



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 335**

January Session, 2011

Senate Bill No. 1040

*Senate, April 4, 2011*

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **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 Section 10-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2011*):

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) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 67, the State Board of  
32 Education shall be responsible for all personnel decisions relating to  
33 the hiring of certified teachers in the regional vocational-technical  
34 school system.

35 Sec. 2. Section 10-99g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

37 (a) (1) Each regional vocational-technical school shall prepare a  
38 proposed operating budget for the next succeeding school year  
39 beginning July first and submit such proposed operating budget to the  
40 superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system. The  
41 superintendent shall collect, review and use the proposed operating  
42 budgets for each regional vocational-technical school to prepare a  
43 proposed operating budget for the regional vocational-technical school  
44 system.

45 (2) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school  
46 system shall submit a proposed operating budget for the regional  
47 vocational-technical school system to the regional vocational-technical

48 school subcommittee of the State Board of Education. The  
49 subcommittee shall review such proposed operating budget and  
50 approve or disapprove such proposed operating budget. If the  
51 subcommittee disapproves such proposed operating budget, the  
52 subcommittee shall adopt an interim budget and such interim budget  
53 shall take effect at the commencement of the fiscal year and shall  
54 remain in effect until the superintendent submits and the  
55 subcommittee approves a modified operating budget. The  
56 superintendent shall submit a copy of the approved operating budget  
57 to the Office of Policy and Management.

58 [(a)] (b) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical  
59 school system shall biannually submit the operating budget and  
60 expenses for each individual regional vocational-technical school, in  
61 accordance with section 11-4a, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
62 and Management, the director of the legislative Office of Fiscal  
63 Analysis and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
64 having cognizance of matters relating to education.

65 [(b)] (c) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical  
66 school system shall make available and update on the regional  
67 vocational-technical school system web site and the web site of each  
68 regional vocational-technical school the operating budget for the  
69 current school year of each individual regional vocational-technical  
70 school.

71 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-95e of the general statutes is  
72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
73 *1, 2011*):

74 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a Vocational  
75 Education Extension Fund. Within said Vocational Education  
76 Extension Fund, there is established an account to be known as the  
77 "vocational education extension account". The Vocational Education  
78 Extension Fund may include other accounts separate and apart from  
79 the vocational education extension account. The vocational education  
80 extension account shall be used for the operation of preparatory and

81 supplemental programs, including apprenticeship programs in  
82 accordance with subsection (b) of this section, and for the purchase of  
83 such materials and equipment required for use in the operation of said  
84 programs. All proceeds derived from the operation of said programs  
85 and revenue collected for rental or use of school facilities shall be  
86 credited to and become a part of the resources of said vocational  
87 education extension account, except as provided in subsection (b) of  
88 this section. All direct expenses incurred in the conduct of said  
89 programs shall be charged, and any payments of interest and principal  
90 of bonds or any sums transferable to any fund for the payment of  
91 interest and principal of bonds and any cost of equipment for such  
92 operations may be charged, against said vocational education  
93 extension account on order of the State Comptroller. Any balance of  
94 receipts above expenditures shall remain in said vocational education  
95 extension account to be used for said program and for the acquisition,  
96 as provided by section 4b-21, alteration and repairs of real property for  
97 educational facilities for such programs, except such sums as may be  
98 required to be transferred from time to time to any fund for the  
99 redemption of bonds and payment of interest on bonds, provided  
100 capital projects costing over one hundred thousand dollars shall  
101 require the approval of the General Assembly or, when the General  
102 Assembly is not in session, of the Finance Advisory Committee. The  
103 State Board of Education shall fix the tuition fees to be charged  
104 students for preparatory and supplemental programs including  
105 apprenticeship programs. [, provided the] The tuition fee fixed by the  
106 board to be charged for any single apprenticeship program or course  
107 shall not exceed [one] two hundred seventy-five dollars. Not less than  
108 half of the tuition fee charged for any apprenticeship program shall be  
109 paid by the employer.

110 Sec. 4. Section 84 of public act 09-3 of the June special session is  
111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
112 *passage*):

113 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-266m and 10-97 of  
114 the general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, [and] to

115 June 30, [2011] 2012, inclusive, the Commissioner of Education may  
116 provide grants, within available appropriations, in an amount not to  
117 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars per pupil, to local and  
118 regional boards of education that transport students who previously  
119 attended, or who have been accepted for enrollment at, J.M. Wright  
120 Technical School in Stamford to Henry Abbott Technical High School  
121 in Danbury, for the costs associated with such transportation. Such  
122 grants shall not exceed the actual costs of transportation for each pupil.  
123 Applications shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education at  
124 such time and on such forms as the commissioner prescribes.

125 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-95o of the general statutes is  
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
127 *passage*):

128 (a) (1) The State Board of Education shall not close or suspend  
129 operations of any regional vocational-technical school for more than  
130 six months unless, prior to such closure or suspension of operations,  
131 the board (A) holds a public hearing at the school that may be closed  
132 or whose operations may be suspended, (B) develops and makes  
133 available a comprehensive plan for such school in accordance with the  
134 provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and (C) affirmatively votes  
135 to close or suspend operations at a meeting duly called. Such public  
136 hearing shall be held after normal school hours and [at least] not less  
137 than thirty days prior to any vote of the board pursuant to  
138 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision.

