



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

***Raised Bill No. 531***

LCO No. 1875

\*01875\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  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16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*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. Subsection (a) of section 4d-80 of the general statutes is  
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
43 *1, 2004*):

44 (a) There is established a Commission for Educational Technology  
45 within the Department of [Information Technology] Education for  
46 administrative purposes only. The commission shall consist of: (1) The  
47 Chief Information Officer of the Department of Information  
48 Technology, or the Chief Information Officer's designee, the

49 Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, or their designees,  
50 the State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee, the chairperson of  
51 the Department of Public Utility Control, or the chairperson's  
52 designee, the chief executive officers of the constituent units of the  
53 state system of higher education, or their designees, (2) one member  
54 each representing the Connecticut Conference of Independent  
55 Colleges, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the  
56 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the  
57 Connecticut Educators Computer Association, and the Connecticut  
58 Library Association, (3) a secondary school teacher designated by the  
59 Connecticut Education Association and an elementary school teacher  
60 designated by the Connecticut Federation of Educational and  
61 Professional Employees, and (4) four members who represent business  
62 and have expertise in information technology, one each appointed by  
63 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the speaker of the House of  
64 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate. The  
65 Lieutenant Governor shall convene the first meeting of the commission  
66 on or before September 1, 2000.

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 Section 4d-85 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

69 The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Commission  
70 for Educational Technology, [in cooperation with the Department of  
71 Education,] shall develop, by July 1, 2001, and shall update every two  
72 years thereafter: (1) A state-wide standard for teacher and  
73 administrator competency in the use of technology for instructional  
74 purposes, and (2) a state-wide plan to assist teachers and  
75 administrators to achieve the standard. The commission shall assess  
76 the resources necessary to achieve such goal. The commission shall  
77 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>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require schools to consider wireless technology in planning school construction projects and to transfer curriculum-related programs concerning technology to the Department of Education.

*[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.]*