



House of Representatives

File No. 770

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 698)

Substitute House Bill No. 6427
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 23, 2003

**AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE TEACHER
SHORTAGE, PILOT EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS
AND TEACHER PREPARATION COURSES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (k) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2003*):

4 (k) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under
5 section 10-145d, in not less than three years nor more than eight years
6 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to
7 subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement of the
8 superintendent in whose school district such certificate holder was
9 employed, or the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school approved by
10 the State Board of Education, in whose school such certificate holder
11 was employed, that the provisional educator certificate holder and
12 such superintendent or supervisory agent have mutually determined
13 or approved an individual program pursuant to subdivision (2) of
14 subsection (j) of this section and upon the statement of such

15 superintendent or supervisory agent that such certificate holder has a
16 record of competency in the discharge of such certificate holder's
17 duties during such provisional period, the state board upon receipt of
18 a proper application shall issue such certificate holder a professional
19 educator certificate. A signed recommendation from the
20 superintendent of schools, or the superintendent's designee, for the
21 local or regional board of education or from the supervisory agent of a
22 nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education shall be
23 evidence of competency. Such recommendation shall state that the
24 person who holds or has held a provisional educator certificate has
25 successfully completed at least three school years of satisfactory
26 teaching for one or more local or regional boards of education or such
27 nonpublic schools. Each applicant for a certificate pursuant to this
28 subsection shall provide to the Department of Education, in such
29 manner and form as prescribed by the commissioner, evidence that the
30 applicant has successfully completed coursework pursuant to
31 subsection (h) or (j) of this section, as appropriate.

32 (2) Upon application, a teacher from another state who has taught in
33 such other state for a minimum of five years and is nationally board
34 certified shall be issued a professional educator certificate with the
35 appropriate endorsement, subject to the provisions of subsection (m) of
36 this section relating to denial of applications for certification.

37 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Board of Trustees for the
38 Community-Technical Colleges, the Connecticut State University
39 System and The University of Connecticut shall develop transfer and
40 articulation agreements concerning teacher preparation programs.
41 Such agreements shall include, but not be limited to, provisions
42 concerning course requirements and electives, course transfer policies
43 and practices, admissions requirements and policies for student
44 recruitment, information and counseling. Such agreements shall
45 provide that community-technical college students shall be considered
46 for admission to schools of education according to the same standards
47 as students of the university.

48 Sec. 3. Section 10-265j of the general statutes is repealed and the
49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

50 The Commissioner of Education shall establish [two] three pilot
51 early childhood learning programs. The pilot programs shall be
52 established in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p or
53 transitional school districts. One program shall be in a municipality
54 with a population of fifty to one hundred thousand, inclusive, [and]
55 one program shall be in a municipality with a population over one
56 hundred thousand, and one program shall be at Eastern Connecticut
57 State University. Each pilot program may include a laboratory school
58 and a model day care program that serves sixty children ages three to
59 five. The Department of Education shall issue a request for proposals
60 for the pilot programs. The commissioner shall provide grants in the
61 amount of one hundred thousand dollars each for purposes of such
62 pilot programs. The grants shall be provided from the amount
63 appropriated for purposes of section 10-265f.

64 Sec. 4. Section 10-145a of the general statutes is amended by adding
65 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

66 (NEW) (f) On and after July 1, 2005, any candidate in a program of
67 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete
68 coursework in literacy based on the report issued by the Early Reading
69 Success Panel pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes. Such
70 coursework shall include a clinical component.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

This bill establishes a pilot early childhood program at Eastern Connecticut State University. The pilot program will receive \$100,000 from the early reading success grant. This will result in a minimal decrease in funds to each participant in the early reading success grant program.

House "A" added the provision for the pilot program at Eastern Connecticut State University and made various technical changes.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6427 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE TEACHER SHORTAGE**SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to issue the highest level state teaching certificate to experienced, national-board-certified teachers from out-of-state without further testing or coursework unless the person does not qualify for a Connecticut certificate because of fraud, misrepresentation, criminal conviction, or similar cause;
2. requires that, as of July 1, 2005, candidates in teacher preparation programs leading to professional certification complete coursework in literacy that is based on the recommendations of the state Early Reading Success Panel and includes a clinical component (practice teaching);
3. requires the boards of trustees for the Community-Technical Colleges (CTCs), Connecticut State University System (CSU), and University of Connecticut (UConn) to develop transfer and articulation agreements concerning teacher preparation programs; and
4. increases from two to three the number of early childhood learning pilot programs the education commissioner must establish in priority or transitional school districts by requiring him to establish one at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU).

*House Amendment "A" adds provisions requiring (1) teacher preparation program candidates to complete literacy coursework starting July 1, 2005; (2) teacher preparation program articulation agreements among UConn, CSU, and the CTCs; and (3) the early childhood learning pilot program at ECSU. It eliminates provisions (1)

allowing the education commissioner to give a new teacher more time to successfully complete the required beginning educator support and training (BEST) program and (2) requiring the Department of Higher Education, the State Department of Education, the CTCs, and four-year colleges and universities to design a so-called "2+2" program to allow CTC students interested in teaching to be jointly accepted into a CTC and a teacher preparation program at a four-year institution. The amendment also deletes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

The bill requires SBE to issue a Connecticut professional educator certificate (the highest level of teaching certificate the state issues) with an appropriate endorsement to any teacher who has taught for at least five years in another state and is nationally board certified, presumably by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). (An endorsement specifies the subject or grade level that a certified teacher can teach.)

SBE can still deny a certificate to such a nationally certified out-of-state teacher for the same reasons it can deny any other applicant, namely because (1) the teacher seeks the certificate through fraud or misrepresents a material fact; (2) the teacher has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or some other crime that, in the board's opinion, would impair the standing of the state's teaching certificates; or (3) it has other due cause. A teacher who is denied certification can ask SBE to review its decision.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

The bill requires the UConn, CTC, and CSU boards of trustees to develop transfer and articulation agreements concerning teacher preparation programs. The agreements must include provisions on course requirements and electives; course transfer policies and practices; admission requirements; and policies for student recruitment, information, and counseling. They must provide that CTC students will be considered for admission according to the same standards as university students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PILOT PROGRAMS

The law requires the education commissioner to establish early childhood learning pilot programs in priority or transitional school districts (districts with the greatest educational and economic need). Under current law, he must establish two programs—one in a municipality with 50,000 to 100,000 people and another in a municipality with more than 100,000 people. The bill requires him to establish a third program at ECSU. As is the case for existing programs, the ECSU program may include a laboratory school and a model day care program for 60 children ages three to five. By law, the commissioner must provide grants of \$100,000 for each program.

BACKGROUND

National Board Certification for Teachers

To be eligible for certification by the NBPTS, a public school teacher must have a valid state teaching certificate, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, and at least three years of teaching experience. A private school teacher who is not legally required to hold a state teaching certificate may receive board certification if she submits proof that the private school where she taught has state approval to operate.

NBPTS certification requires teachers to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and talent. They must prepare a school-site portfolio including descriptions of their practice, students' work, and videotapes of classroom activities. During two days of assessment, they participate in structured interviews, work on collaborative activities with other teachers, take a written essay exam, and work on real-life problems that confront teachers.

Early Reading Success Panel

The state's 1999 early reading success law required the education commissioner to convene a panel of elementary school teachers, school administrators, and reading research and early childhood experts to review research on how children learn to read and the knowledge and skills teachers need to teach reading effectively. The panel's report, *Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement*, was published in 2000 and identified specific reading and reading-related competencies important for primary-level students and teachers.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 24 Nay 1

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 49 Nay 0