



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Bill No. 6680

LCO No. 3389

*03389 _____ *

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

REP. WARD, 86th Dist.

SEN. DELUCA, 32nd Dist.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is created an Early
2 Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of
3 the Commissioners of Education, Social Services, Public Health,
4 Children and Families and Mental Retardation, or their designees, and
5 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
6 secretary's designee. The cabinet shall advise the Governor on matters
7 relating to school readiness programs.

8 (b) Within available appropriations, the Early Childhood Advisory
9 Cabinet shall advise the Commissioner of Education on policies and
10 initiatives to meet the goals established in section 10-160 of the general
11 statutes.

12 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is created a State-Wide
13 Early Childhood Pilot Program. The Department of Education shall,

14 within available appropriations, maintain a competitive grant program
15 for the purpose of assisting local and regional boards of education,
16 regional educational service centers, family resource centers, providers
17 of child day care services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general
18 statutes, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other
19 programs that meet the standards established by the Commissioner of
20 Education for new school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-
21 16p of the general statutes.

22 (b) Applicants for grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this
23 section shall apply annually to the Commissioner of Education at such
24 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. In
25 determining whether to award an applicant a grant, the commissioner,
26 in consultation with the Early Childhood Advisory Cabinet established
27 pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall consider, but not be limited to,
28 the following factors: (1) The specific objectives and description of the
29 proposed program; (2) the cost of the proposed program; (3) the
30 number of children who will benefit; (4) the relative wealth of the
31 municipality in which the program will be located; and (5) whether the
32 proposed program is likely to (A) increase student achievement, and
33 (B) reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation.

34 (c) Any applicant awarded a grant pursuant to this section shall use
35 the Preschool Curriculum Framework and Benchmarks for Children in
36 Preschool Programs adopted by the State Board of Education in its
37 program.

38 (d) In no case shall an award made pursuant to this section, when
39 calculated on a per pupil basis, exceed the maximum per child cost of
40 the Department of Education school readiness component pursuant to
41 subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by
42 this act.

43 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is
44 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
45 *1, 2005*):

46 (b) [The] (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child
47 cost of the Department of Education school readiness component of
48 the program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
49 thousand [four hundred] six hundred fifty dollars.

50 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
51 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education school
52 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
53 provider shall not exceed six thousand nine hundred twenty-five
54 dollars.

55 (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care services
56 and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject to such
57 per child cost limitation.

58 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
59 the Commissioner of Education may award grants of up to three
60 thousand dollars to existing employees of a school readiness program
61 for the purpose of earning an associate degree in child development.
62 The commissioner, in consultation with the Early Childhood Advisory
63 Cabinet established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall develop
64 criteria for the awarding of such grants.

65 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
66 the Commissioner of Education shall provide technical assistance and
67 training to school readiness programs to assist in the application of the
68 Preschool Curriculum Framework and Benchmarks for Children in
69 Preschool Programs adopted by the State Board of Education.

70 Sec. 6. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is amended by adding
71 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

72 (NEW) (h) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of
73 Education shall develop a state-wide examination for kindergarten
74 that measures whether or not a student has mastered essential grade-
75 level skills in reading, language arts and mathematics.

76 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
77 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Early
78 Childhood Advisory Cabinet established pursuant to section 1 of this
79 act, shall develop a program to provide all parents of newborn
80 children with information regarding early childhood development.
81 Said program shall be administered by the Children's Trust Fund,
82 established pursuant to section 17a-50 of the general statutes.

83 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 10-264l of the general statutes is
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
85 *1, 2005*):

86 (c) (1) The maximum amount each interdistrict magnet school
87 program not operated by a regional educational service center shall be
88 eligible to receive per enrolled student shall be determined as follows:
89 (A) For each participating district whose magnet school program
90 enrollment is equal to or less than thirty per cent of the magnet school
91 program total enrollment, ninety per cent of the foundation as defined
92 in subdivision (9) of section 10-262f; (B) for each participating district
93 whose magnet school program enrollment is greater than thirty per
94 cent but less than or equal to sixty per cent of the magnet school
95 program total enrollment, a percentage between sixty and ninety per
96 cent of said foundation that is inversely proportional to the percentage
97 of magnet school program students from such district; and (C) for each
98 participating district whose magnet school program enrollment is
99 greater than sixty per cent but less than or equal to ninety per cent of
100 the magnet school program total enrollment, a percentage between
101 zero and sixty per cent of said foundation that is inversely
102 proportional to the percentage of magnet school program students
103 from such district. The amounts so determined shall be
104 proportionately adjusted, if necessary, within the limit of the available
105 appropriation, and in no case shall any grant pursuant to this section
106 exceed the reasonable operating budget of the magnet school program,
107 less revenues from other sources. Any magnet school program
108 operating less than full-time but at least half-time shall be eligible to

109 receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant amount
110 determined pursuant to this subsection.

