



# House of Representatives

**File No. 669**

General Assembly

---

February Session, 2004 **(Reprint of File No. 153)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5577  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 26, 2004

**AN ACT ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The State Board of  
2 Education may recognize a school that meets the standards for  
3 international education programs developed by the international  
4 education advisory committee, in accordance with the provisions of  
5 subsection (b) of section 10-27 of the general statutes, as amended by  
6 this act. Any such school may announce and declare such recognition  
7 status.

8 (b) The State Board of Education may recognize sister school  
9 partnership programs between public schools of this state and foreign  
10 schools that meet criteria as established in accordance with the  
11 provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-27 of the general statutes, as  
12 amended by this act. Within available appropriations, participation in  
13 such partnership shall allow the foreign school access to state  
14 programs of professional development and technical assistance  
15 programs under the same terms and conditions as for public schools of

16 this state.

17 Sec. 2. Section 10-27 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
18 40 of public act 03-76, is repealed and the following is substituted in  
19 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

20 (a) It shall be the policy of the state to encourage its students,  
21 teachers, administrators and educational policy makers to participate  
22 in international studies, international exchange programs and other  
23 activities that advance cultural awareness and promote mutual  
24 understanding and respect for the citizens of other countries.

25 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish an international  
26 education advisory committee to explore international opportunities  
27 for learning, exchange programs and the availability of curriculum  
28 materials for students, teachers, administrators and educational policy  
29 makers. The advisory committee shall:

30 (1) Investigate [investigate] and compile information concerning  
31 international education programs and opportunities. The committee  
32 shall make recommendations to the commissioner on the expansion of  
33 international education programs and opportunities and shall consider  
34 ways to encourage participation in such programs. The committee  
35 shall advise the Department of Education and the joint standing  
36 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
37 relating to education on international program opportunities and the  
38 availability of federal or nonprofit agency funding for such programs.  
39 The department shall provide information on international education  
40 opportunities to local and regional boards of education;

41 (2) Develop guidelines and standards to aid local and regional  
42 boards of education in the establishment of programs of international  
43 studies. Such guidelines and standards shall describe the essential  
44 components of a quality educational program incorporating  
45 international education concepts. The committee shall submit such  
46 guidelines and standards to the State Board of Education for review  
47 and approval;

48       (3) Develop criteria for what constitutes a sister school partnership  
 49 program between a public school of this state and a foreign school.  
 50 Such criteria shall provide a process for recognition of such  
 51 partnership. The committee shall submit such criteria to the State  
 52 Board of Education for review and approval; and

53       (4) Advise the State Board of Education on possible incentives to  
 54 encourage the formation of partnerships that meet criteria established  
 55 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection.  
 56 Such incentives may include, but need not be limited to, cooperation  
 57 between sister partnership schools in teacher certification, student  
 58 assessment programs and recognition of student course credit,  
 59 participation in summer programs and in other areas where the state  
 60 could recognize the value of the sister school partnership relationships  
 61 with minimal cost.

62       (c) State agencies, including the educational institutions, may  
 63 exchange a limited number of professional personnel and students  
 64 with institutions of other states and other countries and may pay the  
 65 salaries of such personnel and may assign scholarships and grants-in-  
 66 aid to the exchangees. The authorized exchange of personnel and  
 67 students need not be parallel and simultaneous nor specific with  
 68 regard to the assignment of persons between institutions. If a vacancy  
 69 exists on the staff of any state agency, including the educational  
 70 institutions, because a leave of absence without pay has been granted,  
 71 such agency may engage the services of professional personnel of  
 72 other countries, and may pay such personnel so engaged from the  
 73 funds which otherwise would have been paid to such staff members  
 74 on leave of absence without pay.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

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 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Section 1 of the bill allows for the provision of grants for sister school relationships with regard to allowing the foreign school access to state programs of professional development and technical assistance programs under the same terms and conditions as a public school in the state. No funds exist in the current FY 05 budget for this endeavor. Therefore there is no impact upon the state in FY 05 at present.

All other sections of the bill have no fiscal impact.

House "A" is technical and has no fiscal impact.

---

---

**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

sHB 5577 (as amended by House "A")\*

***AN ACT ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the duties of the International Education Advisory Committee by requiring it to (1) develop criteria and guidelines for international studies programs, as well as partnership programs between Connecticut public schools and foreign schools, and (2) submit them to the State Board of Education (SBE) for review and approval. The bill requires the committee also to advise the SBE on incentives to encourage the formation of the partnership programs, such as cooperation in teacher certification, student assessment programs and course credit recognition, summer program participation, and other low cost measures that would maximize the benefits of the partnerships.

The bill authorizes SBE to recognize international education and sister school partnership programs and allows foreign schools to receive professional development and technical assistance under the partnership program within available appropriations under the same conditions as Connecticut public schools.

\*House Amendment "A" eliminates provisions in the original bill that required the governor to designate the third week of November of each year, or any other federally recognized international education week, as International Education Week in Connecticut.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**BACKGROUND*****International Education Advisory Committee***

This committee must (1) explore, investigate, and compile information on international educational opportunities and related curriculum material; (2) recommend to the education commissioner ways to

expand these opportunities and think of ways to encourage participation in them; and (3) advise the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Education Committee about international program opportunities and the availability of federal and nonprofit agency funding. SDE must provide information about the opportunities to local and regional boards of education.

***Legislative History***

On March 30, the House referred the bill (File 153) to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, which reported it favorably on March 31. On April 13, the House referred the bill to the Appropriations Committee, which reported it favorably without changes on April 20.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 28    Nay 0

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 17    Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 50    Nay 0