



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 379

LCO No. 1853

01853_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

3 (a) The State Board of Education may establish and maintain a state-
4 wide system of regional vocational-technical schools offering full-time,
5 part-time and evening programs in vocational, technical and
6 technological education and training. The board may make regulations
7 controlling the admission of students to any such school. The
8 Commissioner of Education, in accordance with policies established by
9 the board, may appoint and remove members of the staffs of such
10 schools and make rules for the management of and expend the funds
11 provided for the support of such schools. The board may enter into
12 cooperative arrangements with local and regional boards of education,
13 private occupational schools, institutions of higher education, job
14 training agencies and employers in order to provide general education,
15 vocational, technical or technological education or work experience.

16 (b) If the New England Association of Schools and Colleges places a

17 regional vocational-technical school on probation or otherwise notifies
18 the superintendent of the vocational-technical school system that a
19 regional vocational-technical school is at risk of losing its accreditation,
20 the Commissioner of Education shall notify the joint standing
21 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
22 relating to education of such placement or problems relating to
23 accreditation.

24 (c) The State Board of Education shall establish specific achievement
25 goals for students at the vocational-technical schools at each grade
26 level. The board shall measure the performance of each vocational-
27 technical school and shall identify a set of quantifiable measures to be
28 used. The measures shall include factors such as performance on the
29 state-wide tenth grade mastery examination under section 10-14n,
30 trade-related assessment tests, dropout rates and graduation rates.

31 (d) The State Board of Education shall not close or suspend
32 operations of any regional vocational-technical school for more than
33 six months unless an affirmative vote of the board is taken at a meeting
34 duly called.

35 Sec. 2. Section 10-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

37 (a) Prior to July 1, 1998, the State Board of Education shall consist of
38 nine members. On and after July 1, 1998, but prior to July 1, 2010, the
39 State Board of Education shall consist of eleven members, two of
40 whom shall be nonvoting student members. On and after July 1, 2010,
41 the State Board of Education shall consist of eleven members, at least
42 two of whom shall have industrial, trade or technical school experience
43 and two of whom shall be nonvoting student members. Only those
44 members with industrial, trade or technical school experience shall be
45 eligible to serve as the chairperson for the regional vocational-technical
46 school subcommittee of the board.

47 (b) The Governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the

48 General Assembly, the members of said board, provided each student
49 member (1) is on the list submitted to the Governor pursuant to section
50 10-2a, (2) is enrolled in a public high school in the state, (3) has
51 completed eleventh grade prior to the commencement of his term, (4)
52 has at least a B plus average, and (5) provides at least three references
53 from teachers in the school he is attending. Nine members shall serve
54 for terms of four years commencing on March first in the year of their
55 appointment. The student members shall serve for terms of one year
56 commencing on July first in the year of their appointment. The
57 Commissioner of Higher Education shall serve as an ex-officio member
58 without a vote. Any vacancy in said State Board of Education shall be
59 filled in the manner provided in section 4-19.

60 Sec. 3. Section 10-95h of the general statutes is repealed and the
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

62 [There is established a state-wide advisory committee, which shall
63 meet at least semiannually, to (1) identify emerging state and national
64 workforce needs and trade technology programs for the regional
65 vocational-technical school system to meet such needs; (2) identify the
66 workforce skills that will be needed for the next thirty years and
67 ensure that the curriculum of the regional vocational-technical school
68 system is incorporating such skills into the regional vocational-
69 technical schools; (3) ensure that all students who graduate from the
70 regional vocational-technical school system have communication,
71 leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills, in addition to
72 expertise in a trade technology; (4) assess the adequacy of the
73 resources available to the regional vocational-technical school system
74 as the system develops and refines programs to meet existing and
75 emerging workforce needs; and (5) advise and make recommendations
76 to the State Board of Education to carry out the provisions of
77 subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this section. The committee shall
78 consist of nineteen members as follows: (A) Two appointed by the
79 speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be representatives
80 of business, holding the title of chief executive officer, president, chief

81 operating officer or the equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry,
82 service and manufacturing firms with five hundred or more full-time
83 employees; (B) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
84 Senate, one of whom shall be a representative of business, holding the
85 title of chief executive officer, president, chief operating officer or the
86 equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry, service and
87 manufacturing firms with five hundred or more full-time employees
88 and one of whom shall be a teacher in the regional vocational-technical
89 school system; (C) one appointed by the majority leader of the House
90 of Representatives who shall be a representative of business, holding
91 the title of chief executive officer, president, chief operating officer or
92 the equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry, service and
93 manufacturing firms with more than fifty, but fewer than five hundred
94 full-time employees; (D) one appointed by the majority leader of the
95 Senate who shall be a representative of business, holding the title of
96 chief executive officer, president, chief operating officer or the
97 equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry, service and
98 manufacturing firms with more than fifty, but fewer than five hundred
99 full-time employees; (E) one appointed by the minority leader of the
100 House of Representatives who shall be a representative of business,
101 holding the title of chief executive officer, president, chief operating
102 officer or the equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry, service
103 and manufacturing firms with more than fifty, but fewer than five
104 hundred full-time employees; (F) one appointed by the minority leader
105 of the Senate who shall be a representative of business, holding the
106 title of chief executive officer, president, chief operating officer or the
107 equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry, service and
108 manufacturing firms with fifty or fewer full-time employees; (G) two
109 persons appointed by the Governor who shall be representatives of
110 business, holding the title of chief executive officer, president, chief
111 operating officer or the equivalents thereof, drawn from key industry,
112 service and manufacturing firms with fifty or fewer full-time
113 employees; (H) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
114 designee; (I) the Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

