



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 1161

LCO No. 4566

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE REGIONAL
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4,
2 2004, the Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the
3 regional vocational-technical school system, with the advice of the
4 Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology
5 established by Executive Order No. 13 of Governor John G. Rowland
6 and representatives of business and industry, shall revise the mission
7 statement for the regional vocational-technical school system, which
8 shall include, but not be limited to, an articulation of the following
9 elements: (1) The system's core business and customer focus; (2) the
10 unique role of the system in providing vocational-technical education
11 within the state; and (3) the system's overall mission of ensuring that
12 each graduate of a regional vocational-technical school (A) meets the
13 entry-level employability requirements of targeted industries and
14 occupations, (B) meets qualification standards for matriculation in the
15 community-technical college system and other institutions of higher
16 education, and (C) will be capable of continuing future education and

17 development in response to changing workplace opportunities and
18 demands.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2004,
20 the Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the regional
21 vocational-technical school system, with the advice of the Governor's
22 Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology established by
23 Executive Order No. 13, of Governor John G. Rowland shall evaluate
24 the regional vocational-technical school system's organizational
25 structure to (1) determine if the structure supports the revised mission
26 statement developed pursuant to section 1 of this act, and responds to
27 the system's core business and customer functions, and (2) clarify and
28 relate roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability within the
29 system to strategic functions of the system as a whole and tactical
30 functions of individual regional vocational-technical schools and
31 satellite facilities.

32 Sec. 3. Section 10-95i of the general statutes is repealed and the
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

34 (a) Not later than January 1, 1990, and every five years thereafter,
35 the State Board of Education shall adopt a long-range plan of priorities
36 and goals for the regional vocational-technical school system. The plan
37 shall address implementation of the revised mission statement of the
38 regional vocational-technical school system developed pursuant to
39 section 1 of this act and coordination with other providers of
40 vocational, technical or technological education or training and shall
41 include (1) an analysis of the activities described in subsections (b) and
42 (c) of this section and how such activities relate to the long-range plan
43 of priorities and goals and a summary of activities related to capital
44 improvements, and (2) equipment pursuant to subsection (d) of this
45 section. Upon adoption of the plan, the state board shall file the plan
46 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
47 cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue and
48 bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The

49 state board shall use the plan in preparing its five-year comprehensive
50 plan pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-4.

51 (b) During the five-year period beginning January 1, 1990, and
52 during each five-year period thereafter, the State Board of Education
53 shall evaluate each existing regional vocational-technical school trade
54 program in accordance with a schedule [which] that the state board
55 shall establish. A trade program may be reauthorized for a period of
56 not more than five years following each evaluation on the basis of: The
57 projected employment demand for students enrolled in the trade
58 program, including consideration of the employment of graduates of
59 the program during the preceding five years; anticipated technological
60 changes; the availability of qualified instructors; the existence of
61 similar programs at other educational institutions; and student interest
62 in the trade program. As part of the evaluation, the state board shall
63 consider geographic differences that may make a trade program
64 feasible at one school and not another and whether certain
65 combinations of program offerings shall be required. Prior to any final
66 decision on the reauthorization of a trade program, the state board
67 shall consult with the craft committees for the trade program being
68 evaluated.

69 (c) The state board shall consider the addition of new trade
70 programs. Decisions by the state board to add such programs shall at a
71 minimum be based on the projected employment demand for
72 graduates of the program, the cost of establishing the program, the
73 availability of qualified instructors, the existence of similar programs
74 at other educational institutions and the interest of students in the
75 trade. The state board shall authorize new trade programs for a
76 maximum of five years. The state board shall provide a process for the
77 public, including, but not limited to, employers, parents, students or
78 teachers, to request consideration of the establishment of a new trade
79 program.

80 (d) The State Board of Education shall maintain a rolling five-year

81 capital improvement and capital equipment plan that identifies: (1)
82 Alterations, renovations and repairs that each vocational-technical
83 school is expected to need, including, but not limited to, grounds and
84 athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and
85 windows, and the cost of such projects, (2) recommendations for
86 energy efficiency improvements to each school and the cost of such
87 improvements, [and] (3) the specific equipment each regional
88 vocational-technical school is expected to need, based on the useful life
89 of existing equipment and projections of changing technology and the
90 estimated cost of the equipment, and (4) recommendations for
91 implementing key elements relating to capital needs of the revised
92 mission statement of the regional vocational-technical school system
93 developed pursuant to section 1 of this act. The State Board of
94 Education shall submit such plan, annually, to the joint standing
95 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
96 relating to education, finance, revenue and bonding and
97 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

98 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal year ending June
99 30, 2004, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of
100 Education shall submit a budget for the regional vocational-technical
101 school system as a separate and distinct budget rather than as a
102 component of the Department of Education budget. On and after July
103 1, 2003, the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school
104 system may use funds in the system's appropriated accounts to
105 implement the revised mission statement developed pursuant to
106 section 1 of this act and to better serve the system's core customers.

