, psychiatric, dental and surgical treatment, nursing  
514 service, hospital care, convalescent home care, drugs, medical and  
515 surgical supplies and prosthetic appliances, but excluding curative  
516 treatment for acute or transitory conditions.

517 Sec. 21. Section 10-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
518 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

525 Sec. 22. Section 10-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the

526 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

527 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
528 may cooperate, pursuant to agreements, with the federal government  
529 in carrying out the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to  
530 vocational rehabilitation, and is authorized to adopt such methods of  
531 administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary  
532 for the proper and efficient operation of such agreements or plans for  
533 vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as may  
534 be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes.

535 Sec. 23. Section 10-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
536 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

537 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
538 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to determine  
539 the order to be followed in selecting those eligible persons to whom  
540 vocational rehabilitation services will be provided, in accordance with  
541 federal regulations.

542 Sec. 24. Section 10-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
543 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

544 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind  
545 may place in remunerative occupations persons whose capacity to earn  
546 a living has been lost or impaired by lessened visual acuity and who,  
547 in [the] its opinion, [of the board,] are susceptible of placement, and  
548 may make such regulations as are necessary for the administration of  
549 the provisions of sections 10-306 to 10-310, inclusive, as amended by  
550 this act.

551 Sec. 25. Section 10-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
552 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

553 The limitations on expenditures for a blind person provided in this  
554 chapter shall not apply to the expenditures for vocational  
555 rehabilitation of a person of lessened visual acuity as set forth in

556 sections 10-306 to 10-309, inclusive, as amended by this act, provided  
557 the combined biennial expenditures under this chapter and under said  
558 sections shall not exceed the biennial appropriation to the [Board of  
559 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind by the General  
560 Assembly.

561 Sec. 26. Section 10-311 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
562 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

568 Sec. 27. Section 10-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
569 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

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

576 Sec. 28. Subdivision (9) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is  
577 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
578 *October 1, 2002*):

579 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the  
580 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children  
581 and Families and Mental Retardation, the Insurance Department, the  
582 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, the  
583 Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Office of  
584 Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

585 Sec. 29. Section 17b-656 of the general statutes is repealed and the

586 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

587 Whenever any products made or manufactured by or services  
588 provided by persons with disabilities through community  
589 rehabilitation programs described in subsection (b) of section 17b-655  
590 or in any workshop established, operated or funded by nonprofit and  
591 nonsectarian organizations for the purpose of providing persons with  
592 disabilities training and employment suited to their abilities meet the  
593 requirements of any department, institution or agency supported in  
594 whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and price such  
595 products shall have preference over products or services from other  
596 providers, except (1) articles produced or manufactured by blind  
597 persons under the direction or supervision of the [Board of Education  
598 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind as provided in section 10-298a,  
599 as amended by this act, (2) articles produced or manufactured by  
600 Department of Correction industries as provided in section 18-88, as  
601 amended, and (3) emergency purchases made under section 4-98, as  
602 amended. All departments, institutions and agencies supported in  
603 whole or in part by the state shall purchase such articles made or  
604 manufactured and services provided by persons with disabilities from  
605 the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Social  
606 Services. Any political subdivision of the state may purchase such  
607 articles and services through the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services of  
608 the Department of Social Services. A list describing styles, designs,  
609 sizes and varieties of all such articles made by persons with disabilities  
610 and describing all available services provided by such persons shall be  
611 prepared by the Connecticut Association of Rehabilitation Facilities.  
612 The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Social  
613 Services shall cooperate with the [State Board of Education and]  
614 Connecticut Services for the Blind by submitting necessary information  
615 concerning such products and services to the [Board of Education and]  
616 Connecticut Services for the Blind at frequent intervals.

617 Sec. 30. Subsection (e) of section 2c-2b of the general statutes, as  
618 amended by section 15 of public act 01-141, is repealed and the

619 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

620 (e) The following governmental entities and programs are  
621 terminated, effective July 1, 2012, unless reestablished in accordance  
622 with the provisions of section 2c-10:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

635 (8) Repealed by P.A. 01-141, S. 15, 16;

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

637 (10) Repealed by P.A. 85-613, S. 153, 154;

638 (11) State Library Board, established under section 11-1;

639 (12) Advisory Council for Special Education, established under  
640 section 10-76i;

641 (13) State Commission on the Arts, established under section 10-369;

642 (14) Connecticut Historical Commission, established under section

643 10-320b;

644 (15) Repealed by P.A. 89-362, S. 4, 5;

645 (16) Repealed by June Sp. Sess. P.A. 91-14, S. 28, 30;

646 (17) Repealed by P.A. 90-230, S. 100, 101;

647 (18) State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration,  
648 established under section 4b-60;

649 (19) Repealed by P.A. 90-230, S. 100, 101; and

650 (20) Examining Board for Crane Operators, established under  
651 section 29-222.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

***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.]*