



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Raised Bill No. 322**

LCO No. 1500

\*01500\_\_\_\_\_HS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-293 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

3 (a) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall consist  
4 of seven members, six of whom shall be appointed by the Governor  
5 and shall be residents of this state. The Commissioner of Social  
6 Services shall be a member, ex officio. [The other six members , two of  
7 whom shall be blind persons, shall be appointed by the Governor, and  
8 each shall be a resident of this state.] Two of the members appointed  
9 by the Governor shall be blind persons, and one of such members shall  
10 be the parent of a child who receives services provided by the board.  
11 The Governor may, for reasonable cause, remove any [appointive]  
12 appointed member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy for  
13 the unexpired portion of the term. [Said] The board shall meet  
14 annually in the month of September and may meet at any other time  
15 upon the call of its director; and the director shall call a meeting at the  
16 request of two members. Any appointed member who fails to attend

17 three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings held during  
18 any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. A majority of the  
19 members in office shall constitute a quorum. The board shall adopt  
20 rules for its own action and regulations for determining what persons  
21 shall receive benefits under the provisions of this chapter.

22 (b) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall be  
23 within the Department of Social Services for administrative purposes  
24 only.

25 Sec. 2. Section 3 of public act 03-217 is repealed and the following is  
26 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

27 (a) There is established a council to monitor the activities of the  
28 Board of Education and Services for the Blind in carrying out its  
29 mission and statutorily prescribed duties.

30 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

31 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
32 one who shall be a person with expertise in business administration  
33 and financial management;

34 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
35 is a representative of a state-wide organization that represents the  
36 interests of the blind;

37 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
38 Representatives who is an adult with blindness, receiving services  
39 from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

40 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is an  
41 adult with blindness, receiving services from the Board of Education  
42 and Services for the Blind;

43 (5) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
44 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

45 relating to human services, or their designees;

46 (6) The chairpersons of the legislative program and review  
47 committee, or their designees;

48 (7) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
49 secretary's designee;

50 (8) The Commissioner of [the Department of] Social Services, or the  
51 commissioner's designee;

52 (9) The Commissioner of [the Department of] Education, or the  
53 commissioner's designee;

54 (10) The executive director of the Board of Education and Services  
55 for the Blind, or the director's designee.

56 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (5) or  
57 (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General  
58 Assembly.

59 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than  
60 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
61 filled by the appointing authority.

62 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
63 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,  
64 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall  
65 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later  
66 than July 1, 2003. The council shall meet at least monthly thereafter  
67 until February 1, [2004] 2005, and shall terminate not later than July 1,  
68 [2004] 2005.

69 (f) The council, in consultation with the Board of Education and  
70 Services for the Blind shall establish benchmarks concerning agency  
71 management, operations and services. The council shall: (1) Monitor  
72 the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind

73 regarding: (A) The quality, efficiency and equity of (i) educational  
74 services for children who are blind or visually impaired, (ii) home and  
75 daily living skills services for persons who are blind, (iii) vocational  
76 rehabilitation services and programs for persons who are blind, (iv)  
77 outreach efforts to identify and provide information and services to  
78 elderly persons who are blind, (B) the provision of employment  
79 training and experience in a competitive work environment and  
80 availability of the broadest employment and entrepreneurial  
81 opportunities for individuals who are blind, (C) the development and  
82 implementation of strategic planning efforts, (D) the accountability of  
83 fiscal operations, including, but not limited to, the preparation of a  
84 detailed program budget and expenditure reports, (E) agency  
85 implementation of the administrative recommendations contained in  
86 the December, 2002 Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
87 Committee on the Board of Education and Services vending  
88 operations; and (2) develop recommendations for proposed changes in  
89 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for  
90 the Blind.

91 (g) Not later than February 1, [2004] 2005, the council shall submit a  
92 report on the progress made by the Board of Education and Services  
93 for the Blind in meeting benchmarks established by the council to the  
94 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
95 of matters relating to human services, appropriations and the budgets  
96 of state agencies and education, in accordance with the provisions of  
97 section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall also include  
98 legislative proposals and recommendations for proposed changes in  
99 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for  
100 the Blind.

101 (h) Failure by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind to  
102 meet specific benchmarks established by the council may result in the  
103 transfer of authority and related funding for deficient programs and  
104 services to another state agency.

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

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require that one member of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind be the parent of a child receiving services from said board and to allow the council established to monitor the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind additional time to complete its assigned tasks.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*