



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Governor's Bill No. 6358

LCO No. 2991



* 0 2 9 9 1 *

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.
REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.
SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

AN ACT UNLEASHING INNOVATION IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2013*):

4 (e) Once the program is in operation in the region served by a
5 regional educational service center pursuant to subsection (c) of this
6 section, the Department of Education shall provide an annual grant to
7 such regional educational service center to assist school districts in its
8 area in administering the program and to provide staff to assist
9 students participating in the program to make the transition to a new
10 school and to act as a liaison between the parents of such students and
11 the new school district. Each regional educational service center shall
12 determine which school districts in its area are located close enough to

13 a priority school district to make participation in the program feasible
14 in terms of student transportation pursuant to subsection (f) of this
15 section, provided any student participating in the program prior to
16 July 1, 1999, shall be allowed to continue to attend the same school
17 such student attended prior to said date in the receiving district until
18 the student completes the highest grade in such school. [Each regional
19 educational service center shall convene, annually, a meeting of
20 representatives of such school districts in order for such school
21 districts to report, by March thirty-first, the number of spaces available
22 for the following school year for out-of-district students under the
23 program. Annually, each regional educational service center shall
24 provide a count of such spaces to the Department of Education by
25 April fifteenth.] If there are more students who seek to attend school in
26 a receiving district than there are spaces available, the regional
27 educational service center shall assist the school district in determining
28 attendance by the use of a lottery or lotteries designed to preserve or
29 increase racial, ethnic and economic diversity, except that the regional
30 educational service center shall give preference to siblings and to
31 students who would otherwise attend a school that has lost its
32 accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges
33 or has been identified as in need of improvement pursuant to the No
34 Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110. The admission policies shall be
35 consistent with section 10-15c and this section. No receiving district
36 shall recruit students under the program for athletic or extracurricular
37 purposes. Each receiving district shall allow out-of-district students it
38 accepts to attend school in the district until they graduate from high
39 school.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is
41 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
42 *1, 2013*):

43 (g) Local and regional boards of education and preschool programs
44 which receive state or federal funding shall participate, in a manner
45 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the state-wide public

46 school information system described in subsection (b) of this section.
47 Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include, but not be
48 limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool by
49 program type and by numbers of months in each such program, and
50 (2) the readiness of students entering kindergarten. [and student
51 progress in kindergarten.] Such reporting shall be done by October 1,
52 2007, and annually thereafter.

53 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the school years commencing
54 July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014, the local or regional board of education
55 for a high performing school district may apply, on a form provided
56 and in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, to the
57 State Board of Education for a waiver of any of the provisions of the
58 general statutes described in subsection (b) of this section. Such waiver
59 shall be limited to those provisions of the general statutes described in
60 subsection (b) of this section and authorized by the state board. An
61 application submitted by a local or regional board of education under
62 this section shall include a demonstration of collaboration with key
63 stakeholders, including representatives of the exclusive bargaining
64 unit for certified employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-153b of the
65 general statutes. For purposes of this section, "high performing school
66 district" means a school district that is (1) among the fifteen school
67 districts with the highest absolute district performance index, as
68 defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes, for the school year
69 commencing July 1, 2012, (2) among the five school districts with the
70 greatest rate of progress in district performance index during the
71 school years commencing July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2012, inclusive, or (3)
72 among the five school districts with the greatest decrease in the
73 achievement gap for students who are eligible for free or reduced price
74 lunches pursuant to federal law and regulation, as measured by the
75 district performance index for such students during the school years
76 commencing July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2012, inclusive.

77 (b) The state board may authorize, upon recommendation from the
78 commissioner and receipt of an application pursuant to subsection (a)

79 of this section, up to ten high performing school districts in the school
80 year commencing July 1, 2013, and up to an additional ten high
81 performing school districts in the school year commencing July 1, 2014,
82 to waive the provisions of the following for a period of up to three
83 school years:

84 (1) The provisions of section 10-15 of the general statutes relating to
85 the minimum number days of actual school sessions during the school
86 year, except that the state board shall not waive the minimum number
87 of actual school hours during the school year;

88 (2) The provisions of section 10-16 of the general statutes relating to
89 the minimum number of actual school days of actual school sessions
90 during the school year, the length of the school year and the length of
91 the school day, except that the state board shall not waive the
92 minimum number of actual school hours during the school year;

93 (3) The provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general
94 statutes relating to the subject matter offered as part of the program of
95 instruction in the public schools; and

96 (4) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-221a of the
97 general statutes relating to graduation requirements, including the
98 number of credits and subject matter of such credits.

