



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 438

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5494

House of Representatives, April 5, 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 ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE CONCERNING PARAPROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut Education Paraprofessional Task Force. The task force
3 shall: (1) Develop a plan to ensure that professional development and
4 support for test preparation is provided for paraprofessionals to meet
5 the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110; (2)
6 develop a state-wide professional development and training program
7 for paraprofessionals to meet classroom demands, including, but not
8 limited to, the needs of special education students and assisting
9 teachers with classroom instruction; (3) develop a program to provide
10 resources for paraprofessionals to obtain college credits and degrees;
11 (4) report on the feasibility of establishing a state-wide credentialing or
12 certification system for paraprofessionals; (5) develop a program for
13 alternatives for assessment of the performance of paraprofessionals
14 such as portfolio evaluation or training options; and (6) develop a

15 state-wide objective job evaluation study for paraprofessionals based
16 on objective job related criteria, including, but not limited to
17 knowledge and skills required to perform the duties of a
18 paraprofessional. For purposes of this subsection, "paraprofessional"
19 means an employee of a local or regional board of education who does
20 not possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and
21 who serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board
22 of education.

23 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

24 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
25 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
26 relating to education and higher education, or their designees;

27 (2) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

28 (3) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or the commissioner's
29 designee;

30 (4) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
31 who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Federation of
32 Educational and Professional Employees who is knowledgeable in the
33 areas of paraprofessionals and the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-
34 110; and

35 (5) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
36 is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of
37 Education.

38 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
39 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
40 filled by the appointing authority.

41 (d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
42 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, or their
43 designees, shall be the chairpersons of the task force. Such
44 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which

45 shall be held no later than sixty days after the effective date of this
46 section.

47 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
48 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
49 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

50 (f) Not later than January 1, 2005, the task force shall report, in
51 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
52 its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of
53 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
54 education and higher education. The task force shall terminate on the
55 date that it submits such report or January 1, 2005, whichever is earlier.

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal	None
Education, Dept.; Higher Ed., Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a Connecticut Education Paraprofessional Task Force and requires the task force to report their findings by January 1, 2005. The bill appoints the chairs and ranking members of the committees of Education and Higher Education and Employment Advancement, or their designees; the commissioners of Education and Higher Education, or their designees to the task force. Legislative Management will incur minimal costs for legislator mileage reimbursement. It is anticipated that the agencies can participate in the task force within their normal budgetary resources. The bill requires the administrative staff of the Education Committee to serve as the administrative staff of the task force, which results in no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5494

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE CONCERNING
PARAPROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0