115 (J) the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or
116 the commissioner's designee; (K) a representative from the Office of
117 Workforce Competitiveness; (L) the chairperson of the State Board of
118 Education, or the chairperson's designee; and (M) the cochairpersons
119 and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
120 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education. The
121 committee membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and
122 ethnic diversity.]

123 (a) Not later than November thirtieth each year, the joint standing
124 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
125 relating to education, higher education and employment advancement
126 and labor shall meet with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
127 Management, the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
128 school system, the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness,
129 the Labor Commissioner and such other persons as they deem
130 appropriate, to consider the items submitted pursuant to subsection (b)
131 of this section.

132 (b) On or before November fifteenth, annually: (1) The Secretary of
133 the Office of Policy and Management shall submit the following to the
134 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
135 of matters relating to education, higher education and employment
136 advancement and labor: (A) Information identifying general economic
137 trends in the state economy; (B) information identifying emerging state
138 and national workforce needs and trade technology programs, based
139 on such economic trends, for the regional vocational-technical school
140 system to meet such needs; (C) information identifying the workforce
141 skills that will be needed for the next thirty years and ensure that the
142 curriculum of the regional vocational-technical school system is
143 incorporating such skills into the regional vocational-technical schools;
144 (D) an assessment of the adequacy of the resources available to the
145 regional vocational-technical school system as the system develops
146 and refines programs to meet existing and emerging workforce needs;
147 and (E) recommendations to the State Board of Education to carry out

148 the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this
149 subdivision.

150 (2) The superintendent of the vocational-technical school system
151 shall submit the following to the joint standing committees of the
152 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
153 higher education and employment advancement and labor: (A)
154 Information identifying emerging state and national workforce needs
155 and trade technology programs for the regional vocational-technical
156 school system to meet such needs; (B) information identifying the
157 workforce skills that will be needed for the next thirty years and
158 ensure that the curriculum of the regional vocational-technical school
159 system is incorporating such skills into the regional vocational-
160 technical schools; (C) information regarding the employment status of
161 students who graduate from the regional vocational-technical school
162 system; (D) an assessment of the adequacy of the resources available to
163 the regional vocational-technical school system as the system develops
164 and refines programs to meet existing and emerging workforce needs;
165 and (E) recommendations to the State Board of Education to carry out
166 the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this
167 subdivision.

168 (3) The director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and the
169 Labor Commissioner shall each submit the following to the joint
170 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
171 matters relating to education, higher education and employment
172 advancement and labor: (A) Occupational information regarding the
173 public and private sectors, such as continuous data on occupational
174 movements; (B) information identifying emerging state and national
175 workforce needs and trade technology programs for the regional
176 vocational-technical school system to meet such needs; (C) an
177 assessment of the adequacy of the resources available to the regional
178 vocational-technical school system as the system develops and refines
179 programs to meet existing and emerging workforce needs; and (D)
180 recommendations to the State Board of Education to carry out the

181 provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this subdivision.

182 Sec. 4. Section 3-20f of the general statutes is repealed and the
183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

184 (a) Notwithstanding section 3-20, to the extent there is a sufficient
185 balance of bonds approved by the General Assembly pursuant to any
186 bond act for the purposes of agricultural land preservation programs
187 established pursuant to section 22-26cc or 22-26jj, but not allocated by
188 the State Bond Commission, said commission shall vote on whether to
189 authorize the issuance of at least five million dollars of such bonds for
190 the purposes described in said sections at each of said commission's
191 regularly scheduled meetings occurring in August and February of
192 each year. If no meeting is held in said months, said commission shall
193 vote on whether to authorize the issuance of such bonds at its next
194 regularly scheduled meeting. To the extent there is a sufficient balance
195 of bonds so approved by the General Assembly and there are pending
196 agricultural land preservation transactions in excess of five million
197 dollars, the Commissioner of Agriculture may request, and the State
198 Bond Commission shall vote on whether to authorize the issuance of,
199 bonds in excess of five million dollars. To the extent the balance of
200 bonds so approved by the [legislature] General Assembly is below five
201 million dollars at the time of said commission's August or February
202 meetings, said commission shall vote on whether to authorize the
203 issuance of the remaining balance of such bonds.

