



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 8252

SB0109608252SD0

Offered by:

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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1096

File No. 543

Cal. No. 388

**"AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNANCE OF THE STATE
EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subdivision (28) of section 4e-1 of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
5 *passage*):

6 (28) "State contracting agency" means any executive branch agency,
7 board, commission, department, office, institution or council. "State
8 contracting agency" does not include the judicial branch, the legislative
9 branch, the offices of the Secretary of the State, the State Comptroller,
10 the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, with respect to their
11 constitutional functions, any state agency with respect to contracts
12 specific to the constitutional and statutory functions of the office of the
13 State Treasurer. For the purposes of section 4e-16, [state contracting
14 agency] "state contracting agency" includes any constituent unit of the

15 state system of higher education and for the purposes of section 4e-19,
16 "state contracting agency" includes the State Education Resource
17 Center, established under section 10-4q, as amended by this act, and
18 any regional educational service centers, as described in section 10-66a;

19 Sec. 2. Section 10-4q of the general statutes is repealed and the
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

21 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a State Education
22 Resource Center to assist the board in the provision of programs and
23 activities that will promote educational equity and excellence. Such
24 activities, to be provided by the State Education Resource Center or a
25 regional educational service center, may include training and
26 professional development seminars, publication of technical materials,
27 research and evaluation, and other related activities. The center may
28 support programs and activities concerning early childhood education,
29 the federal No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, and closing the
30 academic achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and
31 other related programs. The center shall be subject to (1) the
32 competitive bidding requirements of section 4a-57, and (2) audit by the
33 Auditors of Public Accounts under section 2-90. The center shall be
34 considered a public agency, as defined in section 1-200, for purposes of
35 chapter 14, and a state agency, as defined in section 4-212, for purposes
36 of chapter 55a.

37 (b) The Commissioner of Education, with the assistance of the State
38 Education Resource Center, may provide grants to local and regional
39 boards of education for districts identified as in need of improvement
40 under the provisions of section 10-223e. The grants shall be for the
41 creation and acquisition of new curricula, training in the use of the
42 curricula and related supporting textbooks and other materials. Local
43 and regional boards of education may use such grants only for
44 curricula, training and related textbooks and materials that have been
45 authorized by the commissioner. Local and regional boards of
46 education shall apply for grants pursuant to this subsection at such
47 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, and the

48 commissioner shall determine the amount of the grant awards.

49 (c) Within available appropriations, the Department of Education
50 shall establish a Connecticut School Reform Resource Center within
51 the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to
52 subsection (a) of this section or by contract through a regional
53 educational service center. The center shall operate year-round and
54 focus on serving the needs of all public schools. The center shall (1)
55 publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for
56 improving student achievement by successful schools, (2) provide a
57 program of professional development activities for (A) school leaders,
58 including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents and
59 board of education members, and (B) teachers to educate such students
60 that includes research-based child development and reading
61 instruction tools and practices, (3) provide information on successful
62 models for evaluating student performance and managing student
63 data, (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are in
64 danger of failing, (5) develop culturally relevant methods for
65 educating students whose primary language is not English, and (6)
66 provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of
67 public schools.

68 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 15, 2014,
69 and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall submit a
70 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
71 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
72 having cognizance of matters relating to education and government
73 administration containing (1) all contracts, including personal service
74 agreements, awarded by the Department of Education and the State
75 Education Resource Center to private vendors and regional education
76 service centers during the previous year for purposes of fulfilling the
77 duties of the Department of Education; (2) all amounts and sources of
78 private funding, including grants, received by the Department of
79 Education and the State Education Resource Center; and (3) the
80 amounts paid by the Department of Education or the State Education
81 Resource Center for the salary, fringe benefits and other compensation

82 for any department or center employee or consultant. Such report shall
83 also be posted on the Internet web sites of the Department of
84 Education and the State Education Resource Center.

85 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 15, 2014, the
86 Commissioner of Education shall submit a plan, in accordance with the
87 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
88 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
89 relating to education, to transition the State Education Resource Center
90 from its status under section 10-4q of the general statutes, as amended
91 by this act, to becoming either a quasi-public agency, state agency or
92 nonprofit. Such plan shall include the commissioner's analysis
93 concerning the following in regards to each possible option, whether
94 quasi-public agency, state agency or nonprofit: (1) A description of
95 how the transition will affect the center's current programs; (2) which
96 personnel, payroll and administrative and business office functions
97 being provided for the center by an entity pursuant to a contract with
98 the Department of Education will be transferred to staff employed by
99 the center; (3) how the retirement benefits of current employees of the
100 center will be affected, including whether employee participation in
101 the teachers' retirement system and in the deferred compensation plan
102 offered by the entity providing personnel, payroll and administrative
103 and business office functions for the center will continue; (4) how the
104 transition will affect any outstanding workers' compensation claims,
105 personal service agreements, or other personnel issues, (5) whether the
106 transition will change the relationship between the center and the
107 Department of Education and other educational organizations,
108 including regional educational service centers, (6) how the center will
109 address any recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts, and
110 (7) which option the commissioner prefers and any recommended
111 legislation necessary to implement such plan. The Commissioner of
112 Education shall submit any revisions to such plan to said committee
113 not later than March 1, 2014."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	4e-1(28)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-4q
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section