107 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The superintendent of the
108 regional vocational-technical school system shall increase the efficiency
109 and effectiveness of the regional vocational-technical school system's
110 budget through initiatives that include, but are not limited to, (1) the
111 establishment of an education foundation for the purpose of pursuing
112 financial donations from individuals and employers to support the
113 operation of the regional vocational-technical school system and to

114 reallocate funds received from student entrepreneurial programs, (2)
115 in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management, a review of
116 regional vocational-technical school system purchases to identify
117 opportunities for costs savings through bulk purchasing contracts or
118 other methods, and (3) the identification of grant programs and
119 application to such programs to support new and existing programs
120 for the regional vocational-technical school system.

121 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2004,
122 and annually thereafter, the Commissioners of Education and Higher
123 Education, in collaboration with the chancellor of the regional
124 community-technical college system and the superintendent of the
125 regional vocational-technical school system shall report, in accordance
126 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
127 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
128 matters relating to education and higher education and employment
129 advancement on any (1) initiatives to build upon the existing
130 partnership of the regional vocational-technical school system and the
131 regional community-technical college system relative to providing an
132 integrated system of secondary and postsecondary education for
133 regional vocational-technical students pursuing careers in workforce
134 shortage areas forecasted by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness
135 pursuant to section 4-124w of the general statutes, (2) initiatives to
136 encourage and facilitate the matriculation of regional vocational-
137 technical school graduates at regional community-technical colleges,
138 (3) recommendations for improving existing articulation agreements
139 between regional vocational-technical schools and regional
140 community-technical colleges, and (4) recommendations for
141 implementing new articulation agreements between regional
142 vocational-technical schools and regional community-technical
143 colleges.

144 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of
145 Economic and Community Development shall develop a process for
146 obtaining timely data from industry clusters and business training

147 networks showing trends in industry and economic sector growth.

148 (b) Not later than February 4, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
149 Labor Department, with advice of the Department of Economic and
150 Community Development, shall annually report, in accordance with
151 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, occupational
152 supply and demand information to the superintendent of the regional
153 vocational-technical school system, the chancellor of the regional
154 community-technical college system, and to the joint standing
155 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
156 relating to education, higher education and employment advancement.
157 Such information shall include, but not be limited to, guidance as to
158 addition, maintenance or elimination of vocational programs pursuant
159 to subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-95i of the general statutes.

160 (c) The State Board of Education shall establish a program
161 authorization process to include specific plans for forming a Technical
162 Trade Advisory Committee to market programs to prospective
163 students and employers.

164 (d) Not later than February 4, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
165 Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the superintendent of
166 the regional vocational-technical school system, shall report, in
167 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
168 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
169 cognizance of matters relating to education, higher education and
170 employment advancement, the Office of Policy and Management, the
171 Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology
172 established by Executive Order No. 13 of Governor John G. Rowland
173 and the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission on trade
174 authorization program decisions made affecting each school in the
175 regional vocational-technical system.

176 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2004, the
177 Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the regional
178 vocational-technical school system, in collaboration with the Office of

179 Workforce Competitiveness and the Governor's Council on Economic
180 Competitiveness and Technology established by Executive Order No.
181 13, of Governor John G. Rowland shall report, in accordance with the
182 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
183 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
184 relating to education, on methods for improving the performance
185 measurement and management system for trade programs offered at
186 the regional vocational-technical school system. The report shall
187 identify quantifiable, industry-responsive outcome measures
188 appropriate to each type of trade program, and shall clarify
189 responsibility and accountability for achieving such measures.

190 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2004,
191 the Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the regional
192 vocational-technical school system, in collaboration with the Office of
193 Workforce Competitiveness, shall develop an annual survey of (1)
194 employers that participate in regional vocational-technical school
195 programs as career mentors or hire regional vocational-technical
196 students for internships or permanent employment in order to assess
197 the employers' satisfaction with the students' performance, and (2)
198 students who graduated from regional vocational-technical schools in
199 the five years preceding such survey in order to assess the students'
200 satisfaction with their long-term educational and employment
201 accomplishments.

