
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6358

AN ACT UNLEASHING INNOVATION IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

SUMMARY:

This bill permits an additional, non-traditional method for high school students to earn academic credits towards graduation by demonstrating mastery based on competency and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. By law, a student may already earn non-traditional credit by completing coursework (1) at a Connecticut public institution of higher education, or (2) online, in accordance with local or regional board of education policy.

The bill eliminates certain requirements related to the Open Choice interdistrict attendance program. This program aims to improve academic achievement; reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; and provide a choice of educational programs for public school students. The bill removes the requirement that each regional education service center (RESC) annually meet with school district representatives. Under current law, this meeting is for school districts to report, by March 31, the number of spaces available to out-of-district students for the coming school year. Furthermore, the bill eliminates the requirement that each RESC provide an annual count of these open spaces, by April 15, to the State Department of Education (SDE).

Additionally, the bill requires SDE to (1) study issues relating to local partnerships for advancing the teaching profession and (2) submit the results to the Education Committee by June 30, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013, except the local partnerships study is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/28/2013)