



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 402

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 531

Senate, April 1, 2004

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-262n of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2004*):

4 (a) The Department of Education shall administer, within available
5 appropriations, a program to assist local and regional school districts
6 to improve the use of information technology in their schools. Under
7 the program, the department shall provide grants to local and regional
8 boards of education and may provide other forms of assistance such as
9 the provision of purchasing under state-wide contracts with the
10 Department of Information Technology. Grant funds may be used for:
11 (1) Wiring and wireless connectivity, (2) the purchase or leasing of
12 computers, and (3) interactive software and the purchase and
13 installation of software filters.

14 Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-283 of the
15 general statutes, as amended by section 27 of public act 03-76, is
16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
17 *1, 2004*):

18 (a) (1) Each town or regional school district shall be eligible to apply
19 for and accept grants for a school building project as provided in this
20 chapter. Any town desiring a grant for a public school building project
21 may, by vote of its legislative body, authorize the board of education of
22 such town to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or
23 reject such grant for the town. Any regional school board may vote to
24 authorize the supervising agent of the regional school district to apply
25 to the Commissioner of Education for and to accept or reject such grant
26 for the district. Applications for such grants under this chapter shall be
27 made by the superintendent of schools of such town or regional school
28 district on the form provided and in the manner prescribed by the
29 Commissioner of Education. The application form shall require the
30 superintendent of schools to affirm that the school district considered
31 the maximization of natural light and the use and feasibility of wireless
32 connectivity technology in projects for new construction and alteration
33 or renovation of a school building. Grant applications for school
34 building projects shall be reviewed by the Commissioner of Education
35 on the basis of categories for building projects and standards for school
36 construction established by the State Board of Education in accordance
37 with this section, provided grant applications submitted for purposes
38 of subsection (a) of section 10-65 or section 10-76e shall be reviewed
39 annually by the commissioner on the basis of the educational needs of
40 the applicant.

41 Sec. 3. Section 4d-85 of the general statutes is repealed and the
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

43 The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Commission
44 for Educational Technology, [in cooperation with the Department of
45 Education,] shall develop, by July 1, 2001, and shall update every two
46 years thereafter: (1) A state-wide standard for teacher and

47 administrator competency in the use of technology for instructional
48 purposes, and (2) a state-wide plan to assist teachers and
49 administrators to achieve the standard. The commission shall assess
50 the resources necessary to achieve such goal. The commission shall
51 submit the plan to the General Assembly.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2004</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 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Inf. Technol., Dept.	GF - Uncertain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is anticipated that the State Department of Education (SDE) can update the plans as set forth in section 2 within available budgetary resources as the SDE already in essence performs the functions as required under the section.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 531

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the permissible uses of State Department of Education (SDE) educational technology program grants for school districts to include wireless connectivity, as well as traditional wiring and connectivity, computers, and software.

It requires superintendents to affirm in their school construction grant applications that the school district considered using wireless connectivity technology in their school building projects.

Finally, the bill shifts primary responsibility for the development of (1) a statewide teacher and administrator competency standard for the use of technology for teaching and (2) a statewide plan for the achievement of this standard from the Commission for Educational Technology to SDE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

BACKGROUND***Commission for Educational Technology***

The legislature created the Commission for Educational Technology in 2000. It is composed of 20 leaders from education, business, information technology, and government. It is responsible for the management and successful integration of technology in Connecticut's schools, libraries, colleges and universities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0

