



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5515

LCO No. 2027

02027_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BEST PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2006*):

4 (d) The Department of Education may fund, within available
5 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
6 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut
7 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special
8 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at
9 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the
10 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes
11 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school
12 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,
13 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut
14 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut
15 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and
16 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and
17 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education

18 and certified teachers at such private special education and other
19 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning
20 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning
21 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to
22 assessors. Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly
23 to school districts for the provision of substitute teachers when
24 cooperating teachers, teacher mentors, beginning teachers and
25 assessors are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for
26 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating
27 and student teachers, teacher mentors, assessors and beginning
28 teachers. The cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and
29 assessment programs shall operate in accordance with regulations
30 which shall be adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
31 chapter 54. Student teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating
32 teachers. Beginning teachers shall participate in a beginning teacher
33 support and assessment program as made available by the board.
34 School districts shall be responsible for providing support to beginning
35 teachers which shall include, but not be limited to, the placement of
36 beginning teachers with trained teacher mentors who may be full or
37 part-time teachers in the same or a different building than the
38 beginning teacher and provision of trained assessors to conduct
39 assessments of beginning teachers. Cooperating teachers, teacher
40 mentors and assessors may serve concurrently in more than one
41 capacity and may be assigned more than one student teacher or
42 beginning teacher in each such capacity. The assessment of each
43 beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not limited to, data
44 obtained from observations conducted by assessors using an
45 assessment instrument. A beginning teacher shall be assessed by
46 educators with teaching experience in the same general subject area as
47 such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers and teacher mentors
48 who are Connecticut public school teachers and assessors who are
49 employed by school districts shall be selected by local and regional
50 boards of education. Cooperating teachers and teacher mentors and
51 assessors at such private special education and other designated

52 facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible for the operation
53 of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to identify a
54 sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions, the
55 commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed by
56 the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations
57 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience
58 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-
59 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection [,
60 and placement [and compensation] of persons participating in the
61 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment
62 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section, but said sections
63 shall be applicable to the compensation and to the hours and duties of
64 such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect and save
65 harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235, any
66 cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in such
67 capacity.

68 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-153d of the general statutes is
69 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
70 *1, 2006*):

71 (b) The local or regional board of education and the organization
72 designated or elected as the exclusive representative for the
73 appropriate unit, through designated officials or their representatives,
74 shall [have the duty] to negotiate with respect to salaries, hours and
75 other conditions of employment about which either party wishes to
76 negotiate. For contracts expiring on and after July 1, 2006, the parties
77 shall negotiate with respect to the compensation of teacher mentors
78 participating in beginning teacher support and assessment programs
79 pursuant to the provisions of section 10-220a, as amended by this act,
80 and to the hours and duties of such persons. For purposes of this
81 subsection and sections 10-153a, 10-153b and 10-153e to 10-153g,
82 inclusive, (1) "hours" shall not include the length of the student school
83 year, the scheduling of the student school year, the length of the
84 student school day, the length and number of parent-teacher

85 conferences and the scheduling of the student school day, except for
86 the length and the scheduling of teacher lunch periods and teacher
87 preparation periods, and (2) "other conditions of employment" shall
88 not include the establishment or provisions of any retirement incentive
89 plan authorized by section 10-183jj. Such negotiations shall commence
90 not less than two hundred ten days prior to the budget submission
91 date. Any local board of education shall file forthwith a signed copy of
92 any contract with the town clerk and with the Commissioner of
93 Education. Any regional board of education shall file forthwith a
94 signed copy of any such contract with the town clerk in each member
95 town and with the Commissioner of Education. Upon receipt of a
96 signed copy of such contract the clerk of such town shall give public
97 notice of such filing. The terms of such contract shall be binding on the
98 legislative body of the local or regional school district, unless such
99 body rejects such contract at a regular or special meeting called and
100 convened for such purpose within thirty days of the filing of the
101 contract. If a vote on such contract is petitioned for in accordance with
102 the provisions of section 7-7, in order to reject such contract, a
103 minimum number of those persons eligible to vote equal to fifteen per
104 cent of the electors of such local or regional school district shall be
105 required to participate in the voting and a majority of those voting
106 shall be required to reject. Any regional board of education shall call a
107 district meeting to consider such contract within such thirty-day
108 period if the chief executive officer of any member town so requests in
109 writing within fifteen days of the receipt of the signed copy of the
110 contract by the town clerk in such town. The body charged with
111 making annual appropriations in any school district shall appropriate
112 to the board of education whatever funds are required to implement
113 the terms of any contract not rejected pursuant to this section. All
114 organizations seeking to represent members of the teaching profession
115 shall be accorded equal treatment with respect to access to teachers,
116 principals, members of the board of education, records, mail boxes and
117 school facilities and, in the absence of any recognition or certification
118 as the exclusive representative as provided by section 10-153b,

119 participation in discussions with respect to salaries, hours and other
120 conditions of employment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-220a(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-153d(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To require school boards and unions to bargain over the compensation, hours and duties of teachers who serve as mentors of beginning teachers under the Beginning Educator Support and Training Program.

[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.]