99 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the school year commencing
100 July 1, 2013, the Department of Education shall administer a teaching
101 profession initiative pilot program. The department may waive the
102 provisions of chapter 166 of the general statutes relating to
103 professional certification and employment for a school district
104 participating in the teaching profession initiative pilot program. The
105 department shall designate the period for which such professional
106 certification provisions may be waived and may extend such waiver
107 by providing written notice of such extension to a participating school
108 district. The teaching profession initiative pilot program shall provide
109 oversight and funding to participating school districts. Not later than

110 June 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall, within available
111 appropriations, select, in accordance with the provisions of subsection
112 (b) of this section, not more than three school districts to participate in
113 the teaching profession initiative pilot program.

114 (b) A local or regional board of education and the representatives of
115 the exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees, chosen pursuant
116 to section 10-153b of the general statutes, for such school district may
117 apply, in accordance with guidelines recommended by the
118 commissioner and adopted by the State Board of Education, to
119 participate in the teaching profession initiative pilot program,
120 provided such board and such representatives of the exclusive
121 bargaining unit for certified employees reach an agreement on
122 innovations, as described in subsection (c) of this section. An
123 application submitted under this subsection shall include the
124 agreement on innovations. If such agreement on innovations includes
125 a proposal to seek a waiver of the provisions of chapter 166 of the
126 general statutes, as described in subsection (a) of this section, then an
127 application shall set forth the alternative means to professional
128 certification that will ensure that any person hired by the school
129 district under the teaching profession initiative pilot program is
130 qualified to teach.

131 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of any applicable collective
132 bargaining agreement, the superintendent of schools for the school
133 district that is participating in the teaching profession initiative pilot
134 program, and the representatives of the exclusive bargaining unit for
135 certified employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-153b of the general
136 statutes, shall collaborate and may reach an agreement on innovations
137 to attract, develop and retain high quality teachers and administrators.
138 An agreement on innovations may include, but not be limited to, (1)
139 the establishment of a local professional standards board that may
140 authorize the waiver of certification requirements for teachers and
141 administrators and develop and implement additional innovations in
142 the school district; (2) recruitment of high quality teacher and

143 administrator candidates and development of selection criteria for
144 such candidates in the school district; (3) career lattices that offer
145 professional advancement in recognition, responsibilities and
146 compensation; (4) criteria to supplement the standards established by
147 the department for the issuance of a distinguished educator
148 designation, pursuant to section 10-145s of the general statutes; and (5)
149 any other innovations designed to attract, develop, retain, recognize
150 and reward high quality teachers and administrators.

151 (d) A school district participating in the teaching profession
152 initiative pilot program that has reached an agreement on innovations,
153 as described in subsection (c) of this section, may submit a proposal to
154 the state board for funding to implement such agreement. Upon the
155 recommendation of the commissioner, the state board may approve
156 such proposal for funding and such funding shall be provided to the
157 school district to implement the provisions of such agreement without
158 any further approval of the local or regional board of education for
159 such school district.

160 (e) (1) Any person hired as a teacher or an administrator by a local
161 or regional board of education under a waiver from the provisions of
162 chapter 166 of the general statutes relating to professional certification
163 and employment pursuant to the teaching profession initiative pilot
164 program shall (A) become a member of the exclusive bargaining
165 representative of the administrators' unit or the teachers' unit chosen
166 pursuant to section 10-153b of the general statutes, and (B) be
167 evaluated under the teacher evaluation and support program,
168 pursuant to section 10-151b of the general statutes, for the school
169 district.

170 (2) Any person hired as a teacher or an administrator by a local or
171 regional board of education under a waiver from the provisions of
172 chapter 166 of the general statutes relating to professional certification
173 and employment pursuant to the teaching profession initiative pilot
174 program and who successfully completes the assignment, as may be

175 defined by the local professional standards board established pursuant
 176 to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, for which such
 177 person was hired under the teaching profession initiative pilot
 178 program shall (A) be issued a provisional educator certificate by the
 179 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145b of the general
 180 statutes, (B) be a teacher, as defined in section 10-151 of the general
 181 statutes, and (C) participate in the state teachers' retirement system
 182 under chapter 167a of the general statutes.

183 (f) The department may seek and accept funding from private
 184 sources to implement the provisions of this section.

185 Sec. 5. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-1 of the general
 186 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
 187 (*Effective from passage*):

188 (4) On and after July 1, 2012, the State Board of Education shall
 189 consist of [~~fourteen~~] thirteen members, (A) at least two of whom shall
 190 have experience in manufacturing or a trade offered at the technical
 191 high schools or be alumni of or have served as educators at a technical
 192 high school, (B) at least one of whom shall have experience in
 193 agriculture or be an alumni of or have served as an educator at a
 194 regional agricultural science and technology education center, and (C)
 195 two of whom shall be nonvoting student members.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-266aa(e)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-10a(g)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10-1(a)(4)

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[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.]