111 (2) For fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004, the
112 commissioner may, within available appropriations, provide
113 supplemental grants for the purposes of enhancing educational
114 programs in such interdistrict magnet schools as the commissioner
115 determines. Such grants shall be made after the commissioner has
116 reviewed and approved the total operating budget for such schools,
117 including all revenue and expenditure estimates.

118 (3) Each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional
119 educational service center shall receive a per pupil grant in the amount
120 of six thousand two hundred fifty dollars for the fiscal year ending
121 June 30, 2006, and in the amount of six thousand five hundred dollars
122 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and for each fiscal year
123 thereafter.

124 Sec. 9. Section 10-264l of the general statutes is amended by adding
125 subsections (j) and (k) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

126 (NEW) (j) In the case of an interdistrict magnet school operated by a
127 regional educational service center pursuant to this section, on or
128 before July first, annually, the regional educational service center shall
129 compute the average per pupil expenditure for the prior school year
130 from which any expected per pupil state subsidy calculated under
131 subsection (c) of this section, as amended by this act, shall be
132 subtracted. Any balance remaining shall be charged to the
133 participating districts, provided no district's total financial support
134 shall exceed the district's average per pupil cost for the prior school
135 year for students educated within the district. No participating district
136 may withdraw its financial support from an interdistrict magnet school
137 because such district determines financial support calculated pursuant
138 to this subsection is too costly.

139 (NEW) (k) No participating district shall deny enrollment to a

140 student who wishes to attend an interdistrict magnet school if there is
141 a space available in the interdistrict magnet school.

142 Sec. 10. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 10-266aa of the general
143 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
144 (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

145 (f) The Department of Education shall provide grants to regional
146 educational service centers or local or regional boards of education for
147 the reasonable cost of transportation for students participating in the
148 program. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, and each fiscal year
149 thereafter, the department shall provide such grants within available
150 appropriations, provided the state-wide average of such grants does
151 not exceed an amount equal to two thousand [one hundred] eight
152 hundred fifty dollars for each student transported, except that the
153 Commissioner of Education may grant to regional educational service
154 centers additional sums from funds remaining in the appropriation for
155 such transportation services if needed to offset transportation costs
156 that exceed such maximum amount. The regional educational service
157 centers shall provide reasonable transportation services to high school
158 students who wish to participate in supervised extracurricular
159 activities. For purposes of this section, the number of students
160 transported shall be determined on September first of each fiscal year.

161 (g) [The] (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the Department
162 of Education shall provide, within available appropriations, an annual
163 grant to the local or regional board of education for each receiving
164 district in an amount not to exceed [two] three thousand dollars for
165 each out-of-district student who attends school in the receiving district
166 under the program.

167 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
168 thereafter, the Department of Education shall provide, within available
169 appropriations, an annual grant to the local or regional board of
170 education for each receiving district in an amount not to exceed three
171 thousand five hundred dollars for each out-of-district student who

172 attends school in the receiving district under the program.

173 (3) Each town which receives funds pursuant to this subsection shall
174 make such funds available to its local or regional board of education in
175 supplement to any other local appropriation, other state or federal
176 grant or other revenue to which the local or regional board of
177 education is entitled.

178 Sec. 11. Section 10-266aa of the general statutes is amended by
179 adding subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

180 (NEW) (m) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the
181 Hartford interdistrict public school attendance program shall be
182 operated by the Department of Education.

183 Sec. 12. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-266m of the
184 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
185 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

186 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, [for the fiscal
187 years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005,] the amount of
188 transportation grants payable to local or regional boards of education
189 shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year
190 exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

191 Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 10-71 of the general statutes is
192 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
193 *1, 2005*):

194 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, [for the fiscal
195 years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005,] the amount of the
196 grants payable to towns, regional boards of education or regional
197 educational service centers in accordance with this section shall be
198 reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds
199 the amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for such year.

200 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 10-281 of the general statutes is

201 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
202 *1, 2005*):

203 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, [for the fiscal
204 years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005,] the amount of the
205 grants payable to local or regional boards of education in accordance
206 with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such
207 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for purposes of
208 this section.

