



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 436**

February Session, 2006

Substitute House Bill No. 5758

*House of Representatives, April 6, 2006*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-220h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 When a student enrolls in a school in a new school district, the new  
4 school district shall provide written notification of such enrollment to  
5 the school district in which the student previously attended school.  
6 The school district in which the student previously attended school (1)  
7 shall transfer the student's education records to the new school district  
8 no later than ten days after receipt of such notification, and (2) if the  
9 student's parent or guardian did not give written authorization for the  
10 transfer of such records, shall send notification of the transfer to the  
11 parent or guardian at the same time that it transfers the records. In the  
12 case of a student who transfers from Unified School District #1, the  
13 unified school district shall transfer the records of the student to the

14 new school district which shall, not later than thirty days after  
15 receiving the student's education records, credit the student for all  
16 instruction received in Unified School District #1.

17 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
18 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
19 *1, 2006*):

20 (d) The Department of Education may fund, within available  
21 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
22 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut  
23 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special  
24 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at  
25 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the  
26 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes  
27 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school  
28 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,  
29 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut  
30 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut  
31 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and  
32 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and  
33 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education  
34 and certified teachers at such private special education and other  
35 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning  
36 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning  
37 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to  
38 assessors. Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly  
39 to school districts for the provision of substitute teachers when  
40 cooperating teachers, teacher mentors, beginning teachers and  
41 assessors are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for  
42 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating  
43 and student teachers, teacher mentors, assessors and beginning  
44 teachers. The cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and  
45 assessment programs shall operate in accordance with regulations  
46 [which shall be] adopted by the State Board of Education [pursuant to]  
47 in accordance with chapter 54, except in cases of placement in other

48 countries pursuant to written cooperative agreements between  
49 Connecticut institutions of higher education and institutions of higher  
50 education in other countries. A Connecticut institution may enter such  
51 an agreement only if the State Board of Education and Board of  
52 Governors for Higher Education have jointly approved the institution's  
53 teacher preparation program to enter into such agreements. Student  
54 teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating teachers. Beginning  
55 teachers shall participate in a beginning teacher support and  
56 assessment program as made available by the board. School districts  
57 shall be responsible for providing support to beginning teachers which  
58 shall include, but not be limited to, the placement of beginning  
59 teachers with trained teacher mentors who may be full or part-time  
60 teachers in the same or a different building than the beginning teacher  
61 and provision of trained assessors to conduct assessments of beginning  
62 teachers. Cooperating teachers, teacher mentors and assessors may  
63 serve concurrently in more than one capacity and may be assigned  
64 more than one student teacher or beginning teacher in each such  
65 capacity. The assessment of each beginning teacher shall be based  
66 upon, but not limited to, data obtained from observations conducted  
67 by assessors using an assessment instrument. A beginning teacher  
68 shall be assessed by educators with teaching experience in the same  
69 general subject area as such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers  
70 and teacher mentors who are Connecticut public school teachers and  
71 assessors who are employed by school districts shall be selected by  
72 local and regional boards of education. Cooperating teachers and  
73 teacher mentors and assessors at such private special education and  
74 other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible  
75 for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to  
76 identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions,  
77 the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed  
78 by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations  
79 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience  
80 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-  
81 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection,  
82 placement and compensation of persons participating in the

83 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment  
84 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section and to the hours  
85 and duties of such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect  
86 and save harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235,  
87 any cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in  
88 such capacity.

89 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-145b of the 2006  
90 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
91 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

92 (c) (1) The State Board of Education, upon request of a local or  
93 regional board of education, shall issue a temporary ninety-day  
94 certificate to any applicant in the certification endorsement areas of  
95 elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic  
96 subjects, special subjects or fields, special education and  
97 administration and supervision when the following conditions are  
98 met:

99 (A) The employing agent of a board of education makes a written  
100 request for the issuance of such certificate and attests to the existence  
101 of a special plan for supervision of temporary ninety-day certificate  
102 holders;

103 (B) The applicant meets the following requirements, except as  
104 otherwise provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision:

105 (i) Holds a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education  
106 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or  
107 regionally accredited with a major either in or closely related to the  
108 certification endorsement area in which the requesting board of  
109 education is placing the applicant or, in the case of secondary or  
110 special subject or field endorsement area, possesses at least the  
111 minimum total number of semester hours of credit required for the  
112 content area;

113 (ii) Has met the requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of section

114 10-145f;

115 (iii) Presents a written application on such forms as the  
116 Commissioner of Education shall prescribe;

