



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5577**

February Session, 2004

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB05577APP \_\_ 042004 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**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18 40 of public act 03-76, is repealed and the following is substituted in  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.

75 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes, as  
76 amended by section 1 of public act 03-29 and section 1 of public act 03-  
77 79, is amended by adding subdivision (49) as follows (*Effective July 1,*  
78 *2004*):

79 (NEW) (49) The Governor shall proclaim the third week of  
80 November of each year, or such other week if in conjunction with a  
81 federally recognized international education week, to be "International  
82 Education Week" for the purpose of encouraging schools to participate  
83 in programs of international education. Suitable exercises shall be held

84 in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the  
85 observance of the week.

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| 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.*

**GAE**     *Joint Favorable*

**APP**     *Joint Favorable*