



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 196

February Session, 2006

Senate Bill No. 377

Senate, March 29, 2006

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) Not later than January 30,
2 2007, and annually thereafter, the State Board of Education shall
3 prepare a summary report concerning the regional vocational-technical
4 school system and shall submit the report to the joint standing
5 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
6 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
7 4a of the general statutes. The report shall include information on (1)
8 school capacity, (2) enrollment by grade and gender and the
9 enrollment of special education students, English language learners
10 and adults, (3) staffing, (4) financial information such as expenditures
11 and needs for capital improvements, capital equipment and
12 operations, (5) the strategic school profile for the school district, (6) the
13 trades offered including information describing the trades
14 reauthorized each year, (7) major changes in programs and enrollment,

15 and (8) joint activities with institutions of higher education and other
16 state agencies.

17 Sec. 2. Section 10-95i of the general statutes is repealed and the
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

19 [(a) Not later than January 1, 1990, and every five years thereafter,
20 the State Board of Education shall adopt a long-range plan of priorities
21 and goals for the regional vocational-technical school system. The plan
22 shall address coordination with other providers of vocational,
23 technical or technological education or training and shall include (1) an
24 analysis of the activities described in subsections (b) and (c) of this
25 section and how such activities relate to the long-range plan of
26 priorities and goals, and (2) a summary of activities related to capital
27 improvements and equipment pursuant to subsection (d) of this
28 section. Upon adoption of the plan, the state board shall file the plan
29 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue and
31 bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The
32 state board shall use the plan in preparing its five-year comprehensive
33 plan pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-4.]

34 [(b)] (a) During the five-year period beginning January 1, 1990, and
35 during each five-year period thereafter, the State Board of Education
36 shall evaluate each existing regional vocational-technical school trade
37 program in accordance with a schedule which the state board shall
38 establish. A trade program may be reauthorized for a period of not
39 more than five years following each evaluation on the basis of: The
40 projected employment demand for students enrolled in the trade
41 program, including consideration of the employment of graduates of
42 the program during the preceding five years; anticipated technological
43 changes; the availability of qualified instructors; the existence of
44 similar programs at other educational institutions; and student interest
45 in the trade program. As part of the evaluation, the state board shall
46 consider geographic differences that may make a trade program
47 feasible at one school and not another and whether certain

48 combinations of program offerings shall be required. Prior to any final
49 decision on the reauthorization of a trade program, the state board
50 shall consult with the craft committees for the trade program being
51 evaluated.

52 [(c)] (b) The state board shall consider the addition of new trade
53 programs. Decisions by the state board to add such programs shall at a
54 minimum be based on the projected employment demand for
55 graduates of the program, the cost of establishing the program, the
56 availability of qualified instructors, the existence of similar programs
57 at other educational institutions and the interest of students in the
58 trade. The state board shall authorize new trade programs for a
59 maximum of five years. The state board shall provide a process for the
60 public, including, but not limited to, employers, parents, students or
61 teachers, to request consideration of the establishment of a new trade
62 program.

63 [(d) The State Board of Education shall maintain a rolling five-year
64 capital improvement and capital equipment plan that identifies: (1)
65 Alterations, renovations and repairs that each vocational-technical
66 school is expected to need, including, but not limited to, grounds and
67 athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and
68 windows, and the cost of such projects, (2) recommendations for
69 energy efficiency improvements to each school and the cost of such
70 improvements, and (3) the specific equipment each regional
71 vocational-technical school is expected to need, based on the useful life
72 of existing equipment and projections of changing technology and the
73 estimated cost of the equipment. The State Board of Education shall
74 submit such plan, annually, to the joint standing committees of the
75 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
76 finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of
77 state agencies.]