209 Sec. 15. Subsection (f) of section 10-66j of the general statutes is
210 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
211 *1, 2005*):

212 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, [for the fiscal
213 years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005,] the amount of grants
214 payable to regional educational service centers shall be reduced
215 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the
216 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

217 Sec. 16. Subsection (d) of section 10-292o of the general statutes is
218 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
219 *1, 2005*):

220 (d) The amount of the regional educational service center lease grant
221 approved by the Commissioner of Education under the provisions of
222 this section shall be the eligible percentage, as determined in
223 subsection (c) of section 10-285a, times the eligible lease costs as
224 determined by the Commissioner of Education. Grants pursuant to this
225 section shall be paid on a current year basis if the regional educational
226 service center files an application to lease a facility with the
227 Department of Education on or before August first of each year. No
228 such facility or portion thereof shall be eligible for a grant under this
229 section unless the local fire marshal has declared the facility suitable
230 for occupancy as a facility for use in furnishing educational programs
231 and services. Eligible costs pursuant to this section shall be limited to

232 the lease cost of the building, net of any other costs. Grant payments
233 shall be made as follows: Twenty-five per cent of the estimated cost in
234 October, twenty-five per cent of the estimated cost in January, and the
235 balance of the estimated cost in April. The actual cost will be reported
236 on or before September first following the year of application on the
237 end of school year report filed by each regional educational service
238 center. If the Commissioner of Education determines that there has
239 been an underpayment or overpayment in a grant made pursuant to
240 this section, the commissioner shall calculate the amount of the
241 underpayment or overpayment and shall adjust the amount of the
242 grant payment for the fiscal year next following the fiscal year in
243 which such underpayment or overpayment was made. The amount of
244 the adjustment shall be equal to the amount of the underpayment or
245 overpayment. If the amount of the overpayment exceeds the grant
246 payment for the fiscal year next following the fiscal year in which such
247 overpayment was made, the regional educational service center shall,
248 upon the request of the commissioner, pay the department the
249 difference. Any lease pursuant to this section shall be for a period not
250 to exceed twenty years. In no event shall the reimbursement pursuant
251 to this section be based upon a cost per square foot which exceeds the
252 cost determined to be reasonable by the Commissioner of Education.
253 In the case of any grants computed under this section, any federal
254 funds or other state funds received for such costs covered by the grant
255 shall be deducted from cost estimates prior to computation of the
256 grant. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, [for the fiscal
257 years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005,] the amount of the
258 grants payable to regional educational service centers in accordance
259 with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such
260 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes
261 of this section for such year.

262 Sec. 17. Section 10-217a of the general statutes is amended by adding
263 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

264 (NEW) (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the

265 amount of the grants payable to local or regional boards of education
266 in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the
267 total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for
268 purposes of this section.

269 Sec. 18. Subsection (d) of section 10-76g of the general statutes is
270 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
271 *1, 2005*):

272 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, [for the fiscal
273 years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005,] the amount of the
274 grants payable to local or regional boards of education in accordance
275 with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such
276 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes
277 of this section for such year.

278 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 10-65 of the general statutes is
279 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
280 *1, 2005*):

281 (a) Each local or regional school district operating a vocational
282 agriculture center approved by the State Board of Education for
283 program, educational need, location and area to be served shall be
284 eligible for the following grants: (1) In accordance with the provisions
285 of chapter 173, through progress payments in accordance with the
286 provisions of section 10-287i, ninety-five per cent of the net eligible
287 costs of constructing, acquiring, renovating and equipping approved
288 facilities to be used for such vocational agriculture center, for the
289 expansion or improvement of existing facilities or for the replacement
290 or improvement of equipment therein, and (2) subject to the provisions
291 of section 10-65b, within available appropriations, in an amount equal
292 to seven hundred dollars per student for every secondary school
293 student who was enrolled in such center on October first of the
294 previous year.

295 Sec. 20. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 10-262h of the

296 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
297 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

