



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6598

January Session, 2003

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S TEACHER SHORTAGE,
PILOT EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS, ENGLISH AS A
SECOND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING
FOR TEACHERS AND TEACHER PREPARATION COURSES.**

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, or (2) the combined cost of the tuition and fees at the institution
12 of higher education the paraprofessional is attending or will attend,
13 whichever is less. A paraprofessional may receive up to five annual
14 scholarships. The department shall establish criteria for
15 paraprofessionals for participation in the program and procedures for
16 the repayment of the amount of the scholarships provided pursuant to
17 this section if the paraprofessional does not teach in a priority school
18 district in a 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 holds a
27 position that does not require a certificate issued by the State Board of
28 Education and who serves as an instructional assistant for such local or
29 regional board of education.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Department of Education
31 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide
32 three-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to beginning certified teachers in
33 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general
34 statutes. Teachers shall be eligible for the bonus for the first year they
35 teach in such a district. The department shall provide funds to each
36 priority school district to increase the salary of eligible teachers.

37 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Department of Education
38 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide
39 five-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to certified teachers (1) who agree
40 to teach a minimum of three years in a school on the list of schools in
41 need of improvement pursuant to section 10-223b of the general
42 statutes, or (2) in shortage subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the
43 general statutes.

44 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Commissioner of Education
45 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter
46 54 of the general statutes, to set eligibility criteria for the waiving of the
47 fees for teacher certification examinations administered by the
48 Department of Education. The commissioner shall waive the fee for
49 any candidate who meets such criteria.

50 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Board of Trustees for the

51 Community-Technical Colleges, the Connecticut State University
52 System and The University of Connecticut shall develop transfer and
53 articulation agreements concerning teacher preparation programs.
54 Such agreements shall include, but not be limited to, provisions
55 concerning course requirements and electives, course transfer policies
56 and practices, admissions requirements and policies for student
57 recruitment, information and counseling. Such agreements shall
58 provide that community-technical college students shall be considered
59 for admission to schools of education according to the same standards
60 as students of the university.

61 Sec. 6. Section 10-265j of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

63 The Commissioner of Education shall establish [two] three pilot
64 early childhood learning programs. The pilot programs shall be
65 established in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p or
66 transitional school districts. One program shall be in a municipality
67 with a population of fifty to one hundred thousand, inclusive, [and]
68 one program shall be in a municipality with a population over one
69 hundred thousand, and one program shall be at Eastern Connecticut
70 State University. Each pilot program may include a laboratory school
71 and a model day care program that serves sixty children ages three to
72 five. The Department of Education shall issue a request for proposals
73 for the pilot programs. The commissioner shall provide grants in the
74 amount of one hundred thousand dollars each for purposes of such
75 pilot programs. The grants shall be provided from the amount
76 appropriated for purposes of section 10-265f.

77 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
78 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
79 *1, 2003*):

80 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
81 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
82 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or

83 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
84 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
85 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
86 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
87 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
88 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
89 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
90 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
91 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
92 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth
93 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and
94 gifted and talented children and children who may require special
95 education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working
96 effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom, (4)
97 school violence prevention and conflict resolution, (5)
98 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
99 procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied
100 to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and
101 data management, [and] (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading
102 and reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three,
103 inclusive, and (8) second language acquisition in districts where
104 English language learners are enrolled. The State Board of Education,
105 within available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall
106 assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include:
107 (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the historical events
108 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American
109 history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F)
110 personal financial management; and (G) topics approved by the state
111 board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part
112 of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection.

113 Sec. 8. Section 10-145a of the general statutes is amended by adding
114 subsections (f) and (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

115 (NEW) (f) On and after July 1, 2005, any candidate in a program of
116 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete,