117 (iv) Has successfully completed a program of classroom  
118 management and instructional methodology approved by the State  
119 Board of Education and, within available appropriations, provided  
120 under contract with an institution of higher education designated by  
121 the Department of Higher Education, or has been accepted by a  
122 program of a national corps of teachers who teach in low income  
123 communities and has successfully completed a training institute for  
124 the corps;

125 (v) Possesses an undergraduate college overall grade point average  
126 of at least "B" or, if the applicant has completed at least twenty-four  
127 hours of graduate credit, possesses a graduate grade point average of  
128 at least "B"; and

129 (vi) Presents supporting evidence of appropriate experience  
130 working with children or supporting evidence of participation in a  
131 training institute for a program of a national corps of teachers who  
132 teach in low income communities, which includes experience working  
133 with children; and

134 (C) The Commissioner of Education may waive the requirements of  
135 subparagraphs (B)(v) or (B)(vi), or both, of this subdivision upon a  
136 showing of good cause.

137 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the general statutes is  
138 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
139 *passage*):

140 (d) [Upon] (1) Prior to the effective date of this section, upon the  
141 recommendation and the approval of a majority of members on the  
142 board, a regional board of education may create a reserve fund to  
143 finance a specific capital improvement or the acquisition of any  
144 specific piece of equipment. Such fund shall thereafter be termed

145 "reserve fund for specific capital improvements or equipment  
146 purchases". No annual appropriation to such fund shall exceed one per  
147 cent of the annual district budget. Appropriations to such fund shall be  
148 included in the share of net expenses to be paid by each member town  
149 until the fund established pursuant to this subdivision is discontinued.  
150 The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed report of the  
151 condition of such fund to the member towns. Such fund may be  
152 discontinued, after recommendation by the board and approval by the  
153 board, and any amounts held in the fund shall be transferred to the  
154 general fund of the district.

155 (2) On and after the effective date of this section, a regional board of  
156 education, by a majority vote of its members, may create a reserve  
157 fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures. Such fund shall  
158 thereafter be termed "reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring  
159 expenditures". The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental  
160 appropriations by a district to such fund shall not exceed one per cent  
161 of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. Annual  
162 appropriations to such fund shall be included in the share of net  
163 expenses to be paid by each member town. Supplemental  
164 appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated fiscal year  
165 end surplus in operating funds. Interest and investment earnings  
166 received with respect to amounts held in the fund shall be credited to  
167 such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed  
168 report of the condition of such fund to the member towns. Upon the  
169 recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, any  
170 part or the whole of such fund may be used for capital and  
171 nonrecurring expenditures, but such use shall be restricted to the  
172 financing of all or part of the planning, construction, reconstruction or  
173 acquisition of any specific capital improvement or the acquisition of  
174 any specific item of equipment. Upon the approval of any such  
175 expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for  
176 the project or acquisition for which it has been authorized, and such  
177 unexpended appropriation may be continued until such project or  
178 acquisition is completed. Any unexpended portion of such  
179 appropriation remaining after such completion shall revert to said

180 fund. If any authorized appropriation is set up pursuant to the  
181 provisions of this subsection and through unforeseen circumstances  
182 the completion of the project or acquisition for which such  
183 appropriation has been designated is impossible to attain the board, by  
184 a majority vote of its members, may terminate such appropriation  
185 which then shall no longer be in effect. Such fund may be  
186 discontinued, after the recommendation and approval by the regional  
187 board of education, and any amounts held in the fund shall be  
188 transferred to the general fund of the district.

189       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) A regional board of education,  
190 by a majority vote of its members, may create a reserve fund for  
191 accrued liabilities for employee sick leave and severance benefits. Such  
192 fund shall thereafter be termed "reserve fund for employee sick leave  
193 and severance benefits". The aggregate amount of annual and  
194 supplemental appropriations by a district to such fund in any one  
195 fiscal year shall not exceed the actuarially recommended contribution  
196 from the annual district budget for such fiscal year. No payments shall  
197 be made to the fund which will cause the amount of such fund to  
198 exceed the accrued liability for such employee benefits as determined  
199 by the district's annual financial statements, except for the addition of  
200 interest and investment earnings with respect to amounts held in the  
201 fund. Annual appropriations to such fund shall be included in the  
202 share of net expenses to be paid by each member town. Supplemental  
203 appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated fiscal year  
204 end surplus in operating funds. Interest and investment earnings  
205 received with respect to amounts held in the fund shall be credited to  
206 such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed  
207 report of the condition of such fund to the member towns. Upon the  
208 approval of the board, by a majority vote of its members, any part or  
209 the whole of such fund may be used for the payment of employee sick  
210 leave and severance benefits without further appropriation. Such fund  
211 may be discontinued, after recommendation by the board and  
212 approval by the board, and any amounts held in the fund shall be  
213 transferred to the general fund of the district.

