



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6598

LCO No. 3789

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S TEACHER SHORTAGE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) The Department of
2 Higher Education, in collaboration with the Board for State Academic
3 Awards, shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to
4 prepare paraprofessionals who have been successful in the classroom
5 for teaching careers. Under the program, the department shall provide
6 scholarships to paraprofessionals employed by priority school districts
7 pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, who seek to
8 become certified teachers in shortage subject areas pursuant to section
9 10-8b of the general statutes.

10 (b) The scholarships shall not exceed (1) three thousand dollars per
11 year, and (2) the combined cost of the tuition and fees at the institution
12 of higher education the paraprofessional is attending or will attend. A
13 paraprofessional may receive up to five annual scholarships. The
14 department shall establish criteria for paraprofessionals for
15 participation in the program and procedures for the repayment of the
16 amount of the scholarships provided pursuant to this section if the

17 paraprofessional does not teach in a priority school district in a
18 shortage subject area upon completion of the program.

19 (c) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall identify
20 institutions of higher education to provide the necessary teacher
21 training for the program. Each priority school district shall select
22 paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the criteria
23 established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this
24 section and in consultation with the institutions of higher education.

25 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an
26 employee of a local or regional board of education who does not
27 possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who
28 serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board of
29 education.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Department of Higher
31 Education, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall
32 establish, within available appropriations, a pilot alternate route to
33 certification program for school administrators. The program shall
34 include mentored apprenticeships.

35 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) Notwithstanding subsection (b)
36 of section 10-183g of the general statutes, on and after July 1, 2002,
37 retirement benefits shall not be prorated and persons age sixty and
38 older who have ten years or more of service as a teacher in Connecticut
39 shall receive normal retirement benefits computed in accordance with
40 subsection (a) of section 10-183g of the general statutes.

41 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
43 *1, 2003*):

44 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this
45 section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of
46 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this

47 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a
48 Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the
49 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each
50 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided
51 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such
52 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;
53 and for any member receiving certification through an alternate route
54 program approved by the State Board of Education, up to one year for
55 each three years of service of active full-time service as a Connecticut
56 teacher and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service
57 described in this subsection. In no event, however, may any service
58 described in this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or
59 is, or will become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon
60 such service from any governmental system other than the teachers'
61 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional
62 credited service includes:

63 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents
64 established by the United States Department of Defense;

65 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its
66 territories or possessions;

67 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as
68 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the
69 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

70 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

71 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July
72 1, 1965;

73 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North
74 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

75 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to
76 September 1, 1948;

77 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted
78 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least
79 one school year;

80 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the
81 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington
82 Children's Hospital;

83 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the
84 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public
85 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,
86 provided eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of
87 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

88 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than
89 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed
90 thirty months;

91 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any
92 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or
93 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least
94 one school year;

95 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the
96 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; and

97 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps.

98 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) The Department of
99 Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program
100 to provide three-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to beginning teachers
101 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general
102 statutes. Teachers shall be eligible for the bonus for the first year they
103 teach in such a district. The department shall provide funds to each
104 priority school district to increase the salary of eligible teachers.

105 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Department of Education

106 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide
107 five-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to teachers (1) who agree to teach
108 a minimum of three years in a school on the list of schools in need of
109 improvement pursuant to section 10-223b of the general statutes, or (2)
110 in shortage subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the general
111 statutes.

112 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Commissioner of Education
113 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter
114 54 of the general statutes, to set eligibility criteria for the waiving of the
115 fees for teacher certification examinations administered by the
116 department. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any candidate
117 who meets such criteria.

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>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To address the teacher shortage and offer incentives to teachers to teach in schools in need of improvement and in subject matter shortage areas.

[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.]