204 (b) Notwithstanding section 3-20, to the extent there is a sufficient
205 balance of bonds approved by the General Assembly pursuant to any
206 bond act for the purposes of general maintenance and trade and
207 capital equipment for any school in the regional vocational-technical
208 school system, but not allocated by the State Bond Commission, said
209 commission shall vote on whether to authorize the issuance of at least
210 two million dollars of such bonds for such maintenance and
211 equipment at each of said commission's regularly scheduled meetings
212 occurring in August and February of each year. If no meeting is held in

213 said months, said commission shall vote on whether to authorize the
214 issuance of such bonds at its next regularly scheduled meeting. To the
215 extent there is a sufficient balance of bonds so approved by the General
216 Assembly and there are pending general maintenance and trade and
217 capital equipment transactions in excess of two million dollars, the
218 superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system may
219 request, and the State Bond Commission shall vote on whether to
220 authorize the issuance of, bonds in excess of two million dollars. To the
221 extent the balance of bonds so approved by the General Assembly is
222 below two million dollars at the time of said commission's August or
223 February meetings, said commission shall vote on whether to
224 authorize the issuance of the remaining balance of such bonds.

225 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before August 15, 2010,
226 and annually thereafter, the State Board of Education shall arrange for
227 the inspection, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-282a of
228 the general statutes, of those school busses, as defined in section 14-275
229 of the general statutes, in operation in the regional vocational-technical
230 school system.

231 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) On and after July 1, 2010, the
232 State Board of Education shall replace any school bus that is ten years
233 or older and is in service at any regional vocational-technical school.

234 (b) On or before July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the
235 superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system shall
236 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
237 general statutes, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
238 Management and to the joint standing committees of the General
239 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
240 finance, revenue and bonding a report on the replacement of school
241 buses in service in the regional vocational-technical school system,
242 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such report shall include the
243 number of school buses replaced in the previous school year and a
244 projection of the number of school buses anticipated to be replaced in

245 the upcoming school year.

246 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) For the fiscal year ending June
247 30, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, the budget for the regional
248 vocational-technical school system shall be a separate budgeted agency
249 from the Department of Education.

250 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The superintendent of the
251 regional vocational-technical school system shall biannually submit, in
252 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Secretary
253 of the Office of Policy and Management, the director of the legislative
254 Office of Fiscal Analysis and to the joint standing committee of the
255 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
256 the operating budget and expenses for each individual regional
257 vocational-technical school.

258 (b) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school
259 system shall make available and update on the regional vocational-
260 technical school system web site and the web site of each regional
261 vocational-technical school the operating budget for the current school
262 year of each individual regional vocational-technical school.

263 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the
264 provisions of section 4a-51 of the general statutes and regulations
265 adopted pursuant to section 4a-52 of the general statutes, the
266 superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system may
267 purchase supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services, all
268 as defined in section 4a-50 of the general statutes, for the regional
269 vocational-technical school system, provided such supplies, materials,
270 equipment and contractual services (1) can be obtained at a lower cost
271 from a business located in the town in which the regional vocational-
272 technical school seeking such supplies, materials, equipment or
273 contractual services is located than the cost of obtaining such supplies,
274 materials, equipment or contractual services through the Department
275 of Administrative Services, or (2) cannot be obtained through the
276 Department of Administrative Services.

277 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, not
 278 later than July fifteenth, annually, the superintendent of the regional
 279 vocational-technical school system shall submit to the Department of
 280 Administrative Services for each of the schools in the regional
 281 vocational-technical school system a list of all supplies, materials,
 282 equipment and contractual services required by such school for the
 283 year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-95
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-1
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-95h
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	3-20f
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the State Board of Education to conduct a formal vote before closing or suspending operations of a vocational-technical school; to require that at least two members of the State Board of Education have industrial, trade or technical school experience; to eliminate the state-wide advisory committee on regional vocational-technical schools and require an annual informational hearing regarding the vocational-technical school system; to require the State Bond Commission to vote on whether to issue bonds that the General Assembly approved for maintenance and trade and capital equipment for vocational-technical schools, but the commission has not allocated; to require the State Board of Education to inspect the busses in operation at the vocational-technical schools and to replace any school bus in service at a vocational-technical school that is ten years or older and to require the superintendent of the vocational-technical school system to report annually on such school bus replacement; to require that the vocational-technical school system be a separate line item in the budget; to require the superintendent of the vocational-technical school system to biannually submit the operating budgets for each

individual vocational-technical school to OPM, OFA and the General Assembly and to make available such budgets on the vocational-technical school system's web site to allow the superintendent of the vocational-technical school system to purchase certain supplies and equipment independent of the Department of Administrative Services.

[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.]