



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 354

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 6420

House of Representatives, April 4, 2011

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM CHARGING UNIVERSAL, NONREFUNDABLE STUDENT FEES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) [Boards] Local and regional boards of education shall prescribe
4 rules for the management, studies, classification and discipline of the
5 public schools and, subject to the control of the State Board of
6 Education, the textbooks to be used; shall make rules for the control,
7 within their respective jurisdictions, of school library media centers
8 and approve the selection of books and other educational media
9 therefor, and shall approve plans for public school buildings and
10 superintend any high or graded school in the manner specified in this
11 title.

12 (b) Not later than July 1, 1985, each local and regional board of

13 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies
14 concerning homework, attendance, promotion and retention. The
15 Department of Education shall make available model policies and
16 guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in meeting
17 the responsibilities enumerated in this subsection.

18 (c) [Boards] Local and regional boards of education may prescribe
19 rules to impose sanctions against [pupils] students who damage or fail
20 to return textbooks, library materials or other educational materials.
21 [Said] Such local or regional boards of education may charge [pupils]
22 students for such damaged or lost textbooks, library materials or other
23 educational materials and may withhold grades, transcripts or report
24 cards until the [pupil] student pays for or returns the textbook, library
25 book or other educational material.

26 (d) Not later than July 1, 1991, each local and regional board of
27 education shall develop, adopt and implement policies and procedures
28 in conformity with section 10-154a for (1) dealing with the use, sale or
29 possession of alcohol or controlled drugs, as defined in subdivision (8)
30 of section 21a-240, by public school students on school property,
31 including a process for coordination with, and referral of such students
32 to, appropriate agencies, and (2) cooperating with law enforcement
33 officials.

34 (e) Not later than July 1, 1990, each local and regional board of
35 education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with
36 youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Each such local
37 and regional board of education may establish a student assistance
38 program to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to
39 intervene with such youths, referral services and training for teachers
40 and other school professionals and students who provide assistance in
41 the program.

42 (f) Not later than September 1, 1998, each local and regional board of
43 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies and
44 procedures to encourage parent-teacher communication. These policies
45 and procedures may include monthly newsletters, required regular

46 contact with all parents, flexible parent-teacher conferences, drop-in
 47 hours for parents, home visits and the use of technology such as
 48 homework hot lines to allow parents to check on their children's
 49 assignments and students to get assistance if needed. For the school
 50 year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, such
 51 policies and procedures shall require the district to conduct two
 52 flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year.

53 (g) (1) No local or regional board of education shall charge a student
 54 activity fee to any student who does not participate in any athletic
 55 activity not required by the school or any other extracurricular activity,
 56 if the proceeds of such student activity fee are used to fund any such
 57 athletic or extracurricular activity.

58 (2) No local or regional board of education shall charge any fee,
 59 including, but not limited to, the fee described in subdivision (1) of this
 60 subdivision, to a student who demonstrates an inability to pay such
 61 fee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2011	10-221

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Clarified the language in section 1(g)(1) and (2).

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Revenue Loss	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill, which bars school boards from: (1) charging students a student activity fee, if the student does not participate in any optional athletic or other extracurricular school activity funded by the fee or (2) any fee, if the student demonstrates the inability to pay it, could result in a revenue loss to various local and regional school districts.

It is unknown how many local and regional school districts currently charge an activity fee for students who do not participate in any optional athletic or other extracurricular school activity, but it is anticipated to be relatively few¹. However, those schools that do charge such a fee would face a revenue loss equal to the rate of the student activity fee multiplied by the number of non participating students.

Additionally, the bill bars a school district from charging any fee if the student demonstrates an inability to pay for it. This could include any type of fee, such as athletic fees, parking fees, and academic related fees, which would result in a revenue loss to the district. The scope of the revenue loss is unknown, as there is no definition of

'inability to pay', and the range of fees varies widely from district to district. The average athletic fees that are charged by schools, to students, in order to participate in a sport, range from \$50 to \$150². It is assumed that based on the timing of the fees, a loss in revenue would not be passed onto students who are able to pay.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

The municipal impact in the out years would be subject to the increase in various fees, and the number of students who were exempt from having to pay.

¹ Of the 169 schools responding to the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, 2009 Member Survey, only 33 had service fees for various extracurricular activities.

² Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, 2009 Members Survey.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6420

AN ACT PROHIBITING SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM CHARGING UNIVERSAL, NONREFUNDABLE STUDENT FEES.

SUMMARY:

This bill bars school boards from charging students:

1. a student activity fee, if the student does not participate in any optional athletic or other extracurricular school activity funded by the fee, or
2. any fee, if the student demonstrates an inability to pay it.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 5 (03/17/2011)