



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1314

January Session, 2005

* SB01314FIN 042205 *

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS AND A STUDY CONCERNING THE LONG-TERM CAPITAL NEEDS OF STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-66hh of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 (a) For the fiscal years ending [June 30, 2002, June 30, 2003, and June
4 30, 2004] June 30, 2006, and June 30, 2007, the Commissioner of
5 Education shall establish, within available [appropriations and] bond
6 authorizations, a grant program to assist state charter schools in
7 financing (1) school building projects, as defined in section 10-282, (2)
8 general improvements to school buildings, as defined in subsection (a)
9 of section 10-265h, and (3) repayment of debt incurred prior to July 1,
10 2005, for [prior] school building projects. [Eligibility for such grants
11 shall be limited to state charter schools whose charters were renewed
12 in the fiscal years ending June 30, 2001, June 30, 2002, and June 30,
13 2003, pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-66bb.] The governing
14 authorities of such state charter schools may apply for such grants to
15 the Department of Education at such time and in such manner as the
16 commissioner prescribes. [Each state charter school may receive no
17 more than one grant under this section and no grant under this section
18 shall exceed five hundred thousand dollars.]

19 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Education shall establish an annual
20 grant program to assist state charter schools in financing school
21 building projects, as defined in section 10-282. The commissioner shall
22 award no more than one such grant per year. The governing
23 authorities of a state charter school may apply for such grants to the
24 Department of Education at such time and in such manner as the
25 commissioner prescribes. Eligibility for such grant shall be determined
26 by the commissioner who shall consider (A) the condition of each
27 applicant school's current facilities and the applicant's justification for
28 the project, (B) the financial capability of each applicant school and the
29 applicant's plan for raising the local share of the project cost, (C) the
30 applicant school's success in improving student achievement, and (D)
31 whether the applicant school has a high proportion of students (i)
32 eligible for free or reduced price lunches, or (ii) from non-English-
33 speaking homes. The reimbursement rate under this subsection shall
34 be the same rate as the town in which the state charter school is located
35 receives pursuant to section 10-285a.

36 (2) If a state charter school that received a grant pursuant to
37 subdivision (1) of this subsection ceases to be used as a state charter
38 school facility and the grant was provided for the purchase or
39 construction of the facility, the commissioner shall determine whether
40 title to the building and any legal interest in appurtenant land shall
41 revert to the state.

42 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) For the purposes described in
43 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
44 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
45 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
46 the aggregate ten million dollars, provided five million dollars of said
47 authorization shall be effective July 1, 2005.

48 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
49 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
50 Department of Education for the purpose of grants pursuant to
51 subsection (a) of section 10-66hh of the general statutes, as amended by

52 this act.

53 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
54 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
55 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
56 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
57 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
58 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
59 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
60 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
61 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
62 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
63 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
64 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
65 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
66 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
67 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
68 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
69 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
70 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
71 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
72 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
73 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
74 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
75 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
76 due.

77 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a commission
78 to study the long-term capital needs of state charter schools. Such
79 study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the
80 process for funding capital needs of state charter schools and the
81 overall capital needs of all public schools.

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

83 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,

84 who shall be a representative of a regional education service center;

85 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
86 shall be a representative of a state charter school;

87 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
88 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a union that
89 represents teachers certified by the State Board of Education;

90 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
91 a parent of a student of a state charter school;

92 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
93 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
94 Association of School Business Officers;

95 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
96 a school superintendent;

97 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

98 (8) The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General
99 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
100 finance, or their designees;

101 (9) The ranking members of the joint standing committees of the
102 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
103 and finance, or their designees; and

104 (10) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
105 secretary's designee.

106 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
107 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
108 filled by the appointing authority.

109 (d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
110 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education shall be
111 the chairpersons of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the