139 (2) The board shall not extend the closure or suspension of  
140 operations of a regional vocational-technical school beyond the period  
141 set forth in the comprehensive plan described in subsection (b) of this  
142 section unless the board (A) holds another public hearing at a location  
143 in the town in which the school is located, after normal school hours  
144 and [at least] not less than thirty days prior to any vote of the board  
145 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, (B) develops and  
146 makes available a new comprehensive plan for such school in  
147 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and (C)

148 affirmatively votes to extend such closure or suspension of school  
149 operations at a meeting duly called.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-95
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-99g
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-95e(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	PA 09-3 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 84
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10-95o(a)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable*

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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 12 \$</b>	<b>FY 13 \$</b>
Education, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	402,500	402,500

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 12 \$</b>	<b>FY 13 \$</b>
Various Local and Regional School Districts	Revenue Loss	Minimal	None

**Explanation**

**Section 1**, which makes the State Board of Education (SBE), rather than the Department of Administrative Services, responsible for all personnel decisions related to the regional vocational-technical (VT) school system, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as the section shifts responsibility, not expands it, and the SBE has expertise in this area.

**Section 2**, which requires the VT schools to follow a prescribed budget process, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as the VT schools currently have budget staff and expertise in this area.

**Section 3**, which increases the apprenticeship program fee from \$100 to \$275, will result in a revenue gain to the State Department of Education (SDE). It is anticipated that increasing the fee will result in a revenue gain of approximately \$402,500<sup>1</sup> (2,300 students multiplied by the \$175 increase).

**Section 4**, which extends the date, to June 30, 2012, to allow the Commissioner of Education to provide transportation grants to former J.M. Wright Technical School students, is anticipated to result in a minimal reduction of the Public School Transportation grant. For FY 12, the grant will cover only the remaining 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not graduated since the school was closed, it is anticipated that there are up to ten students who would require a grant of \$2,500, resulting in a total cost of up to \$25,000. Based on the FY 11 appropriation in the Public School Transportation grant of \$28,649,720, the \$25,000 cost will result in a reduction of approximately .08% to all qualifying local and regional school districts.

**Section 5**, which clarifies current law, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of apprenticeship fees collected.

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<sup>1</sup> There are currently 2,300 students in apprenticeship programs. The apprenticeship program is currently operating with a \$400,000 deficit. The \$275 apprenticeship fee is anticipated to generate a total of \$632,500 for the program.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 1040****AN ACT CONCERNING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill changes state regional vocational-technical (V-T) school system statutes regarding: (1) hiring teachers, (2) the budget process, (3) apprentice fees, (4) transportation grants, and (5) hearings required before a school closure or suspension.

It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011, except provisions regarding transportation grants and school closure hearings are effective upon passage.

**§ 1 — HIRING CERTIFIED TEACHERS**

The bill gives the State Board of Education (SBE) responsibility for all personnel decisions relating to hiring certified teachers in the regional V-T school system. Under current law and unchanged by the bill, the education commissioner may appoint and remove staff at the V-T schools in accordance with policies established by the SBE.

Under the state personnel act, the Department of Administrative Services administers personnel practices and executive branch hiring of state employees. As part of these duties, the administrative services commissioner certifies lists of eligible candidates for state employment upon the request of a state agency. The administrative services commissioner may partially or fully delegate these duties to state agency heads or their agents (CGS § 5-200 (a)).

**§ 2 — BUDGET PROCESS**

The bill requires each regional V-T school beginning July 1, 2011, to

prepare a proposed operating budget for the next school year, and submit it to the V-T school system superintendent. Next, the superintendent must collect, review, and use the proposed operating budgets for each V-T school to prepare a proposed operating budget for the regional V-T system.

The bill requires the V-T system superintendent to submit a proposed operating budget for the entire V-T school system to the SBE's V-T subcommittee. The subcommittee must review and either approve or disapprove the proposed budget. If the subcommittee disapproves it, the subcommittee must adopt an interim budget, which takes effect at the start of the fiscal year and must remain in effect until the superintendent submits, and the subcommittee approves, a modified operating budget. The superintendent must submit a copy of the approved operating budget to the Office of Policy and Management.

By law, and unchanged by the bill, the V-T system superintendent must biannually submit the operating budget for each individual school to the Office of Policy and Management, the Office of Fiscal Analysis, and the Education Committee.

### **§ 3 — APPRENTICESHIP FEES**

The bill increases the maximum V-T tuition fee for apprenticeship programs from \$100 to \$275. By law, the apprentice's employer must pay at least half of the apprenticeship tuition fee, and the fee is deposited in the vocational education extension account to be used to purchase apprenticeship program materials and equipment.

### **§ 4 — TRANSPORTATION GRANTS**

The bill extends, from FY 11 to FY 12, the special \$2,500 per-pupil transportation grants to districts for transporting former students of Wright Technical School in Stamford to Abbott Technical School in Danbury. The state suspended operations at Wright Tech in the fall of 2009.

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**§ 5 — HEARINGS PRIOR TO SCHOOL CLOSURE OR SUSPENSION**

The bill specifies that the SBE must hold a hearing on whether to close or suspend the operations of a V-T school before the closure or suspension of operations. By law, the board is banned from closing or suspending operations at a school for at least six months unless it holds a public hearing at the school on the question of closing or suspending operations.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32    Nay 0    (03/17/2011)