214 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Department of Education shall,  
215 within available resources review programs in other states for their  
216 effectiveness in reducing the drop-out and suspension rates for those  
217 students at risk of dropping out or being suspended from school. Not  
218 later than January 1, 2007, the department shall report its findings to  
219 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
220 cognizance of matters relating to education in accordance with the  
221 provision of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

222 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision  
223 of the general statutes, the Department of Education may develop and  
224 maintain a web site without the aid of the Department of Information  
225 Technology.

226 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 4d-82 of the general statutes is  
227 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
228 *1, 2006*):

229 (b) The commission shall oversee the preparation and submission of  
230 a state-wide application to the federal Universal Service Fund to  
231 enhance connectivity to the Connecticut Education Network, maximize  
232 participation and grant attainment rates, and reduce overly  
233 burdensome administrative requirements which discourage local  
234 involvement. [The commission shall prepare a feasibility report which  
235 sets forth (1) a review of how and under what circumstances other  
236 states have successfully submitted state-wide applications to the  
237 Universal Service Fund, (2) an analysis of what should specifically be  
238 incorporated into this state's application, and (3) an outline of  
239 necessary actions to be taken by the commission for completion of a  
240 state-wide Universal Service Fund application. The commission shall  
241 work, in consultation with the Departments of Education and Higher  
242 Education and the regional educational service centers, on the  
243 feasibility report.] No later than [March 31, 2001] the annual federal  
244 funding deadline, and for every subsequent universal service funding  
245 cycle, the commission, or its designee, shall submit a state-wide  
246 application for universal service funds. Each local and regional board

247 of education and public library that is designated by the commission  
248 for connection to the Connecticut Education Network shall be deemed  
249 to have authorized the commission or its designee to submit an  
250 application for such funds on its behalf.

251 Sec. 9. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-186 of the  
252 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
253 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

254 (2) Any such parent, guardian, emancipated minor, pupil eighteen  
255 years of age or older, or agent or officer, aggrieved by the finding shall,  
256 upon request, be provided with a transcript of the hearing within  
257 thirty days after such request and may take an appeal from the finding  
258 to the State Board of Education. A copy of each notice of appeal shall  
259 be filed simultaneously with the local or regional board of education  
260 and the State Board of Education. Any child, emancipated minor or  
261 pupil eighteen years of age or older who is denied accommodations by  
262 a board of education as the result of a determination by such board, or  
263 a subcommittee of the board or local impartial hearing board, that the  
264 child is not a resident of the school district and therefore is not entitled  
265 to school accommodations in the district may continue in attendance in  
266 the school district at the request of the parent or guardian of such child  
267 or such minor or pupil, pending a determination of such appeal. If an  
268 appeal is not taken to the State Board of Education within twenty days  
269 of the mailing of the finding to the aggrieved party, the decision of the  
270 board, subcommittee or local impartial hearing board shall be final.  
271 The local or regional board of education shall, within ten days after  
272 receipt of notice of an appeal, forward the record of the hearing to the  
273 State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall, on  
274 receipt of a written request for a hearing made in accordance with the  
275 provisions of this subsection, establish an impartial hearing board of  
276 one or more persons to hold a public hearing in the local or regional  
277 school district in which the cause of the complaint arises. Members of  
278 the hearing board may be employees of the [state] Department of  
279 Education or may be qualified persons from outside the department.  
280 No member of the board of education under review nor any employee

281 of such board of education shall be a member of the hearing board.  
282 Members of the hearing board, other than those employed by the [state  
283 of Connecticut] Department of Education, shall be paid reasonable fees  
284 and expenses as established by the State Board of Education within the  
285 limits of available appropriations. Such hearing board may examine  
286 witnesses and shall maintain a verbatim record of all formal sessions of  
287 the hearing. Either party to the hearing may request that the hearing  
288 board join all interested parties to the hearing, or the hearing board  
289 may join any interested party on its own motion. The hearing board  
290 shall have no authority to make a determination of the rights and  
291 responsibilities of a board of education if such board is not a party to  
292 the hearing. The hearing board may render a determination of actual  
293 residence of any child, emancipated minor or pupil eighteen years of  
294 age or older where residency is at issue.

