



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5494

February Session, 2004

* HB05494ED 031804 *

**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.*