

Good Afternoon. My name is Sherri DiNello and I serve as the school business administrator of the Southington Public Schools. Additionally, I am Secretary/Treasurer of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO). I am joined today by Bill Sudol, Retired Administrator of the Teachers Retirement System.

On behalf of the members of CASBO, I thank you for raising HB 7349 An Act Concerning School Business Administrators which would include certified school business administrators (SBAs) in the Connecticut Teachers Retirement System. We respectfully request, however, that you substitute the current language for that which has been distributed with my testimony.

This revised language provides for an "opt-out" provision for current certified SBAs, ensuring no harm to them, and providing for a gradual phase-in of CTRS participants. The "opt-out" provision provides that inclusion of current certified SBAs as members of CTRS would be voluntary. The "opt-out" provision is vital because without it, current SBAs could be forced into CTRS, which may be extremely detrimental if their retirement plans do not allow for adequate service under CTRS. Additionally, our cost analysis is based upon the revised provision.

There are approximately 100 SBAs employed in the public schools of Connecticut who are not eligible for membership in CTRS by virtue of their certification status. It is the only certificated position excluded from CTRS membership. Because of this unique situation, a current CTRS member, such as a teacher, who accepts an SBA position, is no longer eligible for continuing CTRS membership. This is a deterrent to a teacher who may be considering a promotional career path to the position of SBA.

School districts would benefit from having SBAs participate in CTRS because they would no longer be responsible for the payment of Social Security (SS) payroll taxes (6.2% of compensation) for newly-hired SBAs and would not have any obligation for making any CTRS contributions to the plan

Many school districts that employ SBAs and have a pension plan do not provide pension benefits comparable to CTRS and there is generally no portability of pension benefits from district to district. The bill will allow districts to attract and recruit experienced candidates from other districts.

The efficient and effective management of district resources is critical. School districts would benefit by allowing them to recruit the "best and brightest" from a larger pool. School Business Administrators' inclusion in CTRS would benefit employees and school districts alike. On behalf of my colleagues, I respectfully request that you approve legislation to include certified school business administrators in CTRS to bring the concept to fruition.

**Sherri DiNello**  
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Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:

Sherri DiNello

Date:

3/12/07

Bill Number:

HB 7349

*Proposed substitute wording for HB 7349 AAC School Business Administrators*  
To permit school business administrators to be considered a teacher under the teachers' retirement system, with opt-out provision for current certified SBAs

Subdivision (26) of section 10-183B of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(26) "Teacher" means (1) any teacher, permanent substitute teacher, principal, assistant principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent or superintendent employed by the public schools in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education, provided on and after July 1, 1975, such certificate shall be for the position in which the person is then employed, (2) certified personnel who provide health and welfare services for children in nonprofit schools, as provided in section 10-217a, under an oral or written agreement, (3) any person who is engaged in teaching or supervising schools for adults if the annual salary paid for such service is equal to or greater than the minimum salary paid for the regular, full-time teaching position in the day schools in the town where such service is rendered, [and] (4) any person who is employed by a local or regional board of education in a position requiring a business administrator certification except those possessing certification on October 1, 2007 who may, at his/her discretion, elect not to participate, and (5) a member of the professional staff of the State Board of Education or of the Board of Governors of Higher Education or any of its constituent units. A "permanent substitute teacher" is one who serves as such for at least ten months during any school year.

**Subsection (c) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is repealed.**

**Subsections (d), (e), (f) and (g) of section 10-145d of the general statutes shall become subsections (c), (d), (e) and (f).**