295 Sec. 10. Subsection (l) of section 5-198 of the 2006 supplement to the  
296 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
297 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

298 (l) All members of the professional and technical staffs of the  
299 constituent units of the state system of higher education, as defined in  
300 section 10a-1, of all other state institutions of learning, of the  
301 Department of Higher Education, and of the agricultural experiment  
302 station at New Haven, professional and managerial employees of the  
303 [State Board] Department of Education and teachers certified by the  
304 State Board of Education and employed in teaching positions at state  
305 institutions.

306 Sec. 11. Section 10-239i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
307 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

308 Each local and regional board of education, as may be designated by  
309 the Commissioner of Education, shall participate in the National  
310 Assessment of Educational Progress or in any other national or  
311 international measure of student progress as may be determined by  
312 the commissioner.

|   |                     |               |
|---|---------------------|---------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |               |
| Section 1   | <i>July 1, 2006</i> | 10-220h       |
| Sec. 2  | <i>July 1, 2006</i> | 10-220a(d)    |
| Sec. 3  | <i>July 1, 2006</i> | 10-145b(c)(1) |
| Sec. 4  | <i>from passage</i> | 10-51(d)      |
| Sec. 5  | <i>from passage</i> | New section   |
| Sec. 6  | <i>July 1, 2006</i> | New section   |
| Sec. 7  | <i>from passage</i> | New section   |
| Sec. 8  | <i>July 1, 2006</i> | 4d-82(b)      |
| Sec. 9  | <i>from passage</i> | 10-186(b)(2)  |
| Sec. 10   | <i>from passage</i> | 5-198(l)      |
| Sec. 11   | <i>July 1, 2006</i> | 10-239i       |

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

| <b>Agency Affected</b> | <b>Fund-Effect</b> | <b>FY 07 \$</b> | <b>FY 08 \$</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Education, Dept.       | GF - None          | None            | None            |
| Correction, Dept.      | GF - None          | None            | None            |

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

| <b>Municipalities</b>  | <b>Effect</b> | <b>FY 07 \$</b> | <b>FY 08 \$</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Various Municipalities | None          | None            | None            |

**Explanation**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this bill as the changes are either technical or codify current practice.

**The Out Years**

There is no out-year fiscal impact associated with this bill.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5758**

***AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows regional boards of education to create funds for (1) capital improvements and nonrecurring expenses rather than for a specific purchase or improvement and (2) payment of employee sick leave and severance benefits and sets requirements for the operation of both funds.

The bill allows for student teaching in foreign countries and expands the types of qualifications needed for a temporary 90-day teaching certificate.

The bill also allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to pay employees of other state agencies the per diem fee and expenses when they act as school accommodation hearing officers and exempts the State Department of Education (SDE)'s managerial employees from the state classified service. It also makes other minor changes to the education statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below

**§ 1 – CREDITS AND RECORDS FROM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This bill specifically requires Unified School District #1 to send the records of transfer students to their new school districts. Current law requires the sending school district to provide this information within 10 days of receiving the mandated notice of enrollment from the new school district.

The bill also requires the new school district to credit students for all

instruction received in the unified school district within 30 days of receiving students' education records. Unified School District #1 serves students in the custody of the Department of Correction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

## **§ 2 – STUDENT TEACHING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

The bill allows prospective teachers to do their student teaching in foreign countries instead of only under the supervision of a cooperating teacher as part of the SDE's cooperating teacher program. The foreign student teaching must be conducted under a written cooperative agreement between a Connecticut and a foreign higher education institution. The bill allows a Connecticut institution to make these agreements only after SBE and the Board of Governors of Higher Education have jointly approved participation in the agreements by its teacher preparation program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

## **§ 3 – CRITERIA FOR ISSUING TEMPORARY 90-DAY TEACHING CERTIFICATES**

This bill expands the types of qualifications needed for a temporary 90-day teaching certificate, which allows a person to teach in Connecticut public schools.

Under current law, in addition to specified educational qualifications, an applicant must show that he has successfully completed a program of classroom management (1) approved by the SBE and (2) provided under contract with a higher education institution designated by the Department of Higher Education. As an alternative, the bill allows an applicant to show that he has been accepted by a national corps of teachers, such as Teach for America, who teach in low-income communities and that he has successfully completed the corps training institute.

In addition, under current law, an applicant must present evidence that he has appropriate experience working with children. The bill

allows an applicant to show instead that he has participated in a training institute run by a national corps of teachers who teach in low-income communities that included experience working with children.

