



House of Representatives

File No. 775

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 470)

Substitute House Bill No. 6610
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 23, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING NEUROFEEDBACK THERAPY.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Education
2 and Public Health shall, within available appropriations, evaluate the
3 value, efficacy and cost of neurofeedback in the treatment of attention
4 deficit hyperactivity disorder or other identifiable learning disabilities
5 in children who are eligible for special education and related services.
6 The evaluation shall include a survey of scientific literature and
7 consultation with appropriate experts in child development, child
8 psychology, special education and other relevant fields, including, but
9 not limited to, experts affiliated with The University of Connecticut,
10 The University of Connecticut Health Center, Connecticut Children's
11 Hospital and the Yale Child Development Center. The commissioners
12 shall report their findings and recommendations, in accordance with
13 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
14 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
15 matters relating to education and public health by February 1, 2004.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$
Education, Dept. and Department of Public Health	GF - Cost	\$150,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill will result in a combined cost of approximately \$150,000 to the Departments of Education and Public Health. The bill would require the Departments of Education and Public Health to evaluate the value, efficacy and cost of neurofeedback in the treatment of certain children who are eligible for special education and related services. Neither agency has the personnel, resources or flexibility to perform this study and evaluation and each would therefore have to hire new personnel or contract-out the study. The biennial budget recently passed by the General Assembly did not contain funds for this purpose.

House "A" eliminated the provision for an unfunded pilot program and thus eliminated any potential cost to the state in the future that could have occurred if the pilot program were ever funded.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6610 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM OF NEUROFEEDBACK THERAPY**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the education and public health commissioners to evaluate, within available appropriations, the value, efficacy, and cost of neurofeedback in treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or other identifiable learning disabilities in children eligible for special education and related services. The evaluation must include a survey of scientific literature and consultation with appropriate experts in child development, child psychology, special education, and other relevant fields, including experts affiliated with the University of Connecticut (UConn), the UConn Health Center, the Connecticut Children's Hospital, and the Yale Child Development Center.

The bill requires the commissioners to report their findings and recommendations to the Education and Public Health committees by February 1, 2004.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill, which allowed the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department of Education and within available appropriations, to establish a neurofeedback pilot program for 40 elementary school students for the 2003-04 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Neurofeedback***

Neurofeedback therapy is also known as EEG biofeedback. In this approach, wires attached to the scalp measure brain wave patterns. A computer monitor provides positive feedback when a state of focus and attention is attained.

Legislative History

On May 6, the House referred the bill to the Appropriations Committee, which reported it favorably and without change on May 12.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 25 Nay 1

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 21 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 31 Nay 12