



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 5043

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING
EDUCATION

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and distinguished members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 5043, An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Education.

This bill implements Governor Malloy's budget recommendations for K-12 education programs.

Sections 1 through 19 make various changes to the statutes to implement the newest Sheff agreement, including the establishment of a gifted and talented school in section 2 and a Lighthouse school in section 3. Most of the changes are technical in nature to reflect the newest Sheff agreement in statute. The Governor's budget includes \$3.6 million in additional funding to establish new non-Magnet school programs and to provide additional enrollment in existing Magnet schools to aid the state in reaching the Sheff desegregation goals.

Section 20 transfers the before and after school program operated by DSS to SDE that administers other before and after school programs and that more appropriately fits under the education umbrella.

Sections 22 through 29 continue the funding caps permanently for the following grants: Health Service Private Pupils, Non-Public Transportation, Adult Education, Bilingual Education, Public School Transportation and Special Education. This is estimated to save the state approximately \$52.6 million in FY 2015. Municipalities would receive less reimbursement from the state for these grant programs. These grants have been capped at the appropriated level for many years, this change would simply eliminate the biennial exercise of updating the statute with new dates. Nothing would prevent future legislatures and Governors from increasing the amount of these grants to the statutory formula amount.

Finally, I would like to note that we are happy to work with you to address the funding necessary to support enrollment increases in the Magnet School program. This issue was not addressed in the Governor's recommended budget because October 1, 2013 enrollment numbers were not finalized and the extent of any problem was unclear when our budget was produced. Our most recent monthly expenditure forecast recognizes a shortfall in the Department of Education's Magnet Schools account for FY 2014, so we will need to address not only the shortfall in the current year, but review the extent to which additional resources may be necessary in FY 2015. We are also willing to discuss policy alternatives that will enable us to constrain costs in this program in FY 2015 and beyond.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request that the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.