The SBE issues temporary 90-day certificates only when a local or regional board of education makes a written request and attests that it has a special plan to supervise the certificate holder. The certificates can be for any elementary, middle grade, or secondary subject, or in special education or administration and supervision. Holders of temporary 90-day certificates must participate in SDE's Beginning Educator Support and Training Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

#### **§§ 4 & 5 – REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION RESERVE FUNDS** ***Capital and Nonrecurring Expenses***

Under current law, a regional board of education may, upon the recommendation and the approval of a majority of board members, create a reserve fund to finance a specific (1) capital improvement or (2) equipment purchase. Annual appropriations to this fund cannot exceed one percent of the annual district budget and must be included in the share of net expenses paid by each member town. The board must submit a report on the fund to member towns.

The bill allows any such fund to be discontinued, upon the board's recommendation and approval. Once the fund is discontinued, fund appropriations are no longer included in each town's share of net expenses and any remaining funds must be transferred to the district's general fund. The bill prohibits boards from creating this type of reserve fund after its passage.

After the bill's passage, boards may instead create, by a majority vote of its members, a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures. The bill provides that the aggregate amount of annual and supplemental appropriations to the fund cannot exceed one percent of the annual district budget for the fiscal year.

Upon the board's recommendation and approval, any or all of such funds may be used for capital and nonrecurring expenditures. However, the bill restricts such use to the financing of all or part of the planning, construction, reconstruction, or acquisition of any specific capital improvement or equipment item. If the expenditure is approved, an appropriation must be set up and plainly designated for that particular project. Any unexpended amount of the appropriation may be continued until the project or purchase is completed, with any remaining amount after completion reverting to the fund. The bill allows the board, by majority vote, to terminate the appropriation if the project or purchase cannot be completed due to unforeseen circumstances.

***Accrued Liabilities for Employee Sick Leave and Severance Benefits***

The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to any such fund in any year cannot exceed the actuarially recommended contribution from the annual district budget for the fiscal year. The bill prohibits payments to the fund that will cause the amount to exceed the accrued liability for such employee benefits as determined by the district's financial statements, except for the addition of the fund's interest and investment earnings.

The bill also allows a regional board, by a majority vote, to create a reserve fund for accrued liabilities for employee sick leave and severance benefits. Upon the board's approval by majority vote, any or all of the fund may be used to pay employee sick leave and severance benefits without further appropriation.

***Both Funds***

For both new reserve funds, the bill sets the same requirements for the (1) share of net expenses for member towns, (2) fund condition report, and (3) discontinuance of the funds as were required for the fund the bill eliminates.

Additionally, the bill requires interest and investment earnings on the money held in the funds to be credited to the funds and allows

supplemental appropriations to the funds to be made from estimated fiscal year-end surplus operating money.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 6 – AT-RISK STUDENTS**

The bill requires SDE, within available resources, to review programs in other states for their effectiveness in reducing the drop-out and suspension rates for students at risk of either. SDE must report its findings to the Education Committee January 1, 2007.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

### **§ 7 – SDE WEBSITE**

The bill allows the SDE to develop and maintain a website without the Department of Information Technology's help.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 8 – STATEWIDE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICATION**

The Commission on Educational Technology oversees periodic statewide applications for funds from the federal Universal Service Fund to enhance the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). The bill considers any local or regional board of education the commission designates for connection to CEN as having consented to the commission submitting the Universal Service Fund application on its behalf, without the commission having to obtain the consent of each one individually. The bill also allows the commission to appoint a designee to submit the application.

Finally, the bill deletes obsolete language requiring a feasibility report, which has already been completed, on statewide Universal Service Fund applications.

The Connecticut Education network provides schools, libraries, and higher education institutions with high-speed Internet access, among other things. The federal Universal Service Fund subsidizes the cost. The money comes from required contributions by telecommunications

companies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

### **§ 9 – SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION HEARING OFFICERS**

The SBE employs hearing officers to hear and decide appeals of local school board decisions on student residency for the purpose of school accommodations. Hearing officers can be SDE employees or qualified people from outside SDE. Hearing officers are paid reasonable fees and expenses established by SBE. Current law bars SBE from paying these fees and expenses to any hearing officer who is a state employee. The bill narrows this prohibition to cover only SDE employees, thus allowing SBE to pay employees of other state agencies the per diem fee and expenses when they act as school accommodation hearing officers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 10 – CLASSIFIED SERVICE EXEMPTION FOR SDE MANAGERS**

The bill exempts the SDE's managerial employees from the state classified service. Currently, only SDE's professional employees and certified teachers employed in teaching positions at state institutions are exempt. The bill also makes a technical change to specify that the employees covered by the exemptions are employed by the state department and not SBE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 11 – NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEASURES OF STUDENT PROGRESS**

This bill allows the education commissioner to require boards of education she designates to participate in any national or international measure of student progress, rather than just in the U.S. Department of Education sponsored National Assessment of Educational Progress.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29    Nay 0    (03/22/2006)