78 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-4 of the general statutes is
79 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
80 *1, 2006*):

81 (c) Said board shall prepare every five years a five-year
82 comprehensive plan for elementary, secondary, vocational, career and
83 adult education, and the regional vocational-technical school system.
84 Said comprehensive plan shall include, but not be limited to, a policy
85 statement of the State Board of Education's long-term goals and short-
86 term objectives, an analysis of cost implications and measurement
87 criteria and how said board's programs and operations relate to such
88 goals and objectives and specific action plans, target dates and
89 strategies and methods of implementation for achieving such goals
90 and objectives. The State Board of Education shall establish every five
91 years an advisory committee to assist the board in the preparation of
92 the comprehensive plan. Members of the advisory committee shall be
93 appointed by the State Board of Education with representation on the
94 committee to include, but not be limited to, representatives of the
95 Connecticut Advisory Council on Vocational and Career Education,
96 education organizations, parent organizations, student organizations,
97 business and industry, organized labor and appropriate state agencies.
98 [Notwithstanding any requirement for submission of a plan for the
99 fiscal year ending June 30, 1984, pursuant to section 10-96a of the
100 general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 1983, the State
101 Board of Education shall not be required to submit the master plan for
102 vocational and career education but shall submit, pursuant to
103 subsection (b) of this section, the comprehensive plan for elementary
104 and secondary, vocational, career and adult education to the Governor
105 and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
106 cognizance of matters relating to education on or before September 1,
107 1996, and every five years thereafter provided, the master plan
108 currently in effect shall remain in effect until the comprehensive plan is
109 submitted.] The State Board of Education shall be responsible for
110 annually updating the progress in implementing the goals and
111 objectives of the comprehensive plan and shall report on such progress
112 to the Governor and to said standing committee annually. The State
113 Board of Education shall provide opportunity for public comment
114 prior to its adoption of a plan.

115 Sec. 4. Sections 10-95h, 10-95j and 10-95k of the general statutes are

116 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2006*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-95i
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-4(c)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	Repealer section

ED *Joint Favorable*

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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Changes in reporting requirements with regard to the state's technical high schools results in a reduced workload for the State Department of Education but no effective fiscal savings.

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS**SB 377*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the requirement that the SBE prepare and file two reports with the General Assembly concerning the Connecticut Regional Vocational-Technical School system (CRVTSS) enrollment, authorized and reauthorized trades, financial information, and other data and instead requires them to file one annual report containing this information. It eliminates the requirement that the SBE adopt and file a long-range plan of priorities and goals for the CRVTSS and instead requires the SBE to include this information in its general comprehensive plan on education. It also eliminates the 12-member statewide advisory committee on regional vocational-technical high schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

SUMMARY REPORT

The bill requires the SBE to prepare a summary report on the CRVTSS and annually submit it to the Education Committee beginning January 30, 2007. The report must include information on:

1. school capacity;
2. enrollment by grade and gender and of special education students, English language learners, and adults;
3. staffing;
4. financial information, such as expenditures and needs for capital improvements, capital equipment and operations;

5. the strategic school profile for the school district;
6. the trades offered, including information describing the trades reauthorized each year;
7. major changes in programs and enrollment; and
8. joint activities with institutions of higher education and other state agencies.

The bill eliminates the requirement that the SBE submit information on capital needs annually to the Education Committee with its rolling five-year capital improvement and capital equipment plan. This plan includes a summary of (1) needed alterations, renovations, and repairs; (2) recommendations for energy efficiency improvements and associated costs; and (3) equipment that each school will need.

It also eliminates the requirement that the SBE submit information on demographics, enrollment, capacity, capital and operating expenditures, and student outcomes biennially to the education committee. Enrollment data include an analysis of schools where enrollment has dropped below a certain point. The biennial report also includes a summary of information on admissions, faculty, efforts to strengthen public awareness of vocational-technical schools, and the role of school craft committees.

LONG-RANGE PLAN

The bill eliminates a requirement that the SBE adopt and file with the Education and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees, every five years, a long-range plan of priorities and goals for the CRVTSS. This plan must address coordination with other vocational, technical, or technological education and training providers. It must include (1) an analysis of trade program reauthorization activities, (2) consideration of new trade programs and how they relate to the long-term goals and priorities and the five-year rolling capital plan, and (3) a summary of activities related to capital improvements and equipment.

The bill instead requires the SBE to include information on the CRVTSS in its five-year comprehensive plan on elementary, secondary, vocational, career, and adult education. Current law requires the SBE to submit this report to the Education Committee every five years and annually submit progress reports to the committee. The bill eliminates the requirement that the SBE submit the report every five years.

COMMENT***Long-Range Plan***

In eliminating obsolete language, the bill deletes the reference to the committee to which the comprehensive education plan annual progress report should be sent.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/10/2006)