298 (6) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and each fiscal year
299 thereafter, a grant in an amount equal to the amount of its target aid as
300 described in subdivision (32) of section 10-262f except that such
301 amount shall be capped in accordance with the following: (A) For the
302 fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, and June
303 30, 1999, for each town, the maximum percentage increase over its
304 previous year's base revenue shall be the product of five per cent and
305 the ratio of the wealth of the town ranked one hundred fifty-third
306 when all towns are ranked in descending order to each town's wealth,
307 provided no town shall receive an increase greater than five per cent.
308 (B) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, June 30, 2001, June 30,
309 2002, June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004, for each town, the maximum
310 percentage increase over its previous year's base revenue shall be the
311 product of six per cent and the ratio of the wealth of the town ranked
312 one hundred fifty-third when all towns are ranked in descending order
313 to each town's wealth, provided no town shall receive an increase
314 greater than six per cent. (C) No such cap shall be used for the fiscal
315 year ending June 30, 2005, or any fiscal year thereafter. (D) For the
316 fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, for each town, the maximum
317 percentage reduction from its previous year's base revenue shall be
318 equal to the product of three per cent and the ratio of each town's
319 wealth to the wealth of the town ranked seventeenth when all towns
320 are ranked in descending order, provided no town's grant shall be
321 reduced by more than three per cent. (E) For the fiscal years ending
322 June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, and June 30, 1999, for each town, the
323 maximum percentage reduction from its previous year's base revenue
324 shall be equal to the product of five per cent and the ratio of each
325 town's wealth to the wealth of the town ranked seventeenth when all
326 towns are ranked in descending order, provided no town's grant shall
327 be reduced by more than five per cent. (F) For the fiscal year ending
328 June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town's grant shall be
329 less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year. (G) For each

330 fiscal year, except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, in addition
331 to the amount determined pursuant to this subdivision, a town shall be
332 eligible for a density supplement if the density of the town is greater
333 than the average density of all towns in the state. The density
334 supplement shall be determined by multiplying the density aid ratio of
335 the town by the foundation level and the town's total need students for
336 the prior fiscal year provided, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000,
337 and each fiscal year thereafter, no town's density supplement shall be
338 less than the density supplement such town received for the prior
339 fiscal year. (H) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, the grant
340 determined in accordance with this subdivision for a town ranked one
341 to forty-two when all towns are ranked in descending order according
342 to town wealth shall be further reduced by one and two-hundredths of
343 a per cent and such grant for all other towns shall be further reduced
344 by fifty-six-hundredths of a per cent. (I) For the fiscal year ending June
345 30, 1998, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town whose school district
346 is a priority school district shall receive a grant pursuant to this
347 subdivision in an amount that is less than the amount received under
348 such grant for the prior fiscal year. (J) For the fiscal year ending June
349 30, 2000, and each fiscal year through the fiscal year ending June 30,
350 2003, no town whose school district is a priority school district shall
351 receive a grant pursuant to this subdivision that provides an amount of
352 aid per resident student that is less than the amount of aid per resident
353 student provided under the grant received for the prior fiscal year. (K)
354 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, and each fiscal year thereafter,
355 no town whose school district is a priority school district shall receive a
356 grant pursuant to this subdivision in an amount that is less than
357 seventy per cent of the sum of (i) the product of a town's base aid ratio,
358 the foundation level and the town's total need students for the fiscal
359 year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid, (ii) the product
360 of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the foundation level and the sum of
361 the portion of its total need students count described in subparagraphs
362 (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of section 10-262f for the fiscal year
363 prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, and the

364 adjustments to its resident student count described in subdivision (22)
365 of said section 10-262f relative to length of school year and summer
366 school sessions, and (iii) the town's regional bonus. (L) For the fiscal
367 year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town
368 whose school district is a transitional school district shall receive a
369 grant pursuant to this subdivision in an amount that is less than forty
370 per cent of the sum of (i) the product of a town's base aid ratio, the
371 foundation level and the town's total need students for the fiscal year
372 prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, (ii) the product
373 of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the foundation level and the sum of
374 the portion of its total need students count described in subparagraphs
375 (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of section 10-262f for the fiscal year
376 prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, and the
377 adjustments to its resident student count described in subdivision (22)
378 of said section 10-262f relative to length of school year and summer
379 school sessions, and (iii) the town's regional bonus. (M) For the fiscal
380 year ending June 30, 2002, (i) each town whose target aid is capped
381 pursuant to this subdivision shall receive a grant that includes a pro
382 rata share of twenty-five million dollars based on the difference
383 between its target aid and the amount of the grant determined with the
384 cap, and (ii) all towns shall receive a grant that is at least 1.68 per cent
385 greater than the grant they received for the fiscal year ending June 30,
386 2001. (N) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, (i) each town whose
387 target aid is capped pursuant to this subdivision shall receive a pro
388 rata share of fifty million dollars based on the difference between its
389 target aid and the amount of the grant determined with the cap, and
390 (ii) each town shall receive a grant that is at least 1.2 per cent more
391 than its base revenue, as defined in subdivision (28) of section 10-262f.
392 (O) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, each town shall receive a
393 grant that is at least equal to the grant it received for the prior fiscal
394 year. (P) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, (i) each town whose
395 target aid is capped pursuant to this subdivision shall receive a grant
396 that includes a pro rata share of fifty million dollars based on the
397 difference between its target aid and the amount of the grant

