



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 143

LCO No. 1484

01484_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) There is established
2 an advisory council to monitor the activities of the Board of Education
3 and Services for the Blind in carrying out its mission and statutorily
4 prescribed duties to provide quality educational and rehabilitative
5 services to all persons in the state who are legally blind or deaf-blind
6 and to all children in the state who are visually impaired.

7 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
9 who is a person with expertise in special education;

10 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
11 is a representative of a blind consumer group;

12 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
13 Representatives who is an adult with blindness, who has received
14 services from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

15 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is the
16 parent of a child receiving services from the Board of Education and
17 Services for the Blind;

18 (5) Two appointed by the Governor; and

19 (6) The president of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, or the
20 president's designee.

21 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subsection (b) of
22 this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

23 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made not later than
24 November 1, 2006, and shall be for a term of three years from the date
25 of appointment. No member shall serve consecutive terms, provided,
26 any former member of the council may be reappointed to the council if
27 three or more years have passed since such member last served on the
28 council. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

29 (e) The Governor shall schedule the first meeting of the council,
30 which shall be held not later than January 1, 2007. The chairperson of
31 the council shall be elected from among the members of the council at
32 the first meeting of the council. The council shall meet at least
33 quarterly at such times and places as the chairperson designates and
34 may meet at any other time upon the call of its chairperson or at the
35 request of two members. Any appointed member who, without good
36 cause, fails to attend three consecutive council meetings or fifty per
37 cent of all meetings held in a calendar year shall be deemed to have
38 resigned. A majority of the members appointed to the council shall
39 constitute a quorum.

40 (f) The council shall: (1) Monitor the activities of the Board of
41 Education and Services for the Blind regarding the agency's
42 compliance with the benchmarks and recommendations set by the
43 monitoring council established pursuant to section 3 of public act 03-
44 217 and offer recommended adjustments to the benchmarks when

45 deemed necessary; and (2) offer recommendations to the Governor
46 with respect to the appointment of the executive director of the Board
47 of Education and Services for the Blind.

48 (g) Not later than February 15, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
49 council shall submit a report on its activities, in accordance with the
50 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and
51 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
52 cognizance of matters relating to human services, education and
53 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the Office of
54 Policy and Management. Such report may include legislative proposals
55 and recommendations for proposed changes in the organizational or
56 programmatic structure of the Board of Education and Services for the
57 Blind.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2006	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement legislative changes recommended by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind monitoring council.

[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.]