202 Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2004, the
203 Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the regional
204 vocational-technical school system, in collaboration with the
205 Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology
206 established by Executive Order No. 13, of Governor John G. Rowland
207 shall develop a marketing and recruitment strategy consistent with the
208 mission statement revised pursuant to section 1 of this act. Such
209 strategy shall promote the value of vocational-technical education and
210 may target parent, student and industry audiences. Such plan may
211 include, but not be limited to, possible alternatives to the current

212 regional-vocational technical school system name and ways to increase
213 diversity of student population.

214 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
215 Education and the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
216 school system, in collaboration with the Governor's Council on
217 Economic Competitiveness and Technology established by Executive
218 Order No. 13, of Governor John G. Rowland shall establish state-wide
219 industry guidance committees for each career cluster offered as part of
220 the regional vocational-technical school system. Such committees shall
221 include industry representatives to the specific career cluster. Each
222 committee for a career cluster shall establish specific skill standards for
223 the cluster. The Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of
224 the regional vocational-technical school system shall develop curricula
225 based on the skill standards set by the state-wide industry guidance
226 committees for each career cluster.

227 Sec. 12. Section 10-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
228 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

229 [Prior to July 1, 1998, the State Board of Education shall consist of
230 nine members.] On and after July 1, 1998, the State Board of Education
231 shall consist of eleven members, two of whom shall be nonvoting
232 student members. The Governor shall appoint, with the advice and
233 consent of the General Assembly, the members of said board, provided
234 each student member (1) is on the list submitted to the Governor
235 pursuant to section 10-2a, (2) is enrolled in a public high school in the
236 state, (3) has completed eleventh grade prior to the commencement of
237 [his] a term, (4) has at least a B plus average, and (5) provides at least
238 three references from teachers in the school [he] the student member is
239 attending. Nine members shall serve for terms of four years
240 commencing on March first in the year of their appointment. On and
241 after July 1, 2003, the State Board of Education shall consist of thirteen
242 members, two of whom shall be nonvoting student members.
243 Appointments of the eleven voting members shall include at least two

244 representatives of business and industry and such representatives shall
245 serve for terms of four years commencing from the date of their
246 appointment. The student members shall serve for terms of one year
247 commencing on July first in the year of their appointment. The
248 Commissioner of Higher Education shall serve as an ex-officio member
249 without a vote. Any vacancy in said State Board of Education shall be
250 filled in the manner provided in section 4-19.

251 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The superintendent, assistant
252 superintendent and directors of the regional vocational-technical
253 school system shall develop a plan of performance goals addressing
254 the implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's Task
255 Force on the Future of the Regional Vocational-Technical High Schools
256 System established by Executive Order No. 24 of Governor John G.
257 Rowland. Such goals shall be specific and include timetables and
258 success measures. The Governor's Council on Economic
259 Competitiveness and Technology, established by Executive Order No.
260 13, of Governor John G. Rowland may monitor the implementation of
261 such plan.

262 Sec. 14. Section 10-95h of the general statutes is repealed and the
263 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

264 [There is established a state-wide advisory committee to
265 recommend] The Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness
266 and Technology established by Executive Order No. 13 of Governor
267 John G. Rowland shall make recommendations to the State Board of
268 Education addressing (1) how the regional vocational-technical schools
269 may best meet the skill needs of employers; (2) how the role of school
270 craft committees can be strengthened and employer participation
271 increased; (3) how alternative technical training models for eleventh
272 and twelfth grade students, such as tech-prep, shared time, trade
273 academies and preapprenticeship can be expanded, particularly in
274 manufacturing; and (4) new trade programs for such schools. [The
275 committee shall consist of twelve members appointed as follows: The

276 Governor shall appoint one person representing the business
 277 community and one person representing the labor community, both of
 278 whom shall be members of regional vocational-technical school
 279 advisory committees; the president pro tempore of the Senate and the
 280 speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one person
 281 representing the business community and one person representing the
 282 public; the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall
 283 appoint one person representing the labor community and one person
 284 representing the public; the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint
 285 one person who shall be a member of a local or regional board of
 286 education and one person representing the public; the majority leader
 287 of the House of Representatives shall appoint one person who shall be
 288 a member of a local or regional board of education; and the majority
 289 leader of the Senate shall appoint one person representing the labor
 290 community. The committee membership shall reflect the state's
 291 geographic, racial and ethnic diversity.]

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To improve the ability of the state's regional vocational-technical school system to develop graduates who are capable of meeting the employment needs of business and industry in Connecticut.

[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.]