



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 445

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1287

Senate, April 11, 2007

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

AN ACT CONCERNING VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PERMITS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The State Board of
2 Education shall, upon the request of a local or regional board of
3 education, issue an international teacher permit in a subject shortage
4 area pursuant to section 10-8b of the general statutes, provided the
5 conditions for issuance of such permit pursuant to the provisions of
6 subsections (b) and (c) of this section are met. Such permits shall be
7 issued for one year and may be renewed for a period of up to one year,
8 upon the request of the local or regional board of education, provided
9 the permit shall not be renewed more than twice in the two years
10 subsequent to the initial issuance.

11 (b) The local or regional board of education requesting the issuance
12 of an international teacher permit shall attest to the existence of a plan
13 for the supervision of the teacher.

14 (c) The teacher shall:

15 (1) Hold a J-1 visa issued by the United States Department of State;

16 (2) Be in the United States to teach (A) in accordance with a
17 memorandum of understanding between Connecticut and the country
18 from which the teacher is entering, or (B) as part of the Exchange
19 Visitor Program administered by the United States Department of
20 State Teacher Exchange Branch;

21 (3) (A) Hold the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, from a regionally
22 accredited institution of higher education, as determined by a foreign
23 credentialing agency recognized by the Commissioner of Education,
24 with a major in or closely related to the certification endorsement area
25 in which the teacher is to teach, or (B) hold such a degree without such
26 a major and have successfully completed the teacher assessment for
27 the appropriate subject area, as approved by the State Board of
28 Education;

29 (4) Have completed, in the country from which the teacher is
30 entering, the equivalent of a regionally accredited teacher preparation
31 program; and

32 (5) Have achieved the level of oral proficiency in English as
33 determined by an examination approved by the Commissioner of
34 Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill results in no fiscal impact to the State Department of Education as the collected fees for permits will remain the same.

The Out Years

None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1287*****AN ACT CONCERNING VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PERMITS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE), in response to a request from a local or regional school board, to issue a temporary international teacher permit in a subject shortage area identified by the education commissioner. The permit allows a foreign teacher with certain qualifications to teach in a public school under the school board's jurisdiction. The permit is valid for one year with a maximum of two one-year renewals, also at a school board's request.

The local or regional school board requesting the permit must attest that it has a plan for supervising the foreign teacher.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for the international teacher permit, a teacher must:

1. hold a J-1 visa from the U.S. State Department,
2. teach in the U.S. either under a memorandum of understanding between Connecticut and the teacher's home country or as part of the Exchange Visitor Program run by the State Department's Teacher Exchange Branch;
3. have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a higher education institution regionally accredited by a foreign accrediting agency recognized by the education commissioner;
4. have the degree with either (a) a major in or closely related to the subject he is to teach or (b) an unrelated major plus

successful completion of an SBE-approved teacher test in that subject;

5. have completed, in his home country, the equivalent of a regionally accredited teacher preparation program; and
6. successfully complete an English oral proficiency exam approved by the education commissioner.

BACKGROUND

J-1 Visa and Exchange Visitor Program

A J-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa provided to foreign visitors who fall under the "Exchange Visitor" designation and are allowed to come to the United States to promote mutual educational and cultural exchanges. The visitor's sponsor must be accredited through the State Department's Exchange Visitor Program. Among those who qualify for J-1 status through the program are high school, college, and graduate students; business and flight aviation trainees; primary and secondary school teachers; college professors; research scholars; and medical residents and interns receiving U.S. medical training.

Subject Shortage Areas

By December 1 each year, the education commissioner must identify subjects where teacher shortages exist in the state. For the 2006-07 school year, the subject shortage areas are bilingual education (PK-12), comprehensive special education (1-12), English (7-12), intermediate administrator, math (7-12), music (PK-12), remedial reading (1-12), science (7-12), speech and language pathology, and world languages (7-12).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/26/2007)