398 determined with the cap, (ii) each town's grant including the cap
399 supplement shall be reduced by three per cent, (iii) the towns of
400 Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven shall each receive a grant that is
401 equal to the grant such towns received for the prior fiscal year plus one
402 million dollars, (iv) those towns described in clause (i) of this
403 subparagraph shall receive a grant that includes a pro rata share of
404 three million dollars based on the same pro rata basis as used in said
405 clause (i), (v) towns whose school districts are priority school districts
406 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-266p or transitional school
407 districts pursuant to section 10-263c or who are eligible for grants
408 under section 10-276a or 10-263d for the fiscal years ending June 30,
409 2002, to June 30, 2004, inclusive, shall receive grants that are at least
410 equal to the grants they received for the prior fiscal year, (vi) towns not
411 receiving funds under clause (iii) of this subparagraph shall receive a
412 pro rata share of any remaining funds based on their grant determined
413 under this subparagraph. (Q) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005,
414 (i) no town shall receive a grant pursuant to this subparagraph in an
415 amount that is less than sixty per cent of the amount determined
416 pursuant to the previous subparagraphs of this subdivision, (ii)
417 notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this
418 subdivision, each town shall receive a grant that is equal to the amount
419 the town received for the prior fiscal year increased by twenty-three
420 and twenty-seven hundredths per cent of the difference between the
421 grant amount calculated pursuant to this subdivision and the amount
422 the town received for the prior fiscal year, (iii) no town whose school
423 district is a priority school district pursuant to subsection (a) of section
424 10-266p shall receive a grant pursuant to this subdivision that is less
425 than three hundred seventy dollars per resident student, and (iv) each
426 town shall receive a grant that is at least the greater of the amount of
427 the grant it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, or the
428 amount of the grant it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004,
429 increased by seven hundredths per cent, except that the town of
430 Winchester shall not receive less than its fixed entitlement for the fiscal
431 year ending June 30, 2003. (R) Notwithstanding the provisions of this

432 subdivision, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2006, and June 30,
433 2007, each town shall receive a grant that is equal to the amount the
434 town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, increased by
435 two-tenths of one per cent.

436 Sec. 21. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Commission
437 on Educational Finance and Accountability. The commission shall
438 review the method in which prekindergarten through high school
439 education is financed, including an examination of the amount of state,
440 local and federal revenues used for education. The commission shall
441 review all educational funding formulas, including, but not limited to,
442 the equalization aid grant pursuant to section 10-262h of the general
443 statutes, the state funding for special education excess costs pursuant
444 to section 10-76g of the general statutes, grants awarded for school
445 building projects pursuant to chapter 173 of the general statutes and
446 grants for priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the
447 general statutes to determine if such funding and grants promote
448 equity, performance and accountability. The commission shall assess
449 the impact to the state's education system from other public school
450 options, such as interdistrict magnet schools, state charter schools, the
451 regional vocational-technical high school system and regional
452 vocational agriculture centers. The funding of these school options
453 shall be evaluated for consistency and equitability. The commission
454 shall review the school readiness program pursuant to sections 10-16p
455 to 10-16u, inclusive, of the general statutes, to determine if the
456 program is properly financed and if there are sufficient accountability
457 measures for the program.

458 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

459 (1) Four appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
460 representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, and
461 one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association
462 of School Business Officials;

463 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one

464 of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Business and
465 Industry Association;

466 (3) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
467 one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association
468 of Public School Superintendents;

469 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
470 a representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns;

471 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
472 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
473 Association of Boards of Education;

474 (6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
475 a representative of the Connecticut Education Association;

476 (7) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
477 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the American
478 Federation of Teachers;

479 (8) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
480 secretary's designee;

481 (9) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
482 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
483 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and
484 education; and

485 (10) The chairperson of the State Board of Education.

486 (c) All appointments to the commission shall be made no later than
487 fifteen days after the effective date of this section.

488 (d) The Governor shall designate one member as chairperson, who
489 shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held
490 no later than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

491 (e) Not later than December 15, 2005, the commission shall submit a
 492 report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
 493 General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
 494 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16q(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-14n
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-264l(c)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-264l
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-266aa(f) and (g)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-266aa
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-266m(a)(4)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-71(d)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-281(b)
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-66j(f)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-292o(d)
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-217a
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-76g(d)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-65(a)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-262h(a)(6)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[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.]