



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 14

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5104

House of Representatives, February 25, 2004

The Committee on Education reported through REP. GIANNAROS of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MASTERY TEST ADMINISTRATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 5 of public act 03-174 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) [No] Except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section, for
4 the school year commencing in 2005, and for each school year
5 thereafter, no examination required for students in the seventh
6 through twelfth grades, inclusive, pursuant to this chapter, or in
7 accordance with the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L.
8 107-110, shall be administered earlier than [nine o'clock] 8:30 a.m.

9 (b) For the school year commencing in 2005, and for each school
10 year thereafter, a local or regional board of education may apply to the
11 Commissioner of Education for a waiver from the testing time
12 prescribed in subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner may
13 grant such waiver if the application (1) shows cause why all other

14 reasonable alternatives are not feasible, and (2) provides evidence that
15 the school board, with notice to parents, students and teachers, shall
16 hold a public hearing no later than sixty days from the date of
17 application on the effects of adolescent sleep deprivation and school
18 scheduling. No later than thirty days after such hearing, the school
19 board shall forward the minutes of the hearing to the commissioner.

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

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Savings	Potential	Potential

Explanation

This bill results in a potential savings to local and regional school districts as it provides flexibility in test scheduling which may reduce the need for added busing or other accommodations that may have been made in holding tests no earlier than 9:00 am.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5104

AN ACT CONCERNING MASTERY TEST ADMINISTRATION**SUMMARY:**

Starting in the 2005-06 school year, this bill changes the earliest time for administering state mastery tests and tests required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act to students in grades 7-12 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. It also allows local school boards to apply to the education commissioner for permission to give the tests earlier than 8:30 a.m. in the 2005-06 or any subsequent school year.

Under the bill, the commissioner may waive the 8:30 a.m. test-time requirement only if a board (1) shows why all other reasonable alternatives are not feasible and (2) gives evidence that it will, within 60 days of the application, hold a public hearing on the effects of adolescent sleep deprivation and school scheduling and notify parents, students, and teachers of the hearing. The bill also requires the local board to send the hearing minutes to the commissioner within 30 days after the hearing date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Connecticut Mastery Tests***

State mastery tests are currently required in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10. The 4th, 6th, and 8th grade tests must be given in the fall and the 10th grade test in the spring. Starting in the 2005-06 school year, in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the state will add mastery tests for students in grades 3, 5, and 7. Also starting in 2005-06, all mastery testing will occur in the spring.

Related Bill

SB 151, reported favorably by the Education Committee, changes the earliest test time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. only for the 2004 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), which is the state's

10th grade mastery test. Like this bill, SB 151 lets local school boards ask the education commissioner to allow earlier testing, but only for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years. The conditions for the commissioner to grant a waiver of the test-time requirements are the same as those in this bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0