



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 691

January Session, 2007

Senate Bill No. 1412

Senate, May 2, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (20) of section 10-183b of the general statutes
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (20) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or
5 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly
6 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of
7 Education, the board of governors or any of its constituent units, the E.
8 O. Smith School, the Children's Center and its successors, the state
9 education resource center established pursuant to section 10-4q, joint
10 activities of boards of education authorized by subsection (b) of section
11 10-158a and any institution supported by the state at which teachers
12 are employed or any incorporated secondary school not under the
13 orders and superintendence of a duly elected school committee or
14 board of education but located in a town not maintaining a high school

15 and providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located,
16 and which has been approved by the State Board of Education under
17 the provisions of part II of chapter 164, provided that such institution
18 or such secondary school is classified as a public school by the
19 retirement board.

20 Sec. 2. Subdivision (26) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is
21 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
22 *1, 2007*):

23 (26) "Teacher" means (A) any teacher, permanent substitute teacher,
24 principal, assistant principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent or
25 superintendent employed by the public schools in a professional
26 capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State
27 Board of Education, provided on and after July 1, 1975, such certificate
28 shall be for the position in which the person is then employed, (B)
29 certified personnel who provide health and welfare services for
30 children in nonprofit schools, as provided in section 10-217a, under an
31 oral or written agreement, (C) any person who is engaged in teaching
32 or supervising schools for adults if the annual salary paid for such
33 service is equal to or greater than the minimum salary paid for a
34 regular, full-time teaching position in the day schools in the town
35 where such service is rendered, [and] (D) a member of the professional
36 staff of the State Board of Education or of the Board of Governors of
37 Higher Education or any of its constituent units, and (E) a member of
38 the staff of the state education resource center established pursuant to
39 section 10-4q employed in a professional capacity while possessing a
40 certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education. A
41 "permanent substitute teacher" is one who serves as such for at least
42 ten months during any school year.

43 Sec. 3. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-183e of the general
44 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
45 (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

46 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this
47 section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of

48 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this
49 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a
50 Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the
51 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each
52 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided
53 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such
54 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;
55 and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service described in
56 this subsection. In no event, however, may any service described in
57 this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or is, or will
58 become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon such
59 service from any governmental system other than the teachers'
60 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional
61 credited service includes:

62 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents
63 established by the United States Department of Defense;

64 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its
65 territories or possessions;

66 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as
67 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the
68 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

69 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

70 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July
71 1, 1965;

72 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North
73 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

74 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to
75 September 1, 1948;

76 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted
77 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least

78 one school year;

79 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the
80 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington
81 Children's Hospital;

82 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the
83 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public
84 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,
85 provided eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of
86 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

87 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than
88 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed
89 thirty months;

90 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any
91 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or
92 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least
93 one school year;

94 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the
95 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years;

96 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps;

97 (15) Service in the United States VISTA (Volunteers in Service to
98 America) program; [and]

99 (16) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a social work
100 assistant, from January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1986, inclusive, if such
101 member became a certified school social worker and remained in
102 public school service as a social worker after certification; and

103 (17) Service prior to July 1, 2007, as a member of the staff of the state
104 education resource center established pursuant to section 10-4q
105 employed in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or
106 permit issued by the State Board of Education.

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 |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Teachers' Retirement Bd. | GF - None |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill adds employees of the State Education Resource Center (SERC) who hold teaching certificates issued by the State Board of Education to the definitions under the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). The Department of Education has indicated that the certified teachers needed in the SERC are experienced members of TRS. The bill also adds prior service as an employee of the SERC to the additional credited service that may be purchased under the TRS. Any teacher purchasing such service under the bill is required to pay the full actuarial cost which results in no cost to the state for the purchase.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1412*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill extends membership in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) to professional staff employed by the State Education Resource Center (SERC) who have certificates or permits issued by the State Board of Education. SERC is required by law to help the board provide programs and activities to promote educational excellence, including providing training, professional development, and continuing education seminars; publishing technical material and information on successful school models and best practices; and performing research and evaluation on school improvement.

The bill also allows TRS members to purchase credit in the TRS for pre-July 1, 2007 service with SERC. It requires members to pay the full present value actuarial cost of the SERC service credit, instead of 50% of the full cost as required for other authorized TRS service credit purchases. The full actuarial cost is the present value of the increase in the member's future TRS retirement benefit attributable to the additional service credit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND***Teachers' Retirement System***

The TRS is a state-funded defined benefit retirement system for professional employees employed by Connecticut public schools. It covers employees who (1) hold positions requiring a teaching certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education, (2) hold

the appropriate certification for their position, and (3) are employed at least half-time. Being employed by a “public school” for purposes of the TRS includes those who meet the foregoing definition and are employed by, among others, the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of Higher Education or any higher education constituent unit, the Connecticut Children’s Center, and other state institutions that